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**Anna and Simeon
a dialogue
based on Luke 2:22-38
by Ralph Milton**

ANNA: Maybe you don't think an old woman can be a prophet, eh? Well, that's what I am. I am a prophet because I help people live in God's way. My name is Anna. Do you know how old I am? Eh? Of course you don't. I don't even know myself. 84 years. I think. But who knows these things.

SIMEON: Well, I don't know how old I am either, Anna. But let me tell you something. Because we are old, we can sometimes see things younger people miss. Do you remember the day we saw that baby, and we knew it was the Messiah?

A: That's why they call me a prophet, Simeon. When I saw you holding that child, I knew that baby was God's chosen one.

S: And you helped them Anna, you helped that young couple...what were their names...?

A: Mary and.... Samuel?

S: Her name was Mary, all right. His name was...Zechariah.

A: No it wasn't. No...

S: Joseph, that's what it was. Mary and Joseph, and you helped them make their promises – that they would teach their new baby about God. I've never seen you that excited, Anna. You were acting like a teenager.

A: I was excited? You were the one dancing around as if you were young again.

S: It was my dream, Anna. I dreamed that I wouldn't die until I had seen the Messiah – the one who would show everyone what God is like.

A: You should have seen the look on your face when they let you hold that child.

S: I'll remember that as long as I live, Anna.

Dear God, now I can die feeling happy.

It was just as you promised.

*With my own eyes, I have seen the love
you want to give to everyone in the world.*

But I also knew right then, that Mary would know a lot of pain because of that child.

A: You didn't have to tell her that. She'll know soon enough.

S: And you. You went running all over the temple, telling anyone who would stand still. "I've seen the Messiah. The Messiah has come." Oh, you were a sight, Anna.

A: We were both a sight, Simeon. But you know, there's something wonderful about being older. You can see things younger people just don't know about.

S: We have been blessed, Anna.

A: Yes, Simeon. We have been blessed.

**Ralph Milton has written a number of books,
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