

# Welcome to “J-Talk”

Sunnyside Road Church of Christ

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## The Man Who Hated to Sing



Caedmon hated to sing. The smoky light from the lanterns filled the inn, but Caedmon could see through the haze that the minstrel's harp being passed his way. The old cowherd slipped into the night and retired to the stables to sleep.

The year was 650 A.D. near Whitby, England, on the coast of the North Sea. According to Bede, who wrote an *Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation* in the 8th century,

after having a dream that night, Caedmon woke up singing songs about the creation of the world.

The old man went to his master, the bailiff, and told him about his dream and sang this song:

*Now we must praise  
The Maker of the heavenly realm,  
The Creator's power and wisdom,  
The deeds of the Father of Glory;*

*How He, being God eternal,  
Was the Author of all wonders,  
Who first to the sons of men  
Made heaven for the roof of their  
abode,  
And then created the earth,  
Almighty Guardian of mankind....*

Admittedly, it was only a  
paraphrase of our Bible, and a poor  
one at that, but it was the first  
attempt to make the stories of the  
creation, the exodus, Christ's  
incarnation, passion, resurrection  
and ascension into heaven available  
to the English people in their own  
language. And what they could sing  
they could easily tell to others.

Caedmon left his master and went  
to live in the monastery. There, the  
monks told him stories from their  
Latin Bible, then, each night,  
“keeping in mind all he had heard,  
and as it were chewing the cud,”  
according to Bede, he would retire  
to awake fresh each day with  
verses so melodious that “his  
instructors became his eager  
listeners.”

A few short years later Caedmon  
died in his sleep – after singing to  
comfort the sick near the place  
where he had hated to sing.

*Blessings,*

