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This Mountain I Must Climb



Verses from a Higher View

By

Miranda A. Darling

*“Now it happened when David
had come to the top of the mountain,
...he worshiped God”
(2nd Samuel 15:32)*

Prologue

Pouring out poetry and songs for the Lord is a joyous work of worship to me. This heart of mine somehow ascends to the heights of God's holy mountain as I write of His truths in ways which strengthen my own soul while aiming to glorify His Name. Scriptural poetry seems to satisfy the yearnings of faith's speech which endlessly travel across the plains of my mind. In this, God has given me so much more than I could have ever asked.

Whether I am weary or stirred up, the Lord brings comfort, inspiration, and encouragement most often by moving this author's pen to scratch out the highs and lows of faith's journey on paper. It is always humbling and often frightening to make the innermost workings of my soul available to the public, yet I would not feel as alive had I not the freedom or impetus to do just that. It is always my deepest prayer for even one simple verse to find its way into someone's heart to encourage or strengthen faith. May God continually approve and receive these works as my perpetual offering, for He alone has created me. He alone has saved me – not just from condemnation but also from bondage to the deceitful leanings of my self-driven nature. To Him goes all glory. Amen.

~ Miranda A. Darling

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This Mountain I Must Climb

*I gaze ahead
The path is steep
A narrowing ascent*

*The rocky tread
Of dusty feet
Already feeling spent*

*The air is dry
I walk in faith
Water trickles near*

*Gaining height
I keep the pace
It is His voice I hear*

*The sun is hot
I look around
To see the higher view*

*A needed pause
To gain more ground
My spirit is renewed*

*I pick along
This stony course
Marking out the time*

*He beckons me
So further up
This mountain I must climb*



Ein Gedi, Israel, Mountaintop View of the Dead Sea (2019)

Ode to the Journey of My Soul

*Like a ship that churns to ports of call
I am on a passage for safe havens
To God who is my tower standing tall
Lighthouse on the Rock of my salvation*

*As waters toss my vessel high and low
I voyage on the waves and crests of time
His chartered course so often seems too slow
But rest assured I'll not be left behind*

*No matter what my vision can survey
As promised shores appear to stay concealed
My faith will keep me traveling the Way
The journey of my soul His hand has sealed*

*Although life's seas may oft bode dark and grim
I safely cross the vast expanse with Him*



Sea of Galilee, Israel, 2019

More

*I ascended to God's mountain to pray
And though I did descend, my heart stayed
Refusing to come down
From the foot of His throne
It strolls along those heights to this day*

*I searched for the fountain of my Lord
And into this thirsty soul He poured
Still holding out my cup
Seems I can't get enough
Of His precious living water I want more*

*There are times I must fall down on my knees
Bring my troubles to the One Who sees
He makes me stand up tall
Though I'm so weak and small
His strength is more than I will ever need*

*I was hungry and He gave the Bread of Life
And in the dark He shines His love and light
I can never eat my fill
Or leave His radiant will
He offers more and more, no end in sight*

*I desire His blessing more than gold
So I'm holding fast to the edges of His robe
Like Jacob I will fight
Wrestling through the night
Til the touch of His hand commands my soul*

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20, 21)

My Prayer

Let the words of my mouth

Be as deep waters

Life in their depth and skillfully wrought

May the fount of my heart

Flow rushing streams

Sparkling the love and the light of God

May the thoughts of my mind

Rest as pools of rain

Refreshed and filled by His Word

May my place in this world

Be a bright, shining lantern

Beaming forth His fire like an evening star

May the fruit of my life

Multiply as lavish fields

And glorify the Name of the Lord

Amen

“The words of a wise man’s mouth are as deep waters, plenteous and difficult to fathom, and the fountain of skillful and godly wisdom is as a gushing stream, sparkling, fresh, pure, and life-giving.” (Proverbs 18:4 AMP Classic)

He Upholds

*Wayward paths mark more of my road
Than I thought I had ever tread
Thorns and thistles, held far too close
As if they were nothing to dread*

*Careless wandering finds many tears
Hidden wounds of the soul abound
Self-driven choices bring damage and fear
Countless are the times I fall down*

*Gracious and merciful is the Lord's pull
My feet turn back to His way
This life of faith His Spirit upholds
As again my path is made straight*

*Forever indebted, to God I remain
His love alone makes me whole
A shadow I was, until His light came
Shining truth from the Words that He wrote*

*Slowly I'm learning how to keep pace
With the One who maps my life's course
Great is the longing to seek His kind face
Any drifting brings utter remorse*

*I walk with intent, toward heaven's far gate
Facing trials with battles untold
He leads the way and keeps my soul safe
By His righteous hand, He upholds*

He Comes

The storm comes

*Light is flickering, weakened flame
Darkness is making a final claim
There will be no chance again
Just for a time, hell's scepter reigns*

Redemption comes

*We ought look up for it draws near
The righteous have no need to fear
Jesus Christ will remove our tears
Very soon shall my Lord appear*

He comes

*From farthest east to the farthest west
To souls in search of heaven's best
Hopeful buoys riding on wave's crest
And in Christ, the faithful finally rest*

No Quarrel

*I have no quarrel with my Lord
I shall wait and be still
Grasp tightly the edge of His robe
Ready to walk where He wills*

*Great is the comfort of trust
Though hidden are the places my trail leads
Obedience is a constant must
Let the feet of faith never sleep*

*The road may be of driest dust
Bearing the scorch of heat and wind
My water jug covered in rust
And heart afflicted by chagrin*

*I calm my soul and know God IS
Assuring myself of His salvation
The path will change, the heat will lift
Living waters are awaiting*

*Here on earth, or up in heaven above
God's promises are performed
Hazards strike, but His great shield is love
Thus, I have no quarrel with my Lord*

Holy Ground

*The Lord says to my soul
Be careful how you stroll
For everywhere you go
You stand on holy ground*

*I ask how this can be
When all my sight does see
Is godless futility
And deception all around*

*He opened up my eyes
Led my heart to realize
My life is sacrificed
Consecrated by faith's crown*

*Thus every place I stand
Like His temple in the sand
Is made sacred by His hand
And I walk holy ground*

*As a sandal thus removed
Wrong habits we must lose
His Presence in us proves
We stand on holy ground*

*Shekinah glory shines
Within this soul of mine
Broken vessel now divine
My will has been laid down*

*Though I look the same
My heart is His domain
And I cannot profane
What He calls holy ground*

“Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”
(Exodus 3:5)

The Taste of Sin

*Why do we always think there's more
Turning knobs on forbidden doors
Life's temptations beckon sweet
But in our yielding, bring defeat*

*It seems so harmless and cavalier
Yet God commands we flee and fear
The serpent entrancing with its eyes
Sin will captivate and mesmerize*

*Wagering against a loaded deck
People are playing Russian roulette
It may not hit every single time
But at each pass, destruction aligns*

*We love to dance with pretty flames
The burns received weep with pain
Pretending there's lines we will not cross
The edges blur in conscience lost*

*Bitter is the flavor on the tongue
Feasting upon fare we should shun
Appealing, seems the wax fruit plate
Like sin, fictitious food cannot sate*

*Stumbling makes us weary in the soul
Scrambling to salvage what sin stole
But time does pass, and we soon forget
The taste of sin is deep regret*

Ode to Ecclesiastes

*How can it always be
The rivers run to the seas
And yet, those seas are never full*

*And sprinting after sin
The lost are chasing wind
To store it in pockets filled with holes*

*The things that have been
Will one day be again
Surely, life holds nothing new to find*

*And no amount of gold
Keeps us from getting old
For we've no way to purchase time*

*We all miss the mark
But light surpasses dark
If our hearts awaken to the dawn*

*Seek the Lord to be free
Of every futile vanity
Captivating men under the sun*

*The body turns to dust
As death conquers flesh
So let's instead mind well the soul*

*When all is said and done
Fear God and kiss the Son
For this is man's all to be whole*

Amen

Not Far Away (For Zelma)

*The house is so quiet
Activity has stilled
No more ministrations
All care has been fulfilled*

*The body passed in sleep
But the soul remains alive
Faith finally rests
From its long, hard ride*

*The last years were cruel
Illness waged its war
Pain came and ruled
Sorrow washed ashore*

*The battle finally ended
Night has turned to day
The soul is ascended
And yet, not far away*

*At first it feels quite lonely
Silence seems to reign
But there is peace in knowing
He is not far away*

*Present with the Lord
Is every sleeping saint
They're not here anymore
But never far away*

*We touch God's holy throne
With every prayer we say
And through Christ all are one
So, he is not far away*

Shepherd King

*All the sheep are scattered, voices bleating
If only they could pause and hear His call
Shepherd King, His loving voice repeating
Draw near to Me and you will thirst no more*

*Wayward and confused, the flock is stumbling
Lacking understanding and direction
Down the rough terrain of life they're tumbling
Walking paths without their King's protection*

*How holy, high, and narrow is the way
That leads the lambs who hear Him to the fold
The gate swings open to all who obey
And listen for His voice along the road*

*He gathers us to dwell under His wing
In fertile pastures of our Shepherd King*

“Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” (Psalm 100:3)

Midnight Prayer

*There is a fasting kept
The hours I would have slept
As the Lord draws me awake
It is my sleep He takes*

*No sense to toss and turn
It is His will we learn
There are seasons in the night
When a warrior must fight*

*The battlefield is staged
Let's bow the head and pray
To speak with the Lord divine
A lowly branch on heaven's vine*

*Exhausted bodies feel
The disruption of sleep's wheel
But the faithful will recall
He has asked us for our all*

*Both night and day are His
And He died so we could live
To the Lord we give our best
Even sacrificing rest*

*Shadowed hours tick
The alert will trim their wicks
Prayer's flame He softly lights
Burning incense through the night*

*As He listens in the dark
The Lord transforms our hearts
Blessed be the yoke we bear
A holy offering is midnight prayer*

Heaven in My Heart

*A whole new life within my heart and soul
A whole new way of viewing sin's true toll
My eyes are open to life's hidden war
My ears now hear the sound of Satan's roar*

*What is this higher view
Of a spirit born anew
What is this thrilling start
It is heaven in my heart*

*A different pulse beats to a divine drum
A different way to soar and overcome
My feet now walk along a lofty path
My soul no longer bound for God's great wrath*

*Like a shot through the air
The Lord stripped me bare
Like lightening in the dark
He put heaven in my heart*

*A vast and high horizon looms ahead
A vast and deeper sea beneath me spreads
My service to the Lord, the holy quest
My calling as His soldier must be met*

*I am a ship put out to sea
On a voyage God sent me
He's my compass and my chart
He is heaven in my heart*

He Would Have Told Me

*The Lord did not promise
That I would have no needs
Never have a problem
Or stumble to my knees*

*But if I seek His loving face
He will never leave me
Always making my paths straight
Comforting my grieving*

*It's clear as the sky is blue
And the earth that sits below
If it were not true
He would have told me so*

~

*God did not make a vow
To produce fruit before the seed
Make fields already plowed
Or crops without the weeds*

*But He instead did give
Every season in its course
His will in which to live
Holy light to be our source*

*It's as plain as mountaintop views
And the winds of life that blow
If it were not true
He would have told me so*

~

*God did not guarantee
To keep me from a battle
Or that I would never bleed
Sprawled on trouble's gravel*

*But the Lord proclaims
My soul has been saved
For when I was born again
All sins He then forgave*

*He died for me and you
This, His Word does show
If it were not true
He would have told me so*

~

*The Lord did not decree
That I would swim in wealth
Live a life of ease
Or have the perfect health*

*But He is my Prince of Peace
Eternal life is in His love
A heritage of bliss
In the heavens high above*

*He makes all things new
I will live in the Father's home
And if it were not true
He would have told me so*

~

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; **if it were not so, I would have told you.** I go to prepare a place for you. (John 14:1,2)

Sonnet of A Life Undone

*The urge of every heart is to be free
Proclaiming with abandon, 'let me be'
So, after my desires I did seek
Attempting to reach satisfaction's peak*

*But in this hollow quest there lurks a lie
A bondage chained to me, myself, and I
Without the Lord we are all slaves to sin
And every fleshly lust we bear within*

*The things we think will make us full of joy
Cannot fill our gaping, deep-set void
The emptiness of transient pursuits
Produces only dissipation's fruit*

*The heathen definition of what's fun
Can only leave a soul with life undone*

He Will Beautify His Afflicted Ones

*Frayed and weathered
Tattered and weak
Like a bird missing feathers
With a battle-worn beak*

*Fierce and cruel world
Waging its wars
Through time we are hurled
Flung against its doors*

*But if the flames of faith
Burn bright in the soul
Know God turns the lathe
So carefully and slow*

*We walk stricken and faint
Bearing life's scars
Like a canvas peeling paint
Our surfaces seem marred*

*Yes, His refining fires
Can burn hot as the sun
But the Lord will beautify
All His afflicted ones*

All His Gates Are Praise

What a joyful song His people raise

To heaven's ears above

Thankful hymns of trusting faith

In the Lord's eternal love

Harmonies of His endless grace

With voices lifted up

Sing unto the Ancient of Days

For our overflowing cup

His Holy Spirit, our libation

Heaven capturing heart's gaze

God calls His walls 'Salvation'

And all His gates are 'Praise'

“But you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.” (Isaiah 60:18)



The East Gate – Temple Mount, Jerusalem, Israel 2019

Reminiscing Israel

*O' that I could stand again
Atop the heights of God
A yearning for His Holy Land
Breaks forth within my heart*

*Such thoughts wash gently over me
Like the waves of God's Great Sea*

*O' that I could breathe the air
Fresh Galilean breeze
On a fishing vessel resting there
How near God seemed to be!*

*Such memories overflow my mind
And carry me off to precious times*

*O' those desert places call
A beckoning wilderness
Dead Sea beauty, mountains tall
A spring of peace and rest*

*Climbing up En Gedi's ledge
Stark pattern of faith's pilgrimage*

*O' to walk along those streets
Cobbled of Jerusalem stone
Ruins touched by Jesus' feet
My own shoes often roamed*

*Golden city sings faith's song
Echoes of God's holy throne*

*O' to think I'll one day dwell
Forever in God's land
Divinely restored Israel
Refined by the Lord's own Hand*

*Such hopes are thus assured in Him
I'll see His New Jerusalem*



View of Mount Arbel from the Sea of Galilee, Israel 2019



View of the Temple Mount from the Mount of Olives, Israel 2019

Valley of Weeping

*There is a place in the soul
A deep crevice down low
In it, the Spirit lay grieving*

*A path taken by choice
Not heeding God's voice
Willfully deaf to His pleading*

*In vain the Lord cries
Do not be aligned
With the gods this world is keeping*

*But burdened with pain
The flesh lost its faith
An unholy fix you are seeking*

*The way now obscured
You've everything to fear
Down in the Valley of Weeping*

*Heart compromised
More than surmised
The powers of hell are creeping*

*Rooms in your mind
Are quite occupied
By deceptions and much misleading*

*You cry 'safety and peace'
But there's a hazardous breach
And the Spirit knows its increasing*

*With the foe you abide
There's a thorn in your side
Bochim is what you are feeling*

*Oh, unsettled soul
Will you finally let go
And receive the Lord's own healing*

*If you only knew why
Tears fall from your eyes
You'd flee the Valley of Weeping*

“You shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.” As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. And they called the name of that place Bochim” (Judges 2:2-5)



Part of the Valley of Kidron, which lies between the Old City and the Mount of Olives
Jerusalem, Israel, 2019

Different Battles, Same War

*These chains I wear
In service to the enemy
My head laid bare
As I bow before the throne of me*

*I should rise up
And refuse to worship here
I've had enough
Time to shatter my own mirror*

*The world looms close
With its many lures
Threatening my soul
Muddying what is pure*

*I must fight back
Wielding heaven's sword
On the narrow track
Protected by the Lord*

*The serpent creeps
Finding ways to slither in
Hell never sleeps
Seeking battles it can win*

*I shall stay true
To the God who conquered all
He'll bring me through
No matter what befalls*

*The masses fight
Raising voices, screaming hate
Wrong is right
A hunger they cannot sate*

*I stand steadfast
Even brought before the courts
I'm thrust, outcast
Persecuted, shamed, and scorned*

*These are faith's trials
I'm a soldier of the Lord
Each day hostile
Different battles, same war*

What Are You Wearing

*We wear our pride like a newspaper hat
Folded crown of a fool
God desires to give better than that
A diadem of heavenly jewels*

*We think we're garbed in emperor's clothes
Attired as we see fit
Invisible robes don't cover the soul
We're dressed for the fiery pit*

*Everyone's born a pauper's child
Spiritually blind and naked
The Lord's kind yoke is gentle and mild
Harnessing true salvation*

*A garment pure and shining white
Redemption's wedding dress
The Bridegroom waits both day and night
He's the One who died to bless*

*So exchange your stained and ragged coat
For a cloak of royal claim
Become an heir to the kingdom of gold
And in faith be born again*

The End Is Coming

*We live in Sodom and Gomorrah
Righteousness lay shunned
And every boundary is crossed*

*Consciences laying in a coma
The will of God undone
Humanity reigns with wisdom lost*

*As it was in the days of Noah
A storm of judgment comes
And this truth cannot be stopped*

*Some may try to flee like Jonah
To the waves they will succumb
Consumed in the deep by judgment wrought*

*Persecution closes in like a boa
Constricting everyone
And faith in God will pay the cost*

*These things, the Lord has spoken
In the end His fires will burn
As the holy arm of God finally drops*

*He redeems all heaven's chosen
But each godless one is flung
And in eternal fires forever caught*

*So thaw what sin has long frozen
And by grace and faith be won
The rule of self only comes to naught*

*Give to Jesus your devotion
A new creation you'll become
By His blood alone comes peace with God*

Never Far Away (For Paula)

*There's a bond unseen
Between mother and child
A silver cord gleams
In each nurturing smile*

*A relentless love
Withstanding every trial
Like a river it runs
Covering life's miles*

*The Lord called her home
Mom's clock wound down
She is suddenly gone
And all sorrow abounds*

*There's a place in the heart
She will always reside
From us, her soul departs
To sit at the Lord's side*

*Like missing a piece
Of a puzzle deep within
Grief makes us weak
As a lamp grown dim*

*Wave upon wave
Emotions roll in
We try to be brave
The effort wears thin*

*But the Lord's faithful rest
Around heaven's throne
So let us never forget
She is not really gone*

*One day we will all be
Close together again
For all eternity
In a time without end*

*Through Christ we are one
We draw near when we pray
Through the blood of the Son
She is never far away*

God Never Sleeps

*The day's work done
Offices close
Quietness comes
Action slows*

*Streetlights shine
Sidewalks calm
The stars align
In twinkling psalm*

*The hour is late
Night overhead
Cannot stay awake
I stumble to bed*

*The world lays still
Yet thrums God's power
He's performing His will
In darkest of hours*

*Our battles halt
His war goes on
Time knows assaults
From dusk to dawn*

*Every soul rests
When weariness creeps
Heads nod to chest
But God never sleeps*

All In

*Both feet have crossed at last His great threshold
No longer am I balancing on grace
The Spirit's wind blows strong upon my soul
And tears me far away from worldly ways*

*How long I've had my cake and ate God's too
But undivided heart He does require
A clean and spotless bride the Lord pursues
He'll purge my selfish dress with sacred fire*

*To wade knee deep in Spirit's living pools
Instead of diving headfirst through the flow
I walked a faith half pure and half a fool
Still clinging to the earth, not letting go*

*The current of Your love pulled me offshore
I'm finally all in, my heart is Yours*

Selah

I Am

*The Lord says to my soul
Cease striving and let go
There are times when all you need
Is to be very still and know
I Am*

*And His Spirit speaks to me
Pause a moment and take heed
To the quiet voice inside
A passing thought He seems to be
But I Am*

*Jesus spoke convicting words
For us to live what we have heard
From commands written of old
So His faithful could discern
I Am*

*In the seasons of calm rest
He ordains them for our best
Though we find it hard to cease
God will soften our protests
With I Am*

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.”
(Isaiah 46:10,11)

Heart Awake

*How long will we slumber
Ignoring rolls of thunder
Drowsy feet will shuffle
Heaven's voice is muffled*

*Many think they're done
When the cross's faith is won
But lively shoes wear grace
To run the journey's race*

*Some seek to fill up cravings
Worldly ways enslaving
A folding of the hands
Nodding off with unlit lamps*

*The hourglass thus drains
As His glory slowly fades
Oh believer, can't you hear
His whisper in your ear*

*Arise to holy work
Threats around the corner lurk
There's a danger to your soul
Faith's ardor can be stole*

*Compromise will dull
The senses quickly lulled
Instead let's make a stand
His bright sword in our hands*

*And vigilantly watch
Awaiting Bridegroom's knock
How many can truly say
I sleep, but my heart is awake*

“I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, “Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one.” (Song of Solomon 5:2)

Embraced

*To raise us from the depths
He descended from above
The promise is kept
Purchased with His love
Heaven and earth rejoice with praise
Fallen man and God embrace*

*Our poverty He took
And made sorrow His own
Veil ripping, the earth shook
The cross became the throne
Heaven and earth rejoice over grace
Fallen man and God embrace*

*Heaven's crown He left
To give us of His all
His heart would have no rest
'Til with us He could dwell
Heaven and earth rejoice in faith
Fallen man and God embrace*

*His treasure is now ours
And we can be His own
In giving Him our hearts
The Lord makes them His home
Heaven and earth rejoice always
Fallen man and God embrace*

*One day He will return
And make all things brand new
According to His Word
Our King of Kings shall rule
The new heavens and earth rejoice amazed
Man redeemed because God embraced*

What Was It Like?

*Did the air feel strange
On that wondrous night
A still, black sky ablaze
Shining star divine
Never seen before
Making wise men stand amazed*

*Were the sheep alert
Did all nature know
God was breaking through
As Mary cried
During birth's travail
In a shepherd's grotto crude*

*Did the beating hearts
Of the faithful leap
With sudden warmth and joy
In the very hour
That the Son of God
Was begotten as a baby boy*

*Were there fearful chills
On the wicked necks
Of every demon and evil man
A daunting consciousness
As divine victory
Swept far across the land*

*Oh what was it like
On that fateful night
When my Savior God came down
To live a perfect life
Atone for every man
And claim for us His heavenly crown*

Hallelujah !

Sonnet of Immanuel

*Amidst the rolling fields of Bethlehem
As shepherds tended quietly their flocks
The night's soft breeze began to hold its breath
And for a moment heaven paused earth's clock*

*The Spirit of the Lord was knit in flesh
And born into a manger secretly
That through the universe God's arm would stretch
Bridging time from earth to eternity*

*He dwelt among us in this fallen land
To make a way for hearts to reunite
In sacrifice and suffering of the Man
The holy child became our light and life*

*Immanuel declares He's God with us
Enabling the faithful to look up*

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)

Poems

*I wrote another poem today
Sometimes this is the only way
Releasing truths before they stray
And wander from my mind*

*Swirling are the thoughts that flow
Tempests which I must let go
The only method that I know
Is to write these storms in rhyme*

*What gracious route the God I serve
Allows my travels in His Word
To make all that my heart has heard
Revealed in artful lines*

Selah

The End