



First Wise Man: ...

To discover how to be truthful now,
Is the reason I follow this star.

Second Wise Man: ...

With envy, terror, rage, regret,
We anticipate, or remember,
But never are.

To discover how to be living now,
Is the reason I follow this star.

Third Wise Man: ...

To discover how to be loving now,
Is the reason I follow this star.

All Three:

The weather has been awful,
The countryside is dreary,
Marsh, jungle, rock, and echoes mock
Calling our hope unlawful;
But a silly song can help along
Yours ever and sincerely:
At last we know for certain
That we are three old sinners,
That this journey is much too long,
That we want our dinners,
And miss our wives, our books, our dogs,
But have only the vaguest idea
Why we are what we are.
To discover how to be human now
Is the reason we follow this star.

From: "For the Time Being; A Christmas Oratorio" -W. H. Auden