LOVE

I.

You are my center, Sweet; you are my love, Dear.

You are whatever is clean. You are whatever is clear.

You are my noon sun. You are my silver water.

You are the walls around my house. You are my tower.

You are my church, Darling. You are my steeple.

You are my valley. You are my circle.

You are my south, Hon. You are my rain.

You are my yellow. You are my green.

You are my flower, Love. You are my wine.

You are my stanza. You are my rhyme.

You are my stream, Sweet. You are my light.

You are my patron saint. You are my heart.

You are my garden, Love. You are my wood.

You are my Eden. You are my good.

II.

If I've ever learned to love, you've been my school.

If I've ever walked a line, you've been my rule.

If I've ever had a debt, you've been my bank.

If I've ever done what's good, I've you to thank.

When you came into my life, I was alone.

Since I've had you in my life, I've been reborn.

When you came into my world, I was undone.

With you here at my side, my fears are gone.

If I ever learn to care, you'll be my nurse.

If I ever have a creed, you'll be my church.

If I ever learn what's right, you'll be my teacher.

If I ever have a faith, you'll be my preacher.

If I ever love again, you'll be my choice.

If I ever write again, you'll be my voice.

III.

When I first met you, Dear, my world turned inside out.

Rivers reversed and ran inland from the sea.

The ground heaved. Mountains moved.

The sun rose in the west, set in the east.

By your side, Dear,

Summer is no longer sweltering.

Tides no longer tell the time.

Life is no longer longing.

Love is no longer losing.

I am no longer lost.

Old grudges have been forgiven; new griefs, forgotten.

Fall has been divorced from fright.

My world has been yours, Love, now so many nights,

When you are gone, it can never get put back right.