**Going Higher**

**He went up the mountain by himself to pray.**

**When evening came, he was there alone.**

***(St. Matthew 14:23)***

**Suspended 1,200 feet above Boston Common in the basket of the hot-air balloon Queen of the Air, American photographer James Wallace Black took the first aerial photographs in the United States, October 13, 1860. Since his glass plates required fast processing, Black followed French photographer Nadar’s example and brought developing equipment up with him. Balloon photography later played a part in Civil War reconnaissance. Today Black’s Boston as the Eagle and the Wild Goose See It is the oldest existing aerial image. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you will get neither. *(C. S. Lewis)***

**After her one and only mating flight, a young queen ant goes underground to lay an egg an hour for 10 years. Most ants mate in flight. What, you didn’t know they flew? Most of those that mate do. Just once. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Three days after launch, the crew of Apollo 8 – astronauts Frank Borman, James Lovell and William Anders – became, on December 24, 1968, the first humans to leave Earth’s gravity and orbit the moon. “The moon” says Lovell, in the first close-up report, “looks like plaster of Paris or a sort of a grayish beach sand.” The astronauts made six live TV broadcasts from space, including a Christmas Eve reading from the book of Genesis that reached 100 million households. After ten orbits, they splashed down December 27th. *(Allison McLean, in Smithsonian)***

**Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry and his wife will have their ashes launched into deep space in 2010. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 7)**

**Shuttle astronauts can get a little mixed up, literally. Weightlessness actually makes the heart and other organs shift inside the body. And because bodily fluids move toward the head, the astronauts get “a fat face and chicken legs.” *(1993 Disney Adventures)***

**Babies of jet pilots are more likely to be girls than boys. So are those of anesthesiologists. Nobody seems to know why. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A ball of glass will bounce higher than a ball made of rubber. A ball of solid steel will bounce higher than one made entirely of glass. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 130)*  
Some species of birds live high up in the canopies of the tallest trees.  People so rarely see them that nobody knows how many there are.  
*(L. M. Boyd)***

**How high above the ground do the highest-flying birds fly? The highest fliers are Siberian cranes and some species of geese, which fly over the Himalayas and are estimated to have gone as high as 29,000 feet, said Mary Taylor Young, News bird columnist and author of a number of wildlife books. Bearded vultures are known to make homes near the 29,028 foot summit of Mount Everest, and alpine choughs nest there. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**The majority of migrating birds fly at altitudes of about 3,000 to 6,000 feet. But here again. Canada geese are impressive -- they have been detected by radar as high as 29,000 feet! *(Country Magazine)***

**Four miles up is not too much altitude for some butterflies.  *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Do commercial jet pilots ever see butterflies while they're cruising along up there? To four miles high conceivably, though rarely. But those pilots usually do their cruising at six miles up or higher. (*L. M. Boyd)***

**If you'd like an inspiring cable car ride, try the Merida Telepherique in Venezuela. Takes an hour to go the eight miles up Mount Pico Espejo, altitude 15,629 feet. World's longest and highest cable car run. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**World’s tallest cathedral spire: the Ulm Cathedral in Germany, at 528 feet. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 259)***

**Syndicated columnist Erma Bombeck once wrote a piece that likened children to kites. “You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you’re both breathless. They crash. They hit the rooftop. You patch and comfort, adjust and teach. You watch them lifted by the wind and assure them that someday they’ll fly.  Finally they are airborne. They need more string and you keep letting it out. But with each twist of the ball of twine, there is a sadness that goes with joy. The kite becomes more distant, and you know it won’t be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that binds you two together and will soar as it is meant to soar, free and alone. Only then do you know that you did your job.” *(Dr. Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)*   
  
A physics major notes the clock in your attic runs more slowly than the clock in your basement. *(L. M. Boyd)*  
Daytime clouds fly higher than nighttime clouds.  *(L. M. Boyd)*  
Clouds fly higher during the day than during the night. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 183)*  
Two out of three living critters can fly. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 177)***

**There are 1,792 steps to the top of the Eiffel Tower, 296 steps to the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and 168 steps to the crown of the Statue of Liberty. *(Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book, p. 68)***

**In Washington, D. C., a high-stress town, I stepped into an elevator on my way to the 11th floor. As the door shut, I discovered that all the indicator buttons were lit. Furious at the prospect of stopping on every floor, I suddenly noticed, taped to the door, a piece of paper with a short handwritten note. It said, “In the middle of this day full of pressure and haste, my gift to you is a fully justified four-minute break.  So step back and enjoy a few moments of total peace.” With no other choice, I did just that as the elevator slowly made its way upward. When I got to my floor, I found myself amazingly refreshed. *(Joseph Belotte, In Reader’s Digest)*  
Ingenious elevators on early aircraft carriers lifted planes to the flight decks. Similar lifts shuffled performers on and off stage at old Radio City Music Hall. Mechanisms were so similar the stage elevators were also regarded as militarily secret and put under round-the-clock guard during World War II. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Those who work on upper floors of skyscrapers are more likely than those who work at ground level to have extramarital affairs. That turned up in a computer run on databanks of sex scholars. One theory is some people who ride elevators together repeatedly eventually become acquaintances. Some of those become friends. Some of those become lovers. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**There was a huge elm in the back yard, and in this tree Rickert Fillmore built a series of platforms and ladders that enabled one to climb up high. Often his mother and he would climb up together, and he would play his guitar while she sat and meditated. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 145)***

**The only flag that can be flown above the U. S. flag is the United Nations flag. *(L. M. Boyd)*Why are forest fires more dangerous in the mountains? Fire moves twice as fast up a 10-degree slope as on the level. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Rocky Mountain goats can climb up cliffs which are almost vertical.  Tough pads on their hooves act as suction cups, and stop them from slipping on the steep rocks. *(The Usborne Book of Facts & Lists: Omnibus Edition, p. 8)***

**Why do we refer to a main road as a “highway"? Early builders dug a trench on each side of the intended road and threw the dirt into the middle to elevate it for rain runoff. That made it a “high” way. Later, some poet identified any small private road leading into it as a “by" way. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**$40 million: For that sum Russia is offering newlyweds the chance to swap Venice or Niagara Falls for a cosmic honeymoon romance by buying a ticket to space, officials said. Russia's Rosaviakosmos space agency is proposing together with U.S. firm Space Adventures for couples to fly to the International Space Station on a Russian Soyuz craft. *(Space Daily, as told in Rocky Mountain News, December 23, 2003)*At 150 feet above sea level, the horizon is just fifteen miles away. *(E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 86)***

**For $175 per person a night, there is a hotel where many of the guests complain of nausea, headaches or sleeplessness caused by the 12,700-foot altitude. One favorite item on the room-service menu is oxygen. Electricity doesn't come on until the evening. When operating, the plumbing carries water fetched in the primitive way. Sherpa women tote it on their back -- sometimes helped by yaks -- up a 400-foot vertical rise, ten times a day. But staying at the Hotel Everest View in the Himalayas, thought to be the world's highest hotel, is an easy way to get a glimpse of the famous peak. For the venturesome, the dazzling view of Mount Everest is worth the price of admission. *(Jeannie Ralston, in American Way)*  
If you melt ice in outer space, I’m told, it turns immediately into vapor, not water*.  (L. M. Boyd)***

**I refuse to accept the idea that the “is-ness" of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the “ought-ness" that forever confronts him. *(Martin Luther King Jr.)***

**The long day of Joshua: Joshua could have seen a second sun setting after leaving the deep valley of Ajalon in pursuit of the Amorites. In mountainous regions the sun sets early in the valley, but later it can still be seen from the top of the mountain. *(Joshua 10:11-14) (George M. Lamsa, in Old Testament Light, p. 289)***

**Against the law in Washington, D.C., to fly a kite higher than the Washington Monument. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Riding a green lawn chair supported by more than 150 helium-filled party balloons, Kent Couch flew from central Oregon to Idaho last July. Couch kissed his wife and kids goodbye, patted their Chihuahua, and rose out of the parking lot of his gas station into the morning sky. He was cheered by spectators. “If I had the time, I’d do this every weekend,” Couch said of his 230-mile, 9-hour trip. “He’s crazy,” said his wife, Susan. “It’s never been a dull moment since I married him.” *(Parade magazine, December 28, 2008)***

**Kent Couch had always wanted to fly. So last week, he strapped 105 helium balloons to his lawn chair and took to the skies from his home in Bend, Oregon. For nine hours, the 47-year-old gas station owner drifted east, using bags of water for ballast while his family and dog followed below in a three-car caravan. After 193 miles, Couch took aim with his BB gun and popped enough balloons to settle down softly. “When you’re lying in the grass on a summer day and you see the clouds, you wish you could jump on them,” he said. “This is as close as you can come.” *(The Week magazine, July 20, 2007)***

**Is it true fossil fish have been found on top of Mount Everest? Something like that. The top is marine limestone, composed of the shells of billions of tiny sea critters. *(L. M. Boyd)*  
Everyone here has a mountain inside of him or her. You can climb up on that mountain any time you desire and leave the chattering crowd below. You can see them like you do when you look out of the window of an airplane. They will have no power over you. You will look down from the window of your mind and think, “My, aren’t they little.” In time, perhaps even less than forty days, you’ll say, “I can’t believe I gave them so much power.” What a joyous time that will be. *(Christopher Ian Chenoweth)*The highest of the Colorado Rocky Mountains is just over 14,000 feet--but Mount Everest, in Asia, is more than double that height. Everest is over 29,000 feet high. The highest of the Alps in Europe is just over 15,000 feet, so Mount Everest is almost twice as high as the highest of the Alps. *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 114)***

**You wouldn’t know it to look at their sturdy sides, but California’s Sierra Nevada Mountains are bobbling upward, untethered to the layers of rock underneath. This unorthodox behavior, uncovered by seismologist George Zandt and colleagues at the University of Arizona, solves a long-standing puzzle about how the majestic range formed. Most mountain ranges rise up where two plates – large sections of Earth’s crust – collide and buckle, explains Zandt’s collaborator Mihai Ducea. Normally, where the crust buckles, the lightweight part underneath, called the root, buoys the rock above it upward. The Sierras, however, sit near a boundary where two plates slide past each other, and they seem to lack roots. “This is one place that plate tectonics failed, because it doesn’t explain the formation of the Sierra Nevadas,” Ducea says. *(Jessa Forte Netting, in Discover magazine)***

**It’s only a coincidence that “nasa” in Hebrew means “to go up.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**One thing the discovery of the North Pole revealed is that there is nobody sitting on top of the world. *(Tennessee Farm Bureau News)***

**The typical tree or plant receives about 10 percent of its nutrition from the soil. The rest comes from the atmosphere. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 177)***

**If one knows that one has been singled out by divine choice and intention from the beginning of the world, then one feels lifted beyond the transitoriness and meaninglessness of ordinary human existence, and transported to a new state of dignity and importance, like one who has a part in the divine world drama. *(Carl Gustav Jung)***

**St. Simeon Stylites, who lived from 390 to 459 A.D., built a pillar 60 feet high. He lived on top of the pillar for thirty years without ever coming down. His friends and disciples brought him all the necessities. He preached from the pillar all that time. He was the first of the so-called “Pillar Hermits.” *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 59)*  
World’s tallest “pyramid”: the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco, at 853 feet. World’s tallest Egyptian pyramid: the Great Pyramid of Giza, at 481 feet. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 259)***

**Is there a relationship which has you upset or frustrated or depressed? It doesn't matter if it's with a spouse, a child, an acquaintance, a relative, or a friend. If you want it to improve, the method is the same: lift yourself up in consciousness. Lift yourself out of any negative emotions and reactions and become aware of the presence of God within you. It is as simple as that! The reason it always works is because when you feel this Presence, it will automatically be communicated from that level in you to the same Presence in the other person. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 310)***

**The longest navigable inland waterway in the world is the Amazon River. Seagoing vessels can ascend it for a distance of twenty-three hundred miles.  *(E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 33)***

**There’s also a good, better, best way to climb stairs, evidently. Experts say best is to exhale before you start, inhale during first two steps, exhale during the next two, and so on. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Standing on the streets or housetops in Jerusalem and looking up at the stars in the direction of Bethlehem, the stars appear to be lower in the heavens than if looked upon from the plain because Jerusalem is built on the top of a mountainside and Bethlehem is in the valley. The stars appear to be standing over particular places in the town. When looking at the stars from a distance toward the horizon, they appear to be touching the ground. Moreover the mind of a traveler in the desert is often mystified. *(George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light, p. 14)*  
  
Supermarkets try to coax you to spend more. For example, moving a brand from the bottom shelf to eye level can increase sales by 50 percent. It's no surprise, then, that gourmet foods and other high-profit items are at eye level, while staples sit down low. *(Consumer Reports)*  
Stand tall, and you may be able to see over many of your troubles. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**It’s tall people who are most uncomfortable in wheelchairs, says a hospital psychologist, because they're not used to being looked down on. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The Sears Tower is the tallest building in the world at 1,450 feet. *(Tracy Stephen Burroughs, in Bizarro Facts & Radical Earthlings, p. 57)*  
From atop the World Trade Center in New York City, you can see five states. *(Tracy Stephen Burroughs, in Bizarro Facts & Radical Earthlings)***

**Five of the world's eight tallest trees stand in northern California's Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Scientists studying the giants say in today's issue of Nature that redwoods once reached 420 feet, but that appears to be their physical limit. 370 feet is the tallest redwood today, matching a 30-story building. 24 days for water to reach the top from the base. 2,200 years is oldest known redwood, determined by growth rings. *(Associated Press, USDA, as in Rocky Mountain News, April 22, 2004)***

**On the very first flight to the moon, there was a piece of Unity literature; we did not know about this until ten years after the event.  Col. Edwin E. Aldrin was the second man to walk on the surface of the moon; he carried Unity’s “Prayer for Protection” with him on his walk.  Colonel Aldrin had never heard of Unity. A year later on Apollo 15, Col. James Irwin took the poem “I Am There” with him to leave on the moon. Irwin was a Baptist. Only twelve men have walked on the moon. Two of them carried Unity prayers with them. What is important is that Unity helps not only Unity students but people of every faith. Is that not what you hope your religion will do? *(James Dillet Freeman, in Unity magazine)***

**We all seem to be hung up on up. We put up, use up, come up, butter up, line up, punch up and belly up. Houses are opened up, lighted up, warmed up, cleaned up, and closed up. Motors are fired up, gassed up and charged up. Boats are speeded up, slowed up, tied up and laid up.  
If we are mixed up, we must hurry up and shape up, or we’ll be fouled up. And, heaven help us, we drink up with 7-UP. If you think up other examples, don’t call me up. I’m up the wall with up. I give up. *(Thelma Wilson Cook)*We too shall push on to new heights of spiritual development, until we come to the measure of the stature of Christ as it was in Jesus. Then we can speak these words now with our lips, but then they will burst forth from our inner consciousness, and the works, even the greater works that Jesus said we should do, will be done. We are moving on to this glorious day. *(Nona Brooks, in Expansion in Divine Science)*  
What did the father of Wilbur and Orville Wright say about his sons’ first flight? That’s not in the record at hand. What is known is Orville took him up in 1910, and he kept shouting “Higher, Orville, higher!” *(L. M. Boyd)***

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