



Fairest Lord Jesus



"Fairest Lord Jesus! Ruler of all nature!
O Thou of God and man the Son!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul's glory, joy and crown!

"Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

"Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.

"Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration
now and forevermore be Thine!"

"Thou art fairer than the children of men." - Psalm 45:2

"For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him." - Colossians 1:16

"Fairest Lord Jesus is one of the most precious and lovely hymns ever written, but we do not know much about its origin. Some think it was sung by German crusaders in the 12th century as they made the dangerous journey to the Holy Land. Others believe that this was one of the hymns sung by followers of John Hus.

These people were Moravian believers who had been driven out of Bohemia in the violent anti-Reformation purge of 1620. They eventually settled in Silesia, which is now a part of Poland. It is thought that "Fairest Lord Jesus" was a folk hymn that came from these devout Silesian peasants. The last verse is a fine translation by Joseph Seiss that gives praise to our beautiful Savior who is indeed "Lord of the Nations!" He alone is worthy of all glory, honor, praise and adoration now and forevermore.

The verses of this well-loved hymn extol the beauty and virtues of Christ, who is the source and essence of all beauty and the Creator of all nature. He outshines the hosts of angels and

the lights in the heavens with unmatched purity. He is truly the Son of God and Son of Man, who rules as Lord over all.

I found some interesting thoughts on christianity.com about the Lordship of Christ that are worth considering:

"He is Lord of both the saved and the unsaved, living and the dead. All people decide to yield or rebel, but they can only make that choice while living. If we do not bow the knee to Jesus in this life, we will be forced to bend in the judgment.

"The authority of Christ causes anger and fear in those who have not yet submitted to His rule, but comfort to those who trust in His lovingkindness and goodness and know Him as Lord of their lives."

Jesus reveals to us the Father, and He is worthy of our worship. But do we think of Him as fair, wonderful and marvelous? Do we truly comprehend that the One who rules the universe comes near to us when we call?

Having lived my life in New Jersey, I appreciate the change of seasons that those in warmer locations do not experience to the same degree. My least favorite season is winter, but the reward for enduring a few months of cold weather is the eventual arrival of spring. All of nature comes back to life in the most beautiful ways, and I am thrilled to be working in my garden again. I always feel close to God in those times, as I see the marvels of each perennial plant doing exactly what He has programmed it to do. And as I spend lots of time and energy bringing order to my garden beds, it is God who brings about the beautiful result.

In the lines of today's hymn, we find Jesus described as fair, pure and beautiful, but also as Ruler of all nature, Son of God, Son of Man, Savior, and Lord of the nations. He shines brighter than the sunshine, the moonlight, and all the stars in the endless galaxies. He is better and brighter than the angels in heaven, and worthy of all praise.

In the midst of all these comparisons, we have the tender truth that this great Creator cares about what we are going through, and we are reminded that on our darkest days, He "makes the woeful heart to sing." That requires a determination on our part to look above our difficult circumstances and to look upon our Savior, who alone can bring comfort and joy to our hearts when the burdens of life seem too heavy to bear.

I once read that when we trust God to bring us through our trials, He gives us a song that could not otherwise be sung. So let us trust the One who made us to bring something of beauty and value from our challenges, as we cherish the Savior, who is indeed "Fairest Lord Jesus."