

Holy, Holy, Holy

By Maggie Moller

“And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.’”

(Isaiah 6:3)

“Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

(Revelation 4:8)

This hymn reminds me of the majesty and authority of God. When I sing or play this hymn, I cannot help myself from being filled with the awe of God’s holiness and the joy that He loves me although I am a sinner! I cannot wait until the day when I can sing with the angels in heaven praises to my King!

The Lyricist: Reginald Heber

Reginald Heber was born on April 21, 1783, in Cheshire, England. His father was a wealthy landowner and clergyman. Reginald attended Oxford University, where he gained a reputation as a poet. Throughout college, he received many awards in English and Latin. In 1807, he was ordained and took over the ministry at his father’s parish, where he served as a country minister for sixteen years. During his ministry, Reginald wrote many hymns for use in his parish. “Holy, Holy, Holy” was written for Trinity Sunday.

Reginald married Mary Baylie, and they had a son. Sadly, however, Mary died at a young age. After his first wife’s death, Reginald married Mary Allanson. Through this marriage, Reginald had two more sons, the eldest named after his father. In 1823, Reginald, somewhat reluctantly, became the Bishop of Calcutta in India. He served in India for three years until his death on April 3, 1826. He died due to a combination of poor health and the oppressive climate of India. Most of his hymns were not published until his death.

The Composer: John Bacchus Dykes

John Bacchus Dykes was born on March 10, 1823, in Kingston, England. He was the fifth child of William and Elizabeth Dykes. When he was twelve years old, he became the assistant organist at St. John’s Church in Hull, England, where his grandfather was the minister. During this time, he learned to play the piano, organ, violin, and horn. In 1862, he was ordained the Vicar of St. Oswald’s. Throughout his life, Dykes published many sermons and articles on religion; however, he is best known for composing over 300 hymns. He passed away on January 22, 1876.

Sources Consulted:
Cyberhymnal.com
Wikipedia