

Musings of a Rock Lover: Of Mountains and Men...

By *Marcia Wyatt*

With identical building blocks constituting the foundation, and pervasive patterns providing the framework, how amazing is the absence of replication. Uniqueness in design is born of slight variations in proportions of basic elements. External expressions of these internal variations are customized further by environmental modification – influences consequent of all that has existed and of all that exists.

At any moment, what survives is a product of what has been. Just as a person is a composite of the many environments in which he has lived, a mountain is a product of the many environments of which it has been witness.

A mountain is born and slowly grows. It skims the heavens for but a brief moment. Surrender soon follows. Fleeting dominance is exchanged for a less conspicuous status, a status born from a relationship with forces of time. Once-formidable peaks are obscured. The cycle of life has subdued their ephemeral beauty. Only a soft calm hints at their former majesty.

Descendants, born of matter imparted by the original masterpiece, perpetuate a deserved remembrance of the closest ancestor. Despite similarities, uniqueness prevails – a uniqueness begotten by a combination of factors never before existing and never again to exist.

Thus, again and again, mountains will be born, will mature, and will vanish from worldly view. Each will depict a design worthy of immortality. And the cycle begins again, each time mixing slightly different proportions of the fundamental basic elements. The same painting is created; different colors are used each time.

The observation that the message never changes, just the medium through which it is expressed, should strengthen, not lessen, the value of that message. It is of such significance and such great import that it has been deemed worthy of repetition, time and time again.