

### **Auto-Epitaph (1965)**

“When I have died – all must – then think of me  
There is some tiny corner of some field  
That I marked ‘Church of England’. If you see  
Its nature, and the mark with which it’s sealed,  
It will, I hope, seem not too dull and not  
Too pure-as-dust. Sealed in my forehead find  
‘A servant of our God who loved a lot  
Of things and persons, but, of human kind,  
He only favoured some. Good fortune favoured him;  
Gave him a wife, a Muse, gave health and strength,  
Gave wits and caution; gave him a chance, if slim,  
To meet requirements, to get by, at length,  
In through the needle’s eye, the narrow gate.’  
When I have died, I’ll hope to be not ‘Late’.”