

## “ *IN IPSO VITA ERAT* ”

“ What shall I do to inherit eternal life ? ” (St. Luke x. 25, xviii. 18.)

**T**HE SEEKERS twain were these :  
A Ruler of his people’s destinies,  
Rich in authority and social place,  
Secure of life with every human grace.

His fellow-seeker, he  
Whose voice unchallenged spoke infallibly  
The iron will of the Mosaic Code ;  
And proudly honoured in the land he strode.

And, lo, in Him Who seemed  
To breathe a life impoverished, undreamed  
In mortal reckoning, obscure, despised,  
Of all things dispossessed, they realized

The Holder of the key  
That opened wide life’s hid eternity :  
One, set in time, Who intimately knew  
The secret of the Timeless and the True ;

Life luminous, complete,  
Beyond the gift of wealth, the lack of meat,  
Full in its orbit, safe from compromise  
Between the soul that lives, the flesh that dies.

Oh never in man’s heart,  
Oh never in his soul’s divinest part,  
Shall life’s full glory so sublimely flame !  
“ *In Him was Life* ”—and Life is in His Name.

EDWIN ESSEX, O.P.

