

ABOVE THE HUMAN NAME

Ken Patton

from *Hymns of Humanity*, 1960

The fellowship of nature is our shape and fabrication, witnessing
that all creatures are one family of life.

The same wind and rain are in us and on us, and the same loam is
gathered in our flesh.

Above the human name we put the larger name of nature.

We are proud of our oneness with all that moves and breathes, with
all that moves and does not breathe.

We are as large in our persons as the gathering over which our
thought and love presides.

We are as large as the city, the nation, the race of our discovery
and settlement.

We can burgeon, if we will, beyond cultures and continents, the
echoes of common emergence sounding in our blood.

We seek the fellow ship of life and death, its ever-changing shape
and content breeding the laughter and hunger of our escaping
years.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise

From *Hymns of the Spirit*, 1937

O God, we thank thee for this universe which is our home; for its grandeur and its beauty, and for the abundance of the life which covers the earth. We praise thee for the over-arching sky and for the driving clouds, for the winds of heaven and for the constellations on high. We praise thee for the salt sea and the running waters, for the everlasting hills and the quiet valleys, for the trees of the wood and the grasses beneath our feet. We thank thee for our senses by which we can see the splendor of morning, and hear the jubilant songs of birds, and enjoy the fragrance of the springtime. Grant us, we pray thee, a heart wide open to all this joy and beauty; and save our souls from being so absorbed in care or so darkened by selfishness that we pass heedless and Unseeing, when even the thorn-bush by the wayside is aflame with the glory of God. Amen.