

# Brothers' Keeper

by  
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As I sit and ponder  
the universe so deep,  
I wonder if the things I sow  
are what I'll really reap.

Is the helping of other people  
the purpose of my life?  
Is this the way to happiness  
and the avoidance of strife?

But if what I give to others  
is returned a hundred fold,  
is not selfishness my motive  
and not whom I behold?

So what's the moral answer  
to helping those in need?  
Should I give to them aplenty  
or just a starting seed?

Should I give until it hurts  
or give 'til it feels good?  
Must I give until I'm needy  
and beg another's goods?

Perhaps it is the value  
of another in my sight  
that determines the 'mount of giving  
that is moral and is right.

For what if the stranger I rescue  
a murderer would be?  
Would I be in part responsible  
for the survivors that will grieve?

But then again the one I save  
might be the man who would  
make the world a better place  
and promulgate the good.

So how do I strike a balance  
between others' needs and mine?

Should I possess a vineyard  
while you possess a vine?

I must admit that though I help  
others who have need,  
I still own a nice big house,  
two cars, and two TVs.

Although I put some men's misery  
above things I could possess,  
I put stereos and computers  
above others who are left.

Is the lap of luxury  
upon the knees of Satan  
or just a place that those with need  
love to direct their hate at?

With all the things that I've just said,  
how do I decide  
what to keep and what to give?  
How's this moral law applied?

If giving all is good and nothing sin,  
then where's the dividing line?  
Exactly how much should I give  
to be a moral man?

Or perhaps the poor among us  
should get the powers that be  
to forcibly take from those with much  
and give to those in need.

But consider that coercion  
does not moral giving make  
'cause charity in its truest form  
is freewill give and take.

So how should we divide our goods  
whether all or just residuals?  
The only moral and proper way  
is to leave it to individuals.