

ODE 25

MY HELPER

- 1 I was rescued from my chains;^a
And I fled unto You, O my God.^b
- 2 Because You are the right hand of salvation,^c
And my Helper.
- 3 You have restrained those who rise up against me,
And they did not appear again.^d
- 4 Because Your face was with me,
Which saved me by Your grace.^e
- 5 But I was despised and rejected in the eyes of many,
And I was in their eyes like lead.
- 6 And I acquired strength from You,
And help.
- 7 A lamp you set for me both on my right and on my
left,
So that there might not be in me anything that is not
light.
- 8 And I was covered with the covering of Your spirit,^f
And I removed from me my garments of skin.^g

a. C: "the bonds."

b. C: "O Lord."

c. C: "For You became for me a right hand by which You saved me."

d. H: "I shall not see Him." C: "They have not shown themselves."

e. Cf. Genesis 32:30.

f. C: "of Your mercy."

g. H: "the garments of skins." Cf. *Gospel of Truth* 20:30–34; and 1QS 4.7–8.

- 9 Because Your right hand raised me,
 And caused sickness to pass from me.
- 10 And I became mighty in Your truth,^h
 And holy in Your righteousness.
- 11 And all my adversariesⁱ were afraid of me,^j
 And I became the Lord's by the name of the Lord.^k
- 12 And I was justified by His kindness,^l
 And His rest^m is for ever and ever.

Hallelujah.

h. H: "in truth"; C agrees with N.

i. Literally "all those who are against me."

j. C: "my enemies became far from me."

k. C omits this line. Without this line one would imagine that the thoughts are attributed to Christ (*ex ore Christi*). Perhaps the Odist is imagining for himself the thoughts he attributes to Christ in *Ode* 28:9–20.

l. Or "gentleness," "sweetness," "gladness." C: "Your gentleness."

m. C: "Your rest." Cf. Hebrews 4:1.