



## *Afraid? Of What?*

Afraid? Of what?  
To feel the spirit's glad release?  
To pass from pain to perfect peace,  
The strife and strain of life to cease?  
Afraid? Of that?

Afraid? Of what?  
Afraid to see the Saviour's face,  
To hear His welcome, and to trace,  
The glory gleam from wounds of grace,  
Afraid? Of that?

Afraid? Of what?  
A flash – a crash – a pierced heart;  
Brief darkness – Light – O Heaven's art!  
A wound of His a counterpart!  
Afraid? Of that?

Afraid? Of what?  
To enter into Heaven's rest,  
And yet to serve the Master blessed?  
From service good to service best?  
Afraid? Of that?

Afraid? Of what?  
To do by death what life could not –  
Baptize with blood a stony plot,  
Till souls shall blossom from the spot?  
Afraid? Of that?

. . . . *E.H. Hamilton*

This was written by E.H. Hamilton, a Presbyterian missionary to China, as he reflected on the martyrdom of one of his colleagues, J.W. Vinson, who had been taken captive by bandits and executed by them. "Are you afraid?" they asked, as they threatened his life. "No," he replied. "If you shoot, I go straight to heaven." They did, and he did. Here is how his friend commemorated his life and death.