

## Sunrise in the underworld

by [Maurice Manning](#) in the [January 6, 2016](#) issue

The birds are singing their feathers off,  
the grass is on its way to being  
greener, so green it's almost blinding,  
and the sun has lit the top of the hill  
in front of the hill where the sun is rising.  
You see, I live in an underworld,  
it's beautiful and strange, but you must  
be careful in an underworld—  
it's not for everyone, the light  
is funny, the shadows are almost backwards;  
in the morning and then at dusk, it's easy  
to think I'm living upside down.  
Sometimes I do, regrettably,  
but that's a human thing, and being  
in a kind of underworld is good  
for understanding the human thing.  
It's also, weirdly, good for God,  
it puts you in the mind of God.  
I mean, some mornings you cannot stop  
yourself from looking around and being  
convinced there is a God who made  
the world and I am living in it.  
There must be something good in that.  
One of my duties is to speak  
of joy—in the face of everything  
against it. I'm speaking of it now.