

Journey's End by James A. Blaine

Sleek silver tubes soar noisily overhead ---
as they carry their cargo of precious souls
across the sky to some flat port.
Now, homing in like a weary bird,
they alight --- to discharge their travelers.

Some of the passengers disembark
to keep important appointments;
some will face some difficult scenario;
and some have just come to sample and
partake of this world's attractions,
A few have open arms and warm hearts awaiting them.
Now, even the plane's crew can fully exhale.
Every human traveler will experience
a variety of journeys ...
Each will have a direction, and each will have an ending.
Some of the journeys are brief, and some are tedious ...
some are just across town,
while some will take one to another continent.
As the months and years pass,
the entirety of those journeys will simply be known as ...

“My Lifetime.”

As time passes, eventually, our vigor and
our opportunities will wane and ebb.
It is then that we hear a voice crying in the wilderness ---
it is a voice that we have too long ignored ---
likely a voice drowned out by earthly enticements.
It is the voice of Jesus of Nazareth,
echoing down through the centuries,
and is as relevant today as ever.
Jesus offers forgiveness, and
a true rest to all tired travelers ---

“Are you tired? Worn out?
Burned out on religion? Come to me.
Get away with me and you'll recover your life.
I'll show you how to take a real rest.
Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it.
Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.
I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you.
Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”
(Matthew 11:28-30, MSG)

This is his last poem, written in summer and fall of 2025.