

## **IN THE SECRET OF HIS PRESENCE**

*Words: Ellen Lakshmi Goreh, 1883. Music: George C. Stebbins, 1883.*

The author of the words of this beautiful hymn was a high-caste native of India. After her conversion to Christianity, it is said, she spent some years in the home of an English clergyman, and wrote the poem...there. It made its appearance in a book of poems of which she was the author...The hymn was first sung by [George Stebbins] as an offertory in one of the churches in Brooklyn, New York. It was often repeated as an offertory, and on occasions was sung in evangelistic services. It was also often sung by Miss Beaucham, daughter of the late Lady Beaucham and since the wife of Colonel Drury-Lowe, one of the heroes of the Indian Mutiny, and uncle of Lord Curzon, Viceroy and Governor-General of India. The hymn at once came into general favor, and the deeply spiritual tone of the words brought blessing to many. The song was afterwards published in "Gospel Hymns," and in "Sacred Songs and Solos." Very soon it found its way into all parts of the world. Dr. Hudson Taylor, head of the great China Inland Mission, stated at Northfield [Massachusetts] that it was the favorite hymn of his missionaries.

The winter of 1890-91 Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins spent in India. While visiting the city of Allahabad (Miss Goreh's home), Mr. Stebbins sought her out and made her acquaintance. He found her engaged in mission work among the women of India, a modest, devoted Christian, held in high esteem by missionaries of all denominations and by all who knew her. Thus the two singers whose names had become associated in Christian song met each other – one from the far East, and one from beyond far Western seas – both inspired by the same Lord, in the secret of whose presence they long since came to abide.

*From: <http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/i/t/itsecret.htm>*

## IN THE SECRET OF HIS PRESENCE

*In the secret of His presence how my soul delights to hide!  
Oh, how precious are the lessons which I learn at Jesus' side!  
Earthly cares can never vex me, neither trials lay me low;  
For when Satan comes to tempt me, to the secret place I go,  
To the secret place I go.*

*When my soul is faint and thirsty, 'neath the shadow of His wing  
There is cool and pleasant shelter, and a fresh and crystal spring;  
And my Savior rests beside me, as we hold communion sweet:  
If I tried, I could not utter what He says when thus we meet,  
What He says when thus we meet.*

*Only this I know: I tell Him all my doubts, my griefs and fears;  
Oh, how patiently He listens! and my drooping soul He cheers:  
Do you think He ne'er reproves me? What a false Friend He would be,  
If He never, never told me of the sins which He must see,  
Of the sins which He must see.*

*Would you like to know the sweetness of the secret of the Lord?  
Go and hide beneath His shadow: this shall then be your reward;  
And whene'er you leave the silence of that happy meeting place,  
You must mind and bear the image of the Master in your face,  
Of the Master in your face.*

*Could also be sung to the tune of "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" or "What a Friend We Have In Jesus"*