

*“I went into my garden to gather herbs...”*

I went into my garden to gather herbs,  
But all I found were thistles and thorns.

The thistles and thorns I threw out,  
I should like to grow some other plants.

Now I have found one to do the gardening,  
One who is willing to shoulder the burden.

A tree had grown tall in very short time,  
I could not pluck it out of the earth.

The gardener noted well the doleful tree:  
He wrestled it from the earth root and all.

Now I must be his servant,  
Or he will not continue his care.

I must weed my garden for evermore,  
And yet I alone cannot maintain it.

I must sow seed of lilies in my garden,  
This I must do early at dawn.

If he lets drop his gentle dew, my lover,  
These seedlings shall grow straight and pure.

When red roses are planted in the same bed,  
Then he touches the flowers with his gentle dew.

And when he illuminates them with golden rays,  
Then I rejoice with all my heart.

Jesus is the name of my lover,  
I want to serve him eternally and belong to him.

His love has given me such strong resolve,  
That I hold the world in utter contempt.

*“ The world held me in its power...”  
(extract)*

The world held me in its power  
With its manifold snares  
It deprived me of my strength,  
It has done me much harm, before I escaped  
it.

I said goodbye to the world,  
Its joy is done so quickly  
In such short days.  
I do not want to risk my noble soul anymore  
therein.

I see the narrow path lying open  
That leads straight to eternal joys  
Nature, please do not be afraid,  
I want to walk this path courageously with  
Jesus.

I feel a little spark within me.  
It moves my heart so often.  
I want to guard it well,  
Love is perfectly able to make a fire out of  
it.

Now you can hear a heavy complaint.  
Nature cries: “ Woe, alas!  
It has to give up its joy,  
What it rejoiced over for a long time, it  
has to learn to hate.

Farewell, farewell nature of mine.  
My heart has to be set free.  
Complaining will be of no avail.  
I want to let him in, whom my soul desires  
alone.