

---

## *"One Star Fell and Another", by Conrad Aiken*

**An article from the *Cathedral Times*  
by the Very Reverend Samuel G. Candler,  
Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip**

During these lovely twelve days of Christmas, I think of stars. One by one, the dramatic stars atop our Christmas trees make their departure. Some fall, others are carefully stored away for next year. The stars on our houses, on our pageant star costumes, those strewn across our living rooms, are all likewise put away.

My wife, Boog, and I spent a few nights outside this past week, out where the sky was cold and crisp. All we saw were stars, thousands of them, some still, and others shooting across the horizon. I remembered this strong poem, from Conrad Aiken (born in Savannah), in which he urges us to be prodigal with our stars—"with our words and with our gifts.

One star fell and another as we walked.  
Lifting his hand towards the west, he said"  
"How prodigal that sky is of its stars!  
They fall and fall, and still the sky is sky.  
Two more have gone, but heaven is heaven still.

Then let us not be precious of our thought,  
Nor of our words, nor hoard them up as though  
We thought our minds a heaven which might change  
And lose its virtue, when the word had fallen.  
Let us be prodigal, as heaven is:  
Lose what we lose, and give what we may give,""  
Ourselves are still the same. Lost you a planet"  
Is Saturn gone? Then let him take his rings  
Into the Limbo of forgotten things.

O little foplings of the pride of mind,  
Who wrap the phrase in lavender, and keep it  
In order to display it: and you, who save our loves  
As if we had not worlds of love enough"! "

Let us be reckless of our words and worlds,  
And spend them freely as the tree his leaves;  
And give them where the giving is most blest.  
What should we save them for, "a night of frost? ...  
All lost for nothing, and ourselves a ghost.  
(Conrad Aiken, 1931)

At Christmas, we have celebrated giving. May this Spirit of Christmas giving be with you, and with all of us, throughout

this year. Yes, let us be reckless, lavish, with our gifts of love, with our "words and worlds, and spend them freely as the tree his leaves; and give them where the giving is most blest."

Sam Candler signature



The Very Reverend Sam Candler

---

© *The Cathedral of St. Philip. All rights reserved.*