

A Hymn of Praise for Appalachian Silence

Listen to the deep silence,
Muffled by soft, gentle beds of brown needles
Undisturbed year upon year, bed upon bed
In their slumber beneath the aged pines.

Listen to the deep silence,
Sheltered by a timbered canopy of evergreen
Undisturbed year upon year, ring upon ring
In their steady growth out of the gentle beds below.

Listen to the deep silence,
Cradled by slopes of steady rock
Undisturbed year upon year, storm upon storm
In their subtle yielding to the heavens above.

Listen to the deep silence,
Sustained by a Creator of impenetrable quiet,
Undisturbed year upon year, grace upon grace
Subtly yielding, steadily growing, peacefully resting
In the Sabbath of this quiet communion.

Listen to the deep silence—
Muffled, sheltered, cradled and sustained.
O wearied soul—Eat and drink this Holy Communion,
a gift to frame your Sabbath rest.