

## This Autumn Day

O sacred season of Autumn, be my teacher,  
for I wish to learn the virtue of contentment.  
As I gaze upon your full-colored beauty,  
I sense all about you an at-homeness with your amber  
riches.  
You are the season of retirement, of full barns and harvested  
fields.  
The cycle of growth has ceased, and the busy work of giving  
life is now completed.  
I sense in you no regrets: you've lived a full life.  
I live in a society that is ever-restless, always eager for more mountains to climb,  
seeking happiness through more and more possessions.  
As a child of my culture, I am seldom truly at peace with what I have.  
Teach me to take stock of what I have given and received;  
may I know that it's enough, that my striving can cease  
in the abundance of God's grace.  
May I know the contentment that allows the totality of my energies  
to come to full flower.  
May I know that like you I am rich beyond measure.  
As you, O Autumn, take pleasure in your great bounty,  
let me also take delight in the abundance of the simple things in life  
which are the true source of joy.  
With the golden glow of peaceful contentment may I truly appreciate this autumn day.



*An Autumn prayer/poem by Edward Hays from the collection "Earth Prayers"*

## Psalm 65

<sup>1</sup> What mighty praise, O God, belongs to you in Zion. We will fulfil our vows to you,  
<sup>2</sup> for you answer our prayers. All of us must come to you. <sup>3</sup> Though we are overwhelmed by our  
sins, you forgive them all. <sup>4</sup> What joy for those you choose to bring near, those who live in your  
holy courts. What festivities await us inside your holy Temple. <sup>5</sup> You faithfully answer our prayers  
with awesome deeds, O God our saviour. You are the hope of everyone on earth, even those who  
sail on distant seas. <sup>6</sup> You formed the mountains by your power and armed yourself with mighty  
strength. <sup>7</sup> You quieted the raging oceans with their pounding waves and silenced the shouting of  
the nations. <sup>8</sup> Those who live at the ends of the earth stand in awe of your wonders. From where  
the sun rises to where it sets, you inspire shouts of joy.  
<sup>9</sup> You take care of the earth and water it, making it rich and fertile. The river of God has plenty of  
water; it provides a bountiful harvest of grain, for you have ordered it so. <sup>10</sup> You drench the  
ploughed ground with rain, melting the clods and levelling the ridges. You soften the earth with  
showers and bless its abundant crops. <sup>11</sup> You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the  
hard pathways overflow with abundance. <sup>12</sup> The grasslands of the wilderness become a lush  
pasture, and the hillsides blossom with joy. <sup>13</sup> The meadows are clothed with flocks of sheep, and  
the valleys are carpeted with grain. They all shout and sing for joy!