

Side Notes: The text for this music began as a poem written by Gordon B. Hinckley. Janice Kapp Perry was introduced to the poem by her niece who was dying from cancer. The niece had written to Hinckley and asked if she could print the poem on her funeral program. She received a response via letter which encouraged her to do so. Perry's niece then asked if she would write music to the poem.

Through a series of tender mercies, Perry was able to write the tune and share it with her niece just before she passed in January of 2008. Perry also sent the song to President Hinckley, asking permission to share it with others, but received notice of his passing on Sunday, January 27th of 2008. At that time, she had not received a response. The next day, she received a letter in the mail that had been written and sent on the previous Friday. It was from President Hinckley to Perry. It stated that he loved the hymn and that she could publish and share it. It was sung by the Tabernacle Choir at his funeral later that week.

My favorite line from this hymn is in the 3rd verse, which says, "There is no death, but only change." I think this statement can bring so much comfort to anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one or facing the reality of our own mortality.

What Is This Thing That Men Call Death?

Arr. JASON TONIOLI

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is common time (C). The music begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with accompaniment in the bass clef. The system concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking.

The second system of musical notation includes lyrics. It begins with a measure rest marked '5'. The lyrics are: "What is this thing that men call death? This quiet passing in the". The music continues with a piano accompaniment.

The third system of musical notation includes lyrics. It begins with a measure rest marked '8'. The lyrics are: "night. 'Tis not the end but genesis, Of better worlds and greater". The music continues with a piano accompaniment.

Arrangement by Jason Tonioli
Used by permission