



THE INCOMPARABLE YAHWEH

Isaiah 40:12-31

IS YAHWEH SUPERIOR ?

12 Who has taken count and measured out all earth's waters in a single, cupped palm and determined heaven's expanse with an outstretched hand?

Who has counted out exactly how many grains of dirt are here on earth, and weighed the mountains and hills on scales?

13 Who has directed the Spirit of the Eternal One?

Can anyone claim to be His advisor?

14 To whom did God turn for advice or instruction?

Whom did He consult about right and wrong?

Who directed Him down the path of justice or imparted to Him knowledge or taught Him the way of understanding?

15 Face it; the nations are nothing but a drop in the bucket, only a smidgen on the scales by the reckoning of God.

He can pick up entire islands as if they are grains of dirt.

16 Even if we had all the resources of Lebanon—

all of its trees to burn for fuel, all of its animals for burnt offerings—

How could we think that we've got enough to give to God?

17 All the countries of the world don't add up to anything. In the eyes of God

they are less than nothing;

they are empty wastelands.



IS YAHWEH STRONG ENOUGH ?

18 So would you try to find someone to compare to Him?

Can you think of anything that has a likeness to God?

19 An idol? Hardly. They are made by human hands.

Even if they are overlaid with gold, decorated with silver,

And shaped by the world's best artisans,

they are subject to tarnish, tearing, and breaking.

20 Those who cannot afford such an extravagant offering

select a choice hardwood that will not rot,

And seek a skilled artisan to fashion an image

that will not totter and fall.

21 Don't you know, haven't you heard or even been told

from your earliest memories how the earth came to be?

22 Who else could have done it except God, **enthroned** high above the earth?

From such a vantage people seem like grasshoppers to Him.

Who else but God could **stretch** out the skies as if they were a curtain,

draw them tight, **suspend** them over our heads like the roof of a tent?

23 God **reduces** the rulers and judges,

the rich and powerful of the earth, to nothing;

24 They scarcely are planted, take root and start growing,

before God **blows** a withering breath,

And storm winds carry them away like chaff.

25 The Holy One asks, "Do you really think you can find

someone or something to compare to Me? My equal?"

26 Look at the myriad of stars and constellations above you.

Who **set them to burning**, each in its place?

Who knows those countless lights each by name?

They obediently shine, each in its place,

because God has the great strength and strong power to make it so.

IDOLS, RULERS, ASTRAL DIETIES, - NOTHING



- Ridicules idols - made with human hands, impermanent
 - Displaces enemy rulers - God blows them away like chaff
 - Astral Dieties - Take their commands from Yahweh
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Like the rush of a forceful storm wind, God's entry sweeps away every obstacle that stands between the community and its God, as tyrants fall like stubble and a way is made through the wilderness. Human images that make a mockery of the true

God, distorted thinking that populates the universe with contentious powers, denial of the claims of justice arising from fear of aggressors and their armies—all such illegitimate claims to our hearts are removed to prepare for the entry of the only one deserving of awe and worship. The same divine breath that removes idols fills the purified heart with hope and a deep love for creation seen as God's domain.

Paul Hanson



DOES YAHWEH CARE ?

27 Why, then, do you, Jacob, inheritors of God's promise,
you, Israel, chosen of God—

Why do you say, **“My troubled path is hidden from the Eternal;
God has lost all interest in My cause”?**

28 Don't you know? Haven't you heard?

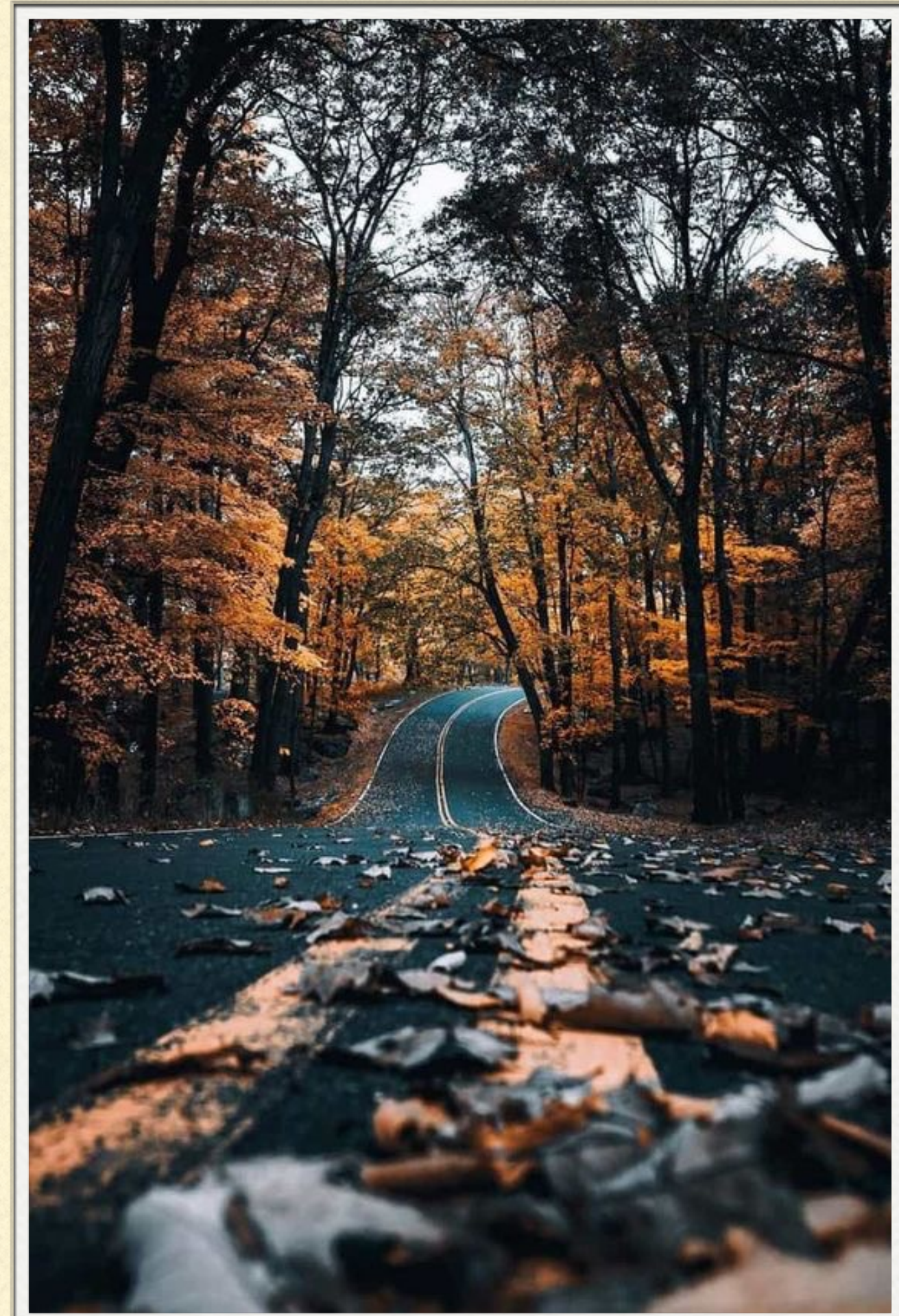
The Eternal, the Everlasting God,
The Creator of the whole world, never gets tired or weary.
His wisdom is beyond understanding.

29 God strengthens the weary
and gives vitality to those worn down by age and care.

30 Young people will get tired;
strapping young men will stumble and fall.

31 But those who trust in the Eternal One will regain their strength.
They will soar on wings as eagles.

They will run—never winded, never weary.
They will walk—never tired, never faint.





Yahweh's work as creator is not a one-time deal. It is continuing work that entails Yahweh's endless, energetic attentiveness to creation. Yahweh is not worn out, not exhausted. Yahweh the creator God is directly attentive to the the faint and powerless, to those who have no energy of their own. ... The concluding verses state a drastic, Yahwistic either/or. **Either** folk will be faint, weary, and exhausted- indeed even youths, even high energy young people with seemingly inexhaustible supplies of energy ! **Or** those who hope and wait and expect Yahweh will have strength to fly, to run, to walk- with no weariness or fainting (vs31). Yahweh is the single variable - either weakness or Yahweh. There is no third alternative, no chance for strength apart from Yahweh - not from the gods who are nothing, not from the princes and rulers who are nothing, and certainly not from the exiles themselves. Brueggemann

AN ACT OF BOLDNESS

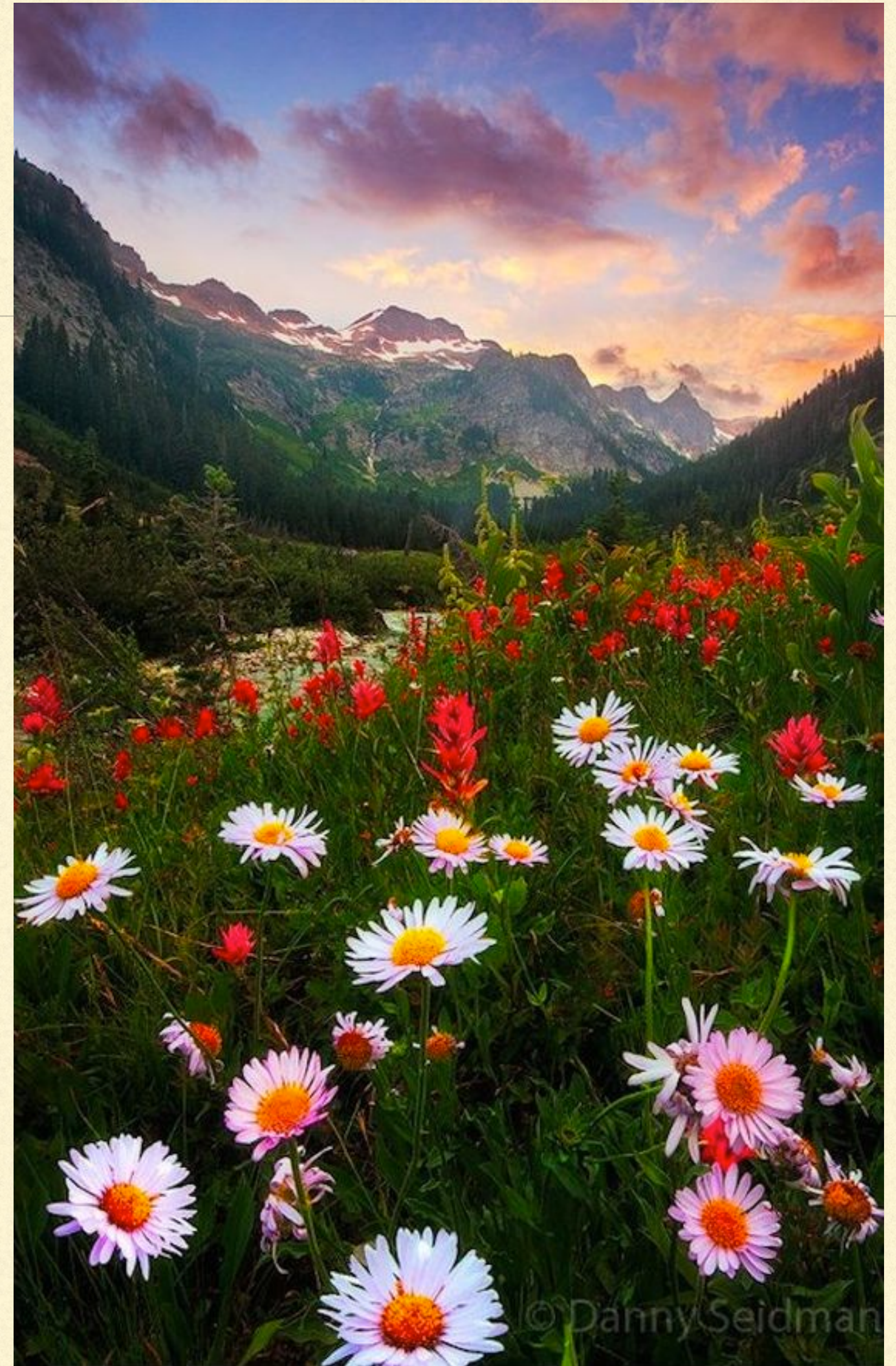


It is also an act of boldness, then or now or any time, to engage in reimagining and reconstructing life in terms of Yahweh, the creator who brings to nought both the wonders of creation and the pretenders of politics. It is easy for people of faith to conclude that **the creator God is an irrelevance** in a contemporary system that seems to be set in stone." Brueggemann

A NEW VISION OF GOD

“The Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not be at all,” Rahner remarked. We need to discover the inner desert of the heart, that ‘still point’ of love within us that empowers us to do new things. This center of love is God, the inner power who seeks to evolve, to become more conscious and unified: “Divine Love which moves the sun and other stars” (Dante). Our challenge today is to trust the power of love at the heart of life, to let ourselves be seized by love, to create and invent ways for love to evolve into a global wholeness of unity, compassion, justice and peacemaking. As a process of evolution, the universe is incomplete. We can change, grow, and become something new. We have the power to do so, but do we have the will. We need a religious imagination that ignites our energies to move beyond mediocrity and fear, one that anticipates a new future of planet life.

Our failure to be enkindled is because our image of God is old. Ilia Delio



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A Dream Like Mine

Bruce Cockburn

When you've got a dream like mine
Nobody can take you down
When you've got a dream like mine
Nobody can push you around
Today I dream of how it used to be
Things were different before
The picture shifts to how it's going to be
Balance restored
When you know even for a moment
That it's your time
Then you can walk with the power
Of a thousand generations
When you've got a dream like mine
Nobody can take you down
When you've got a dream like mine
Nobody can push you around
Beautiful rocks, beautiful grass
Beautiful soil where they both combine
Beautiful river, covering sky
Never thought of possession, but all this was mine
When you know even for a moment
That it's your time
Then you can walk with the power
Of a thousand generations

