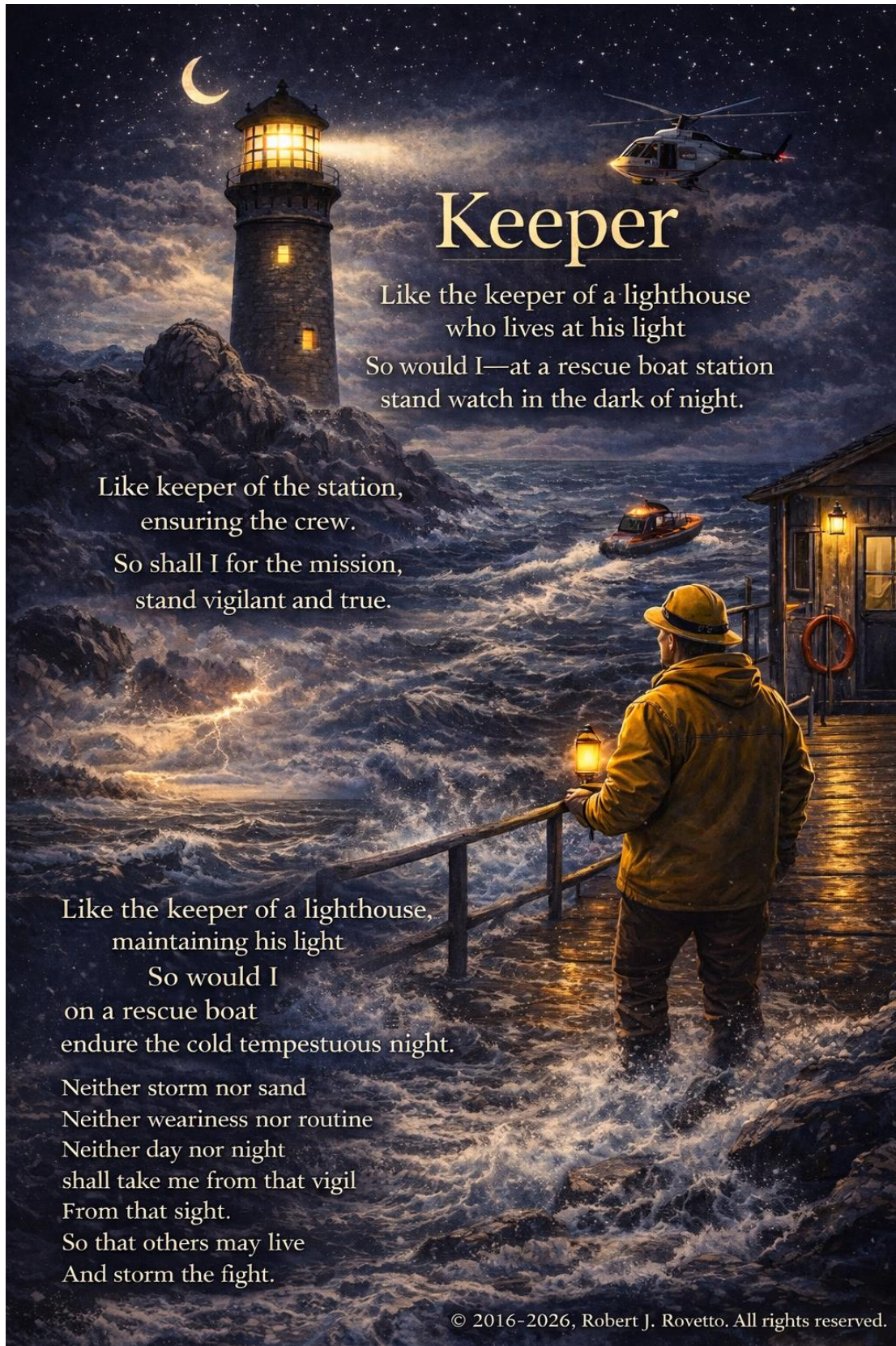




Keeper

Like the keeper of a lighthouse
who lives at his light
So would I—at a rescue boat station
stand watch in the dark of night.

Like keeper of the station,
ensuring the crew.
So shall I for the mission,
stand vigilant and true.

Like the keeper of a lighthouse,
maintaining his light
So would I
on a rescue boat
endure the cold tempestuous night.

Neither storm nor sand
Neither weariness nor routine
Neither day nor night
shall take me from that vigil
From that sight.
So that others may live
And storm the fight.

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“Keeper”

A poem written by Robert J. Rovetto

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Author Commentary & Semantic Unpacking

“The poem is a reflection of a personal calling, spoken by the sea and heard by a guardian’s heart, to serve the community save should the divine then part.”	
Passage	Intended meaning(s)
“A reflection of a personal calling,”	An expression of a deeply felt inner purpose.
“spoken by the sea and heard by a guardian’s heart,”	The sense of purpose (the “calling”), is metaphorically voiced (spoken) by the sea, the ocean, being on the water (in the authors case, in heavy weather seas). The sea is (metaphorically) calling the author to the rescue-response activity. And aspects of the author’s good character (metaphorically) hear and act on that calling. That calling, that unspoken intangible connection to something divine, is metaphorically heard by the author’s humanity, authenticity of purpose and humanitarianism—the author’s God-given heart (and morality). The image of the speaking sea may, in another sense, also convey difficult, perilous (severe/heavy) seas. A speaking sea can mean the sea is calling for others to help people put in peril by the sea itself
“to serve the community”	As above, but more directly and literally: a calling with its broader aim being life-saving and thus public-service.
“save should the divine then part.”	To continue serving unless God decides or directs otherwise. To pursue that calling except in exceptional circumstances (God’s preventing it).
	Overall: An expression of a deeply personal calling—inspired by the sea and sea search & rescue, felt in the heart of the author, dedicated to pursuing that calling to serve the community for as long as God allows. A life and career goal is to work in this discipline, with an envisioned life being on-call to do so.

Author

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