

Be Thou My Vision Eleanor Hull

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee, Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Battle-shield, sword for my fight,
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight.
Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower.
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, Thy victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Son.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of All.

History

The original [Old Irish](#) text, "Rop tú mo Baile" is often attributed to [Saint Dallán Forgaill](#) in the 6th century.^[1] The text had been a part of Irish [monastic](#) tradition for centuries before its setting to music.^[3] There are two manuscripts, one at the National Library of Ireland, and a second at the Royal Irish Academy. Both manuscripts date from about the 10th or 11th century.

The prayer belongs to a type known as a [lorica](#), a prayer for protection.^[4]

It was translated from [Old Irish](#) into English by [Mary Elizabeth Byrne, M.A.](#), in *Ériu* (the journal of the [School of Irish Learning](#)), in 1905. The English text was first versified by [Eleanor Hull](#), in 1912, and is now the most common text used.