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## Autumn Day

Rainer Maria Rilke

Michael Ritterson  
*Gettysburg College*

**Roles**

Author: Rainer Maria Rilke

Translator: Michael Ritterson, Gettysburg College

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**Abstract**

This is the English translation of the poem “Herbsttag” by Rainer Maria Rilke, from his *Buch der Bilder* (1902).

**Keywords**

Herbsttag, poetry

**Disciplines**

German Language and Literature | Poetry

# Autumn Day

TRANSLATED BY MICHAEL RITTERSON '62

Lord: it is time. The summer was immense.  
Lay down your shadow on the sundials' faces,  
and over meadows now unleash your winds.

Command that laggard fruits be full in time,  
grant them just two more days of southern warming,  
urge them to ripe fullness now, instilling  
the final sweetness into heady wine.

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Who has no house now shall not build him one.  
Who is alone now shall be long alone,  
shall watch late, reading, writing endless letters,  
and shall roam up and down the avenues  
a restless wanderer in the driving leaves.