

Is it Worth While?

Claude McKay

Is it worth while?

This question ever I ask

As the eternal mile

I trudge along.

5 Sick of life's thankless task,

My tongue too leaden for song—

O God! is it worth while?

Yet I must go on,

Though wearily I fair

10 Through the valley of despair.

I must go on and make no moan . . .

I would lie low in the clean, green grass and sleep,

In the silent night and deep;

But I must go, I must go on.

15 On through the pushing stream

Of mortals harsh and proud,

On through the clamorous crowd

That dissipates my dream.

All alone,

20 Through the splashing, lashing torrent,

Along the eternal mile,

I must go on

With this thought ever recurrent:

Is it worth while

McKay, Claude. "Is it Worth While?" *Pearson's Magazine* (September, 1918):
276.