

# Mother

(Written after reading Rupert Brooke's sonnet *The Soldier*)



**If you should die, think only this of me  
In that still quietness where is space for thought,  
Where parting, loss and bloodshed shall not be,  
And men may rest themselves and dream of nought:  
That in some place a mystic mile away  
One whom you loved has drained the bitter cup  
Till there is nought to drink; has faced the day  
Once more, and now, has raised the standard up.**

**And think, my son, with eyes grown clear and dry  
She lives as though for ever in your sight,  
Loving the things you loved, with heart aglow  
For country, honour, truth, traditions high,  
- Proud that you paid their price. (And if some night  
Her heart should break - well, lad, you will not know.)**

May Herschel-Clarke

