



**Don't you know?
What makes a rose beautiful
is not just its petals but also its thorns**
Simon B Thomas

Your Roses May Have Thorns

*We know that all things work together for good to them that love God,
to them who are the called according to his purpose. Rom. 8:28; Gen. 50:20*

1. Life's sun-shine may be check-ered with its shad - ows, The pleas - ant val - leys
2. The peace - ful day may change to rag - ing tem - pest, But know that af - ter
3. The with - ered flow - ers hold the seeds of prom - ise, The win - ter days are
4. The sor - rows that have come to you un - bid - den Have of - ten brought a

meet the rug - ged hills; The qui - et sea may change to rag - ing
tem - pest comes the calm; And know that af - ter night must come the
har - bing - ers of spring; The tri - als that may of - ten seem most
peace be - fore un - known; The Mak - er of your des - ti - ny is

bil - lows, But all is well if so the Fa - ther wills.
morn - ing, And af - ter sad be - reave - ment, heal - ing balm.
bit - ter May bring to you the joys that make you sing.
striv - ing To fit your heart to be His roy - al throne.

Refrain

Your ros - es may have thorns, but don't for - get Your thorns may have some ros - es, too;
don't for - get ros - es, too;

The Lord of great com - pas - sion loves you yet, — And He will nev - er fail to see you through.
loves you yet,

I saw this picture of a rose today, and was a bit perplexed by the title; I thought: how can thorns be beautiful? Now, my last name is Rose, so naturally I occasionally think about them and even joke about them, saying: Be careful how you handle a rose, for you might get pricked! But thinking about a Rose's thorn being beautiful... never (until now of course).

Then, there is that hymn that I found a short while ago. Its message is that we all experience unpleasant things, but with God, the hard times are better, for HE is with us. He is our friend, our guide, our ultimate protector. In a way of speaking, HE is our thorn (of protection). Now that I think about it... what does a thorn do, anyway? It protects the flower it is attached to and THAT is a beautiful thing.

That hymn references a couple of Bible verses and I have listed them below, adding a few more adjacent verses for the sake of context.

The Bible says...

Genesis 50 ([World English Bible](#))

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us, and will fully pay us back for all of the evil which we did to him."

16 They sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father commanded before he died, saying,

17 'You shall tell Joseph, "Now please forgive the disobedience of your brothers, and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" Now, please forgive the disobedience of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

18 His brothers also went and fell down before his face; and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."

19 Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid, for am I in the place of God?

20 *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

Romans 8 (WEB)

28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

30 Whom he predestined, those he also called. Whom he called, those he also justified. Whom he justified, those he also glorified.

31 *What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

Both of the passages referenced just below the hymn's title show that God does in fact work in our lives to transform this world into a better one. God

really loves us. Knowing that will help us through the difficult times in our lives. If we return that love, whatever circumstances we encounter will not be too much for us because we know that no matter what happens- WE WILL NEVER BE ALONE.

I look forward to the day when I can hear the hymn sung, but until that day I will rejoice in the message it conveys and once in awhile think about thorns in a more positive way. Now, if I only can get our song leader in church to actually sing that hymn...