



7-1-1990

The River Sidon

Randall L. Hall

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq>



Part of the [Mormon Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hall, Randall L. (1990) "The River Sidon," *BYU Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 30 : Iss. 3 , Article 20.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol30/iss3/20>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *BYU Studies Quarterly* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

The River Sidon

they did cast their dead into the waters of Sidon
Alma 44:22

many were baptized in the waters of Sidon
Alma 4:4

High in green mountains
Clear water seeps quietly from springs
Or drips and trickles through a scattering of rocks
Like new blood spilling from a wound.

Gathering from myriad sources, the river swells
And brings itself in offering toward the valley floor.
It glides beneath the overhanging branches of low trees and
Washes over stones in perpetual anointing.

Its ripples rise and melt and form and fall away
Beneath a floating, undulating cloak of light.

It is the pure simplicity of water,
The deep simplicity of blood.

Thousands upon thousands have been buried here,
Their bodies eased below the surface,
Lost from view.

Some have risen quickly, born again,
Breaking softly through the water like the whispered sound of joy
Their first new breath a fiery, buoyant gift of grace!

— Randall L. Hall