**Holy Ground**

**Come no closer!**

**Remove the sandals from your feet,**

**for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.**

***(Exodus 3:5)***

**Then the Lord said to him,**

**Take off your shoes from your feet,**

**for the ground on which you stand is holy.**

***(Acts 7:33)***

**“To older Navajos, entering Arizona’s Antelope Canyon was like entering a cathedral. They would pause before going in, and leave with an uplifted feeling of what Mother Nature has to offer, in harmony with something greater than themselves,” explains the Navajo Nation parks department. *(Country magazine)***

**Many places around the world are considered holy by people of various faith traditions. I may visit such places and find inspiration; yet I am reminded that anywhere I am is holy ground. I needn’t travel to commune with God. The One Power and One Presence is everywhere present, wherever I am. I need only pause, take a breath and become aware of the Presence within and around me. *(Unity Daily Word magazine, April 2, 2012)***

**Holy ground exists right in our own backyard when we love in ways we didn’t think we could, when we call upon our best selves to be present to one another. *(Denise Roy)***

**That guy worships the ground his head's buried in. *(New York Daily Mirror)***

**While I work I leave my body outside the door, the way Moslems take off their shoes before entering the mosque. *(Pablo Picasso)***

**Pablo Picasso stood before the canvas for three or four hours at a stretch, according to Francoise Gilot, the painter’s companion for some years. “He made almost no superfluous gestures,” she writes. “I asked him if it didn’t tire him to stand so long in one spot. He shook his head. “No,” he said. “That is why painters live so long. While I work, I leave my body outside the door, the way Muslims take off their shoes before entering the mosque.” *(Life with Picasso, with Carlton Lake)***

**Your sacred place is where you can find yourself again and again. *(Joseph Campbell)***

**Somewhere in life every thinking person comes upon his or her Bethlehem, the place of spiritual awareness. Somehow in life, every reasoning person finds a meaning and mission for their place in the scheme of things. Sometime in life, sincerely seeking individuals feel the presence of God's love and grace within themselves. (Marcus Bach, in Because of Christmas)**

**No matter where life takes you . . . the place where you stand at any moment is holy ground. Love hard and love wide and love long, and you will find the goodness in it. (Susan Vreeland, in Lisette's List)**

**Wife to husband tracking in mud: "And to think I used to worship the ground you walked on." *(Paris, in The Progressive Farmer)***

**Great Plains Indians have honored Wyoming’s Devils Tower as a sacred place since prehistoric times. In their legends, the Great Spirit lifted a low rock into this massive column to save seven girls from a bear, which then left its claw marks along the sides of the rock as it rose. It’s also America’s first national monument, dedicated by Theodore Roosevelt in 1906. The exact process of the tower’s unique formation is still debated among geologists. *(Country magazine)***

**The Ahwahneechee peacefully lived off the land in Yosemite Valley until the California gold rush of 1849 shattered their idyllic life. Abraham Lincoln ended the struggle for control in 1864 by setting it aside as a public reserve. In 1868 a momentous trip to the valley shaped the future of a young conservationist named John Muir, who wrote, “No temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite.” *(Country magazine)***

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