

On Mountains

It is true when they say
That the mountains always win.
But the mountains are not in a contest,
It is only we humans who cast it so,
Projecting our desire onto their imminence.

Yet still “the mountains win again”
And in that winning
Has been my liberation.
Seeing far from the summit.
Enjoying each step on the way.

On the spiritual significance of mountains.

The Identical Passages in Micah and Isaiah

Let us first read the two parallel texts side by side from the New King James Version.

Isaiah 2:2-4

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

Micah 4:1-3

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

The Exalted Mountain of the Lord

Both passages begin with the image of the mountain of the Lord’s house being established on top of the mountains. In ancient thought, mountains symbolized strength and permanence. The exalted mountain represents the supreme authority of God’s kingdom above all earthly powers.