

# Hymn of Breaking Strain

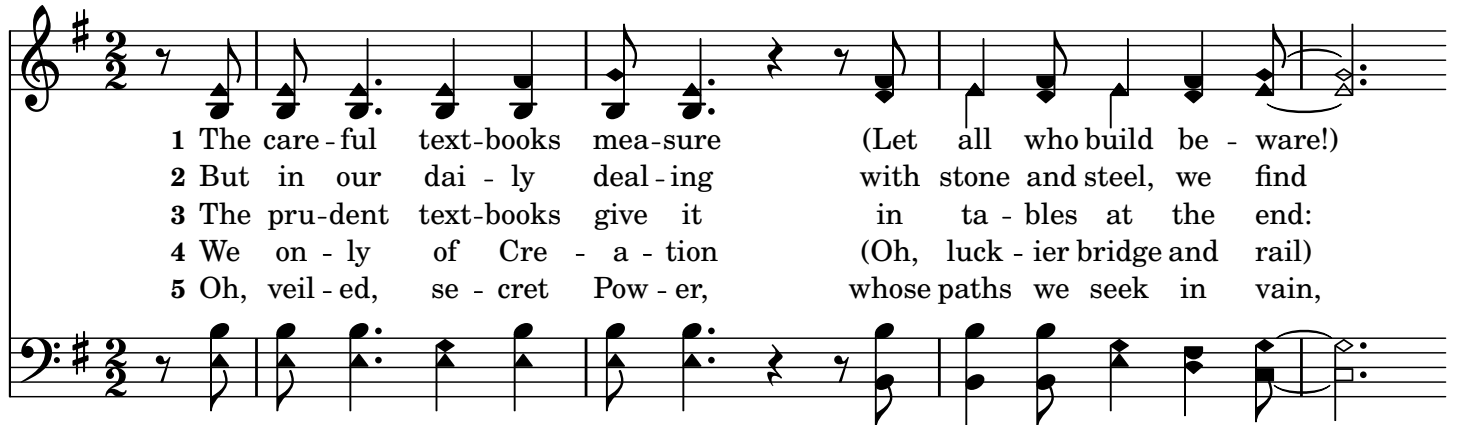
*He went over it in his head, plate by plate, span by span, brick by brick, pier by pier,  
remembering, comparing, estimating, and recalculating, lest there should be any mistake;  
and through the long hours and through the flights of formulae that danced  
and wheeled before him, a cold fear would come to pinch his heart...*

Text: Rudyard Kipling, 1935, alt.

Music: Leslie Fish, 1983

BREAKING STRAIN 76.76.76.76.6

arr. Kenan Schaeferkofer, 2021




1 The care - ful text-books mea - sure (Let all who build be - ware!)

2 But in our dai - ly deal - ing with stone and steel, we find

3 The pru - dent text-books give it in ta - bles at the end:

4 We on - ly of Cre - a - tion (Oh, luck - ier bridge and rail)

5 Oh, veil - ed, se - cret Pow - er, whose paths we seek in vain,



1 the load, the shock, the pres - sure ma - ter - i - al can bear.

2 the gods have no such feel - ing of guilt for hu - man - kind.

3 the stress that shears a riv - et, or makes a tie - bar bend,

4 a - bid the twin dam - na - tion: To fail and know we fail.

5 be with us in our hour— of ov - er - throw and pain;



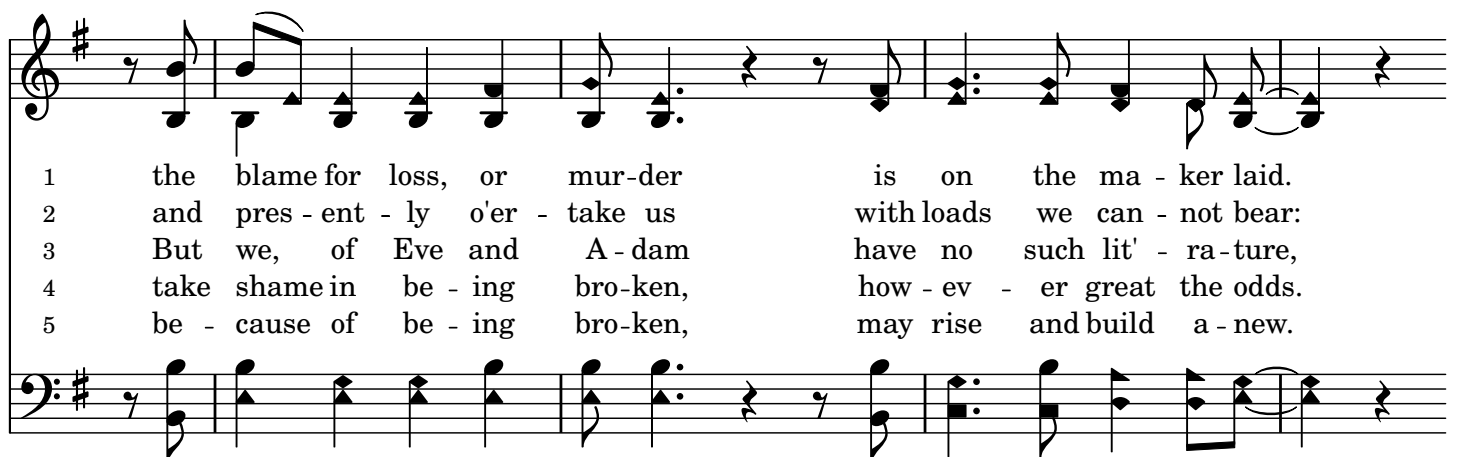
1 So when a buck - led gir - der lets down a steel cas - cade,

2 To no set gauge they make us, for no laid course pre - pare,

3 what traf - fic wrecks mac - a - dam, what con - crete should en - dure.

4 Yet we— by which sole to - ken we know we once were gods—

5 that we— by which sure to - ken we know Thy ways are true—



1 the blame for loss, or mur - der is on the ma - ker laid.

2 and pres - ent - ly o'er - take us with loads we can - not bear:

3 But we, of Eve and A - dam have no such lit' - ra - ture,

4 take shame in be - ing bro - ken, how - ev - er great the odds.

5 be - cause of be - ing bro - ken, may rise and build a - new.

Oh the ma - ker, not the made!  
too mer - ci - less to bear.  
to warn us or make sure!  
Oh the bur - den of the Odds.  
stand up and build a - new.