To A Missionary Who Died at Home

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**TO A MISSIONARY WHO DIED AT HOME**¹

Why did you go and leave your bones in that to us and you a foreign place?
For we would have taken you with love
and sung and prayed night-long songs
and prayers, and we would have carried you in triumph to your resting place
and we would have mixed our tears
with the holy sprinkling water, and dropped our red-brown dusty soil upon you, for we would have your dust as ours. And we would have planted, each one of us, a living flower on top so that you might know that all is not ended here, or there…Life is. Life lives.
Tell us again, then. Why did you go?
Did you not know? We loved you.

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**Footnotes**