

THE NEW DAY

by

CLAUDE McKAY

Thousands of years ago the Prophet said,
The lion and the lamb in peace will play,
And by a little child they shall be led,
When Jesse's rod has flowered the New Day.
Because a golden Child to us is born,
Whose Light upon the earth shall never cease,
Whose Music rustles in each blade of corn--
The Wonderful, the Mighty Prince of Peace.

And shall not all men black and brown and white,
Together work and play in harmony,
In this grand age of universal Light,
The Christ Child gave to man to make him free?
His power through the world must penetrate,
Will it is cleansed of cruelty and hate.

(This poem was written especially for the occasion of the Inter-racial Forum held under the auspices of the N.F.C.C.S. at Manhattanville College, March 2, 1946.)