

VI

Our Protector.

What is the Shepherd's rod? What is it of God that protects you?

It's God's own Presence with you . . . even . . . especially in the valley.

It's there . . . here! . . . when you are in danger . . . when your Shepherd, with his staff, has guided you into a troubling place, because you are following Him and that's where He has gone . . . no matter what falls on you, no matter what attacks you, no matter what is done to you, nothing can truly touch you. Your Shepherd is with you.

I described the shape of a rod: a stick with a club on the end, a mace! But Jesus' rod is different.

It's cross-shaped.

He invited all evil to fall on him, attack him, and do its worst to him. And God your Shepherd, by taking that onto his Divine self, broke its power to destroy, our power to destroy, evil's power to destroy.

Everywhere Jesus will guide you, he has gone there himself. He is your staff: follow him! He is your rod: trust him!

*You are my greatest protection. Thou, our Shepherd, You are with me.*

*I can't get any safer!*

*Thank you.*