

What Wondrous Love Is This

from A SELECTION OF HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL
SONGS FROM THE BEST AUTHORS (1811)

What wondrous love is this,
O my soul!

What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul!

When I was sinking down,
sinking down;
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul!

Ye winged seraphs, fly,
bear the news.
Ye winged seraphs, fly,
like comets through the sky,
Fill vast eternity
with the news!

Ye sons of Zion's King,
join the praise;
ye sons of Zion's King,
with hearts and voices sing,
and strike each tuneful string
in his praise!

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity
I'll sing on.

To God and to the Lamb,
I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing!

And when to that bright world
we arrive,
when to that world we go,
free from all pain and woe,
we'll join the happy throng,
and sing on.

A folk hymn from the American South, published during the Second Great Awakening.

Text: Routley and Richardson, A Panorama of Christian Hymnody, using the variants from Starke Dupuy's Selection (cited above) except for 5:4, and emending 1:6 from "to" to "for" in keeping with later editions.