After This Harvest

My father stood with his face to the sun, The hot sweat burning into his eyes, And gazed at the wheat fields broad expanse That rippled beneath the autumn skies.

This was his anchor, this constant growth On verdant soil near his house of sod. A part of eternity wrested there With infinite hope and trust in God.

"After this harvest," I heard him say, "This wheat will bring us our daily bread, And seed to be planted another year ... After this harvest," my father said.

Year after year as we children grew, Sower and seed, and sun and rain Built us a haven where roots held deep As close to the earth as the fertile grain.

"After this harvest." I hear him now, Though his grave grass blows in the wind and sun, And God must have weighed the beloved words Of this pioneer's faith, when his life was done.

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