**THE ENGINEER'S HYMN**

by Leslie Fish

ttto "Dunderbeck"

O Lord, Thou hast made this world the shadow of a dream

And taught by time I've b'lieved it so except for the ion stream.

From coupler flange t'spindle guide I see the hand o' God,

Predestination in the stride of yon connecting rod.

The captain rules upon the bridge and I reign down below.

He sends his orders down the line and I'm pleased t'have it so.

For though his word be iron law as ancient rules decree,

I know what rules this ship, the engines, Thou Lord, and me.

I know the sea is very, very wide and the ship in truth is small

And those who dwell within her hide I care for one and all.

Their safety rests upon m'skill; their lives're in m'hand.

I take it for a sacred trust, but they rarely understand.

Behold these firing engines' hearts that keep the ship alive.

I know them doon t'their atom parts that I and mine might thrive

And fools they be who fail t'see why I hold m'engines dear

For the engine room is a temple raised t'the God o' the engineer.

[refers to Montgomery Scott of the *Enterprise* in "Star Trek" series by Gene Roddenberry]