

Psalm 23

- A The LORD is my shepherd;
- B I shall not want. 2
- C He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3
- D He restoreth my soul:
- E he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4
- F Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear
no evil:
- E for thou art with me;
- D thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5
- C Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over. 6
- B Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
- A and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Reformatted by D. Lynn Johnson, 1989

Note 1: The speaker refers to the Lord in third person at first, but after walking through the valley of the shadow of death, he uses the first person. He has come to know the Lord through his trials.

Note 2: There is a subtle parallelism in the C elements. "Anointest" in verse 5 comes from the Hebrew *dashen*. This is the only instance when *anoint* or its derivatives comes from *dashen*, and the only time *dashen* is translated as *anoint*. *Dashen*, in its usual usage, implies fulness, fatness, satisfaction. A sheep lies down in a green pasture only after having eaten its fill.