

God in the Jukebox
“Morning Has Broken” by Cat Stevens

Cat Stevens Lyrics

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

Morning has broken like the first morning
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Eleanor Farjeon Lyrics

1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light, Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Charts:

Billboard Hot 100: #6 (1972)

Background:

The song was written by English author Eleanor Farjeon and was first published in the book *Songs of Praise* in 1931. Farjeon, a nursery rhyme writer, was called upon by Percy Dearmer, the editor of the upcoming hymnbook *Songs of Praise*, to write a thanksgiving text to the Gaelic tune Bunessan. Dearmer thought the tune would make a delightful and charming morning hymn.

The hymn was first included in an American hymnal in 1955 with the Presbyterian Hymnbook, but the song would not become popular until British folk singer Cat Stevens' rendition of the song on his album *Teaser and the Firecat*. Stevens' recording along with the piano arrangement performed by Rick Wakeman led to international recognition of the song.

In December of 1977, Stevens converted to Islam and adopted the name Yusuf Islam. He was intrigued by the Islamic call to prayer, which he called "music for God." Stevens had long searched for spiritual truth. He looked into Buddhism, Zen, I Ching, numerology, tarot cards, and astrology. His brother David converted to Judaism. In 1979, he auctioned off all of his guitars to charity and left his musical career for causes in the Muslim community. In 2006, he returned to pop music.

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The text links the creation accounts in Genesis 1 and John 1, and reminds us that each new day is a gift from God.

The "blackbird" may be an echo of the Word, the voice of the Incarnation Himself.

"Where His feet pass" is a reference to God walking through the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8).

"Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning": we share in the freshness and possibility of the "one light Eden saw plan." Our response is to "praise with elation" for "God's re-creation of the new day."