

# “KEEP A SONG UP ON DE WAY”

BY

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR

Oh, de clouds is mighty heavy  
An' de rain is mighty thick;  
Keep a song up on de way.  
An' de waters is a rumblin'  
On de boulders in de crick,  
Keep a song up on de way.  
Fu' a bird ercross de road  
Is a-singin' lak he knowed  
Dat we people did n't daih  
Fu' to try de rainy aih  
Wid a song up on de way.

What's de use o' gittin' mopy,  
Case de weather ain' de bes'!  
Keep a song up on de way.  
W'en de rain is fallin' ha'des',  
Dey 's de longes' times to res'

Keep a song up on de way.  
Dough de plough 's a-stan'in' still  
    Dey 'll be watah fu' de mill,  
Rain mus' come ez well ez sun  
'Fo' de weathah's wo'k is done,  
    Keep a song up on de way.

W'y hit's nice to hyeah de showahs  
Fallin' down ermong de trees:  
    Keep a song up on de way.  
Ef de birds don' bothah 'bout it,  
    But go singin' lak dey please,  
        Keep a song up on de way.  
You don' s'pose I's gwine to see  
    Dem ah fowls do mo' dan me?  
No, suh, I 'll des chase dis frown,  
    An' aldough de rain fall down,  
        Keep a song up on de way.