

## A Modest Paraphrase of Alma 30:44

Isaac James Richards

*for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

—Revelation 19:10

All things denote there is a God, even the carpet, and the tile, and the television. Tele- meaning “at a distance” plus “vision.” And yet the toddler places his palm directly on the screen, patting the prophet’s face, while speaking in tongues. The cat yawns: *prophecy*. The clock ticks: *pro-phet*. The timer beeps: *pro-phe-cy*, *pro-phe-cy*, *pro-phe-cy*. My aunt opens the oven and out billows prophecy. Prophecy spiraling from cinnamon rolls. Prophecy pouring from the faucet. Prophecy pressing against the windows from the outside. Tulips blooming like prophecy. A breath mint melting like prophecy. Teenagers snoring to the sound of prophecy. Children drawing it, color spilling outside the lines. Older children marking it, word-by-word, once and every time . . . there it is again! Prophecy. Then grandma presses pause on the prophet, to go to the bathroom, because she doesn’t want to miss a word.

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