

(for "Birds, Beasts & Biscuits")

## "A Gardener's Prayer"

(for *Peter Manning*)

Of all Thy creatures, great and small,

- the bird, the beast, the bug...

- the only one I truly hate?

- Thy slippery little slug!

His greedy underbelly and his

slimy leather back...

- He seems to turn up everywhere

- in every bleedin' crack!

The worm improves the soil (they say)

- his lowly place, he *earns*...

but *Slug*? He eateth *all* and giveth

nothing in return!

He waiteth 'til I go to bed

and turneth off my light...

- then rummages round my greenhouse, Lord...

*Every Bloomin' Night!*

And when I wake, refreshed, and calm

- the long night's demons beaten...

What *anger* riseth in my soul,

- to find my seedlings - *EATEN!*

He eateth ev'ry luscious leaf...

- Thy *turnip* and *tomato*...

- Thy *carrot* and Thy *cabbage* and

Thy *parsnip* and *potato*!

Oh Lord, Ye give my garden blooms

and shrubs - both great and small...

and then you go and give us, too

*Thy Slug* - to *eat* them all!

And Tho' I'm sure this *beast* is part

of *Thy* Great Eco-System...

- I've never met a Gard'ner, Lord,

- who'd ever bloomin' *miss* 'em!

Dear Lord, I pray, to wake one day

(I *hope* it's not too long...)

and find, to my *eternal joy*

... that all Thy Slugs...

...have gone!

MH

Garden, 19/5/16 - Very hot and sunny... also cloudy and cold!

