

## The Road Goes Ever Ever On

The road goes ever ever on  
Right from the time that I was born;  
And over many leagues has gone  
Through sunlit glades, past briar and thorn.  
While still I tread this road today,  
I look again through memory's eye  
At what has happened on the way  
And think once more of scenes gone by.

When first along the road I strode  
The dawn was dark with clouds of war  
Which menaced all to discommode  
The path I'd started to explore;  
But death was cheated when it tried  
To raze my shelter to the ground,  
And I survived nor turned aside  
But held my course till peace was found.

Then came a cold and austere morn,  
But through the clouds the sun, though wan,  
Did try to peep; nor did I scorn  
The dismal path, but carried on  
And soon was joined by other roads  
And other travellers by my side;  
And there were happy episodes,  
Though often would our ways divide.

But soon the day began to warm.  
The sun broke through; the way grew bright.  
And then I saw the light transform  
The land around in sheer delight.  
And I was gladdened, full of hope,  
And joyful birdsong filled the air;  
No time to stand around and mope,  
For life was blooming everywhere.

And 'neath the warming forenoon sun  
I strolled along with joyful heart;  
And wondered where the road would run,  
What ventures might my route impart.  
Another road then joined with mine  
And one did join me on my way;  
She smiled and said, "I shall be thine,  
And on this road I'll with thee stay."

Then through the middle lands we strolled  
Past meadows green and hedgerows gay,  
Past ancient towns and hamlets old;  
Two sons then joined us on our way  
Ere round a bend the roadway swung  
And there before us we saw hills  
And soon we found ourselves among  
Fair valleys lush with babbling rills.

Through ancient lands where bards still sang  
We journeyed on and felt goodwill;  
And from the hills and vales there rang  
The songs of birds with playful trill.  
'Twas then a daughter joined our band;  
And so we strolled with children three  
As through the merry, joyous land  
We made our way with spirits free.

We hoped this bliss might always last  
But as we strolled the children changed;  
For they had grown up all too fast,  
And o'er their own ways they now ranged.  
And then at noon we found our road  
Was swerving round another bend;  
A different river by us flowed  
As we through leafy shires did wend.

New ventures then beset us both  
As on this path we took our way;  
Beneath the trees in undergrowth  
We heard the woodland creatures play.  
And through the sultry afternoon  
Past briar and glade we strolled on by,  
Past coppices with timber hewn  
Beneath an ever threatening sky.

Then evening came as Covid clouds  
Began to gather overhead  
Where up above like wind-torn shrouds  
They presaged coming gloom and dread.  
And now we take the road once more  
And sad we are to see the sight  
Of damage, which we both deplore,  
Incurred by Brexit's baleful blight.

And all around the signs do tell  
The climate's changing for the worse;  
The portents are not boding well.  
Can nothing now this bane reverse?  
But lo, beneath the glowering sky  
We see a light there in the west;  
And thither does our journey lie,  
And thither surely is our quest.

And so encouraged by this light  
We'll trudge along with weary feet  
To come before the fall of night  
To where at last we'll surely meet  
Those other hidden paths that run  
Towards the lighted inn that waits  
West of the Moon, east of the Sun  
To welcome all within its gates.

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