

BROTHER JAMES AIR

Lyrics, Psalm 23, King David, 1000 B.C.
James Leith Macbeth Bain, Tune, 1915

The tune: BROTHER JAMES' AIR was composed by Scottish hymn writer, composer, religious writer, and minister, James Leith Macbeth Bain, who was better known to his peers as, Brother James. He is remembered for his religious publications, as well as this hymn tune: BROTHER JAMES' AIR. The tune was first published in Bain's work, "*The Great Peace: Being a New Year's Greeting*" (1915).

Born (1860-1925) in a devout Christian home, in Pitlochery, Scotland, James Bain had attended both the Edinburgh Free Church College and the Edinburgh Established Church College, with a view to becoming a Minister of Religion. He came to doubt his faith, however, and pursued education as a Student of Arts living in Jane Bow's Lodging House in Edinburgh. He later regained a mystical belief with the aid of the Christo Theosophic Society. This calling took him to Liverpool in 1890, where he married a wealthy lady of means, (many years his junior) in 1895. He founded the Brotherhood of Healers, and he and his fellow healers often sang to their patients during healing sessions. He published a book on healing entitled, "*The Brotherhood of Healers*" (1906). After Bain's wife died in 1909, he dedicated his second published work, "*The Christ of the Holy Grail*", to her.

In the latter years of his life he worked among the poor in the slums of Liverpool. It was during these years that he composed this tune, which was originally titled: MAROSA to honor the seventh daughter of a friend he had christened, until it was changed to: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, the name it is known as today. This is sung frequently with '*The Lord's my shepherd*' and the less well known '*My Shepherd is the living God*' which are both versions of Psalm 23.

~Tull