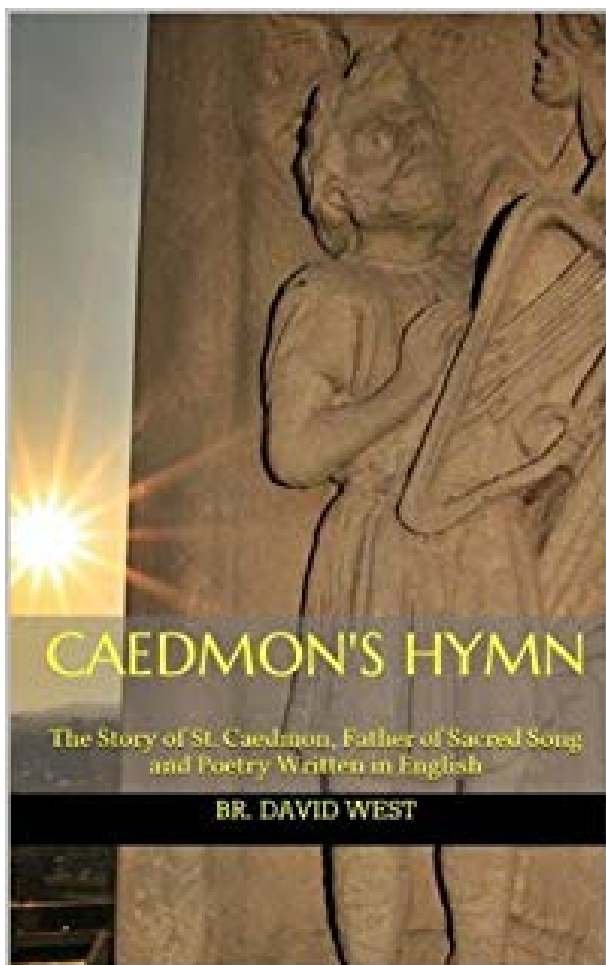


Caedmon's Hymn (Meet the Saints Book 2)



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In the 7th century, when England was divided into Saxon kingdoms, a shy young cow-herd named Caedmon couldn't sing. When his friends sang and played the harp, Caedmon left before his turn came. One night a dream-vision brought Caedmon the gift of song. The monks of Whitby and their Abbess, Hilda, invited Caedmon to join them. Although Caedmon was illiterate, he sang Bible stories in plain English that everyone could understand. He died in 675 and is known as Saint Caedmon, the father of sacred poetry in English. Since little is known of Caedmon's early life, I have dramatized his childhood, while portraying life in the dark ages. I've kept close to the historic account of Caedmon, in places echoing the original Anglo-Saxon. The story blends biography with cultural and religious history. It shows the monastic role in preserving learning in post-Roman Britain. It also carries a message of hope to children about overcoming limitations and finding one's own special strengths. I was much surprised when my research failed to turn up any books about Caedmon, which is a wonderful tale, well known to students and teachers of English literature.