**A Prayer for the 21st Century**

by John Marsden  
  
May the road be free for the journey,  
May it lead where it promised it would.  
May the stars that gave ancient bearings  
Be seen and be understood:  
May every aircraft fly safely;  
May every traveler be found;  
May sailors in crossing the seas,  
Not hear the cries of the drowned.  
  
May gardens be wild like jungles,  
May nature never be tamed.  
May dangers create of us heroes,  
May fears always have names.  
May the mountains stand to remind us  
Of what it means to be young;  
May we be outlived by our daughters,  
May we be outlived by our sons.  
  
May the bombs rust away in the bunkers,  
And the doomsday clock be rewound;  
May the solitary scientists, working,  
Remember the holes in the ground.  
May the knife remain in the holder,  
May the bullet stay in the gun,  
May those who live in the shadows  
Be seen by those in the sun.