

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1973

THE TRIBUNAL AID

PAGE 3

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**LIFE'S HIGH THRESHOLD**

Text: "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I"  
Psalms: 61:2

These words of a Hebrew singer are haunting. They are born out of an experience which has become exceedingly common. The Psalmist felt himself down in the danger zone of life. The pendulum could swing either to cynicism or faith.

He felt the need for security and hope. Life had dealt harshly with him, he thought. Out of the depth of his being he cried out in sincere prayer, "Lead me to the rock, that is higher than I."

Who of us, has not found himself in some danger zone? When all around our soul, seems to give way; when sorrows, like sea billows roll, when pain pricks, and annoys; when loneliness isolates us in a feeling that we have been forgotten; when the sense of futility casts its shadow over our way, and there seems to be no need of going on in pursuit of those things we counted most dear.

Dr. Elmer A. Leslie, in his book on the Psalms, says, this passage in all probability is the lamentation of a King, who is ill and feels himself to be at the end of the earth, he is beset by enemies, his spirit is low and he feels insecure. With a cry for help, for a sure hold upon life, he appeals to God. Where else could he go?

In the day of the psalmist-security was found in height. High strong holds were the easiest to defend against attack. Even in modern warfare, with bomber planes and ground equipment; altitude is still great advantage. This principle of altitude pervades the whole of living.

Another Psalmist, standing in great need of help, one day, felt the inadequacy of earthly assistance. So he looked up to the Mountains. Always men have sought Divine help from the heights. Mountains have been viewed as meeting places with God, because they constitute thresholds by which God could step down to earth; it is not strange then this man cries "I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help."

When the writer of our text exclaims, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I," I rather think he wanted his soul to find security in the mountaintop experiences of faith. In no other sense would his words have any relevance for us today.

When we find ourselves in the danger zones of life, there are mountaintop experiences of faith, to which our spirits may flee and be secure.

THERE IS FIRST OF ALL; THE SECURITY of high thought. Our hearts are made cold by life's routine of work and news. Through worship we are lifted out of this mood, by the focus of mind on the word, the prayers and hymns. The service becomes alive, with the feeling of, "A presence that disburses us with the joy of elevated thought." "The whole world is seen in new perspective. We live in the direction of our thoughts. The thoughts you live with, the faith you live by, the images you cherish.

Continued on Page 6

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