THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies  338

1. O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,
   for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain!
   A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,
   and crown thy good with "broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea!"

2. O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,
   who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life!
   A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw;
   con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law!

3. O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the years
   thine al-a-bas-ter cit-i-es gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears!
   A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine
   till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness and ev-ery gain di-vine!

*Or “servanthood”

This text (inspired by the vista from Pike’s Peak and by a visit to Chicago’s Columbian World Exposition) and tune (named MATerna because it was composed for “O Mother, Dear Jerusalem”) were joined in 1912. The combination proved immensely popular during World War I and afterwards.

TEXT: Katharine Lee Bates, 1893, alt.
MUSIC: Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882

MATERNA
CMD

4/10/13