

# When I Set Out for Lyonesse

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## Introduction

Thomas Hardy once visited a Parish to supervise the restoration of a church. On his return people noticed two things about him. There was a new glow in his eyes. There was also a piece of paper peeping out of his coat pocket. This paper had the draft of the present poem.

## Going for the Restoration

The poet says that he had gone for the restoration of a church. When he started he hardly knew that the visit would be so invigorating. It proved to be like visiting Lyonesse. He had left for the Parish all alone on a very cold evening. The Parish was a hundred miles away. The foliage was covered with frost. The stars guided his lonesome path.

## Stay at the Parish

He had to stay at the Parish for sometime. In that short period, he found something happening to him. It was an inner change which was sudden and unexpected. The poet says that at the start of his journey no one could think of such a change in him. No prophet or wizard could have guessed the happening there.

## The Inner Change

When the poet returned from the Parish, everyone noticed a glow in his eyes. They didn't speak a word. However, they were impressed by the rare and deep radiance of his eyes.