

Photoweeek Northwest
CALENDAR 2015/16—
24 Miniatures,
photos & texts
by *Cliff Crego*

*miracle of rime frost
on a cold, clear,
January morning...*

On the web at . . .
www.picture-poems.com/100

WE SHAPE THE MUSIC, AND THEN, THE MUSIC SHAPES US

Music is movement.

Music is a movement of relationship.

Music is a movement of relationship that we sense—
not just hear, *but sense*.

Music is a movement of relationship that we
sense *somatically* by means of the instrument
of our whole mind-body.

What shapes sensing is **formative metaphor**.

But which metaphor shall shape our experience?

Domination? Force? Conflict? Aggression?

Or shall it instead be the imagery of friendship?

Dialogue? Contemplation? The fierce energy of outrage?

The empathy of shared grief?

The wonder of distant stars?

It is up to us.

We shape the music,

and then, the music shapes us.

IMAGE: Hubble Directly Observes a Planet Orbiting Another Star

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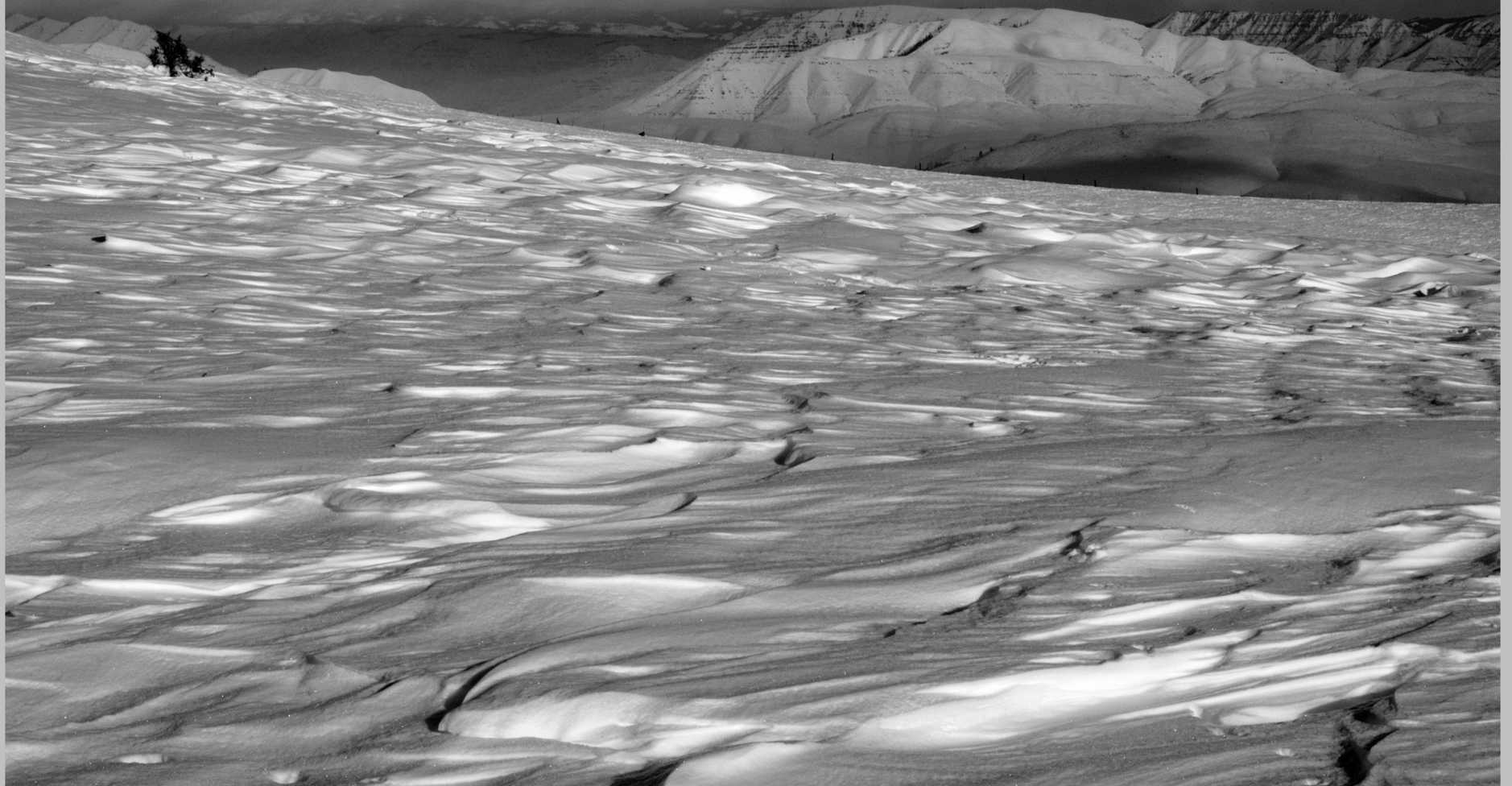
Perhaps poems are just paths we make in walking,
gifts, like seeds that stick to our pants,
or flowers that we pick up,
and pass on, along the way.



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The more in harmony with the natural world
a culture becomes, the fewer and fewer words
will be needed to say ever-more important things.



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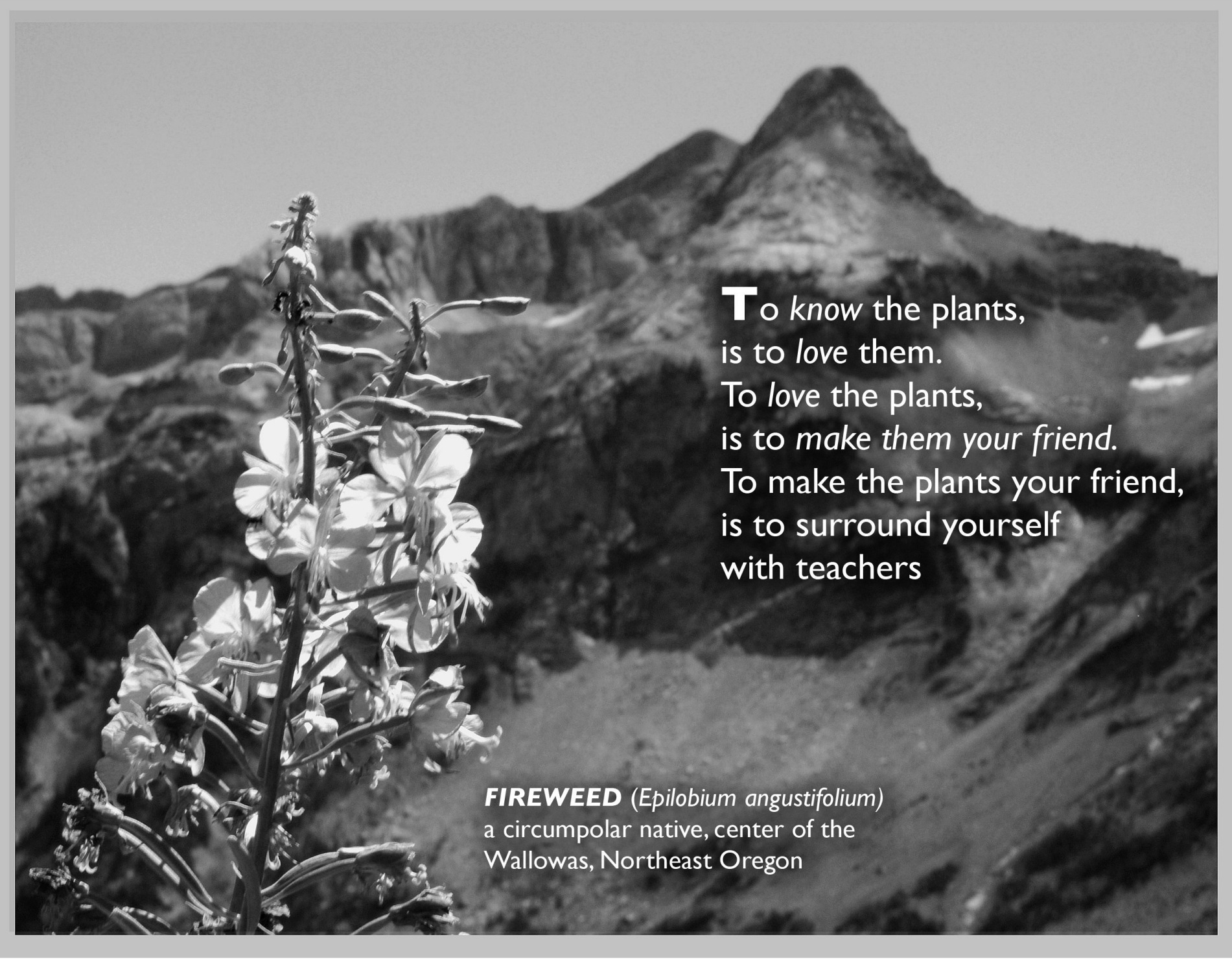
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WEALTH? When I have what I need,
to share what I love.



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A black and white photograph of a Fireweed plant in the foreground, with a mountain range in the background. The plant is in sharp focus, showing its stem, leaves, and a cluster of small flowers. The background is a blurred mountain range with a prominent peak. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

To *know* the plants,
is to *love* them.
To *love* the plants,
is to *make them your friend*.
To make the plants your friend,
is to surround yourself
with teachers

FIREWEED (*Epilobium angustifolium*)
a circumpolar native, center of the
Wallowas, Northeast Oregon

M A Y 2 0 1 5

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NATURAL LIMIT IN THE ARTS . . .

Powerful expression in the Arts is channeled by invisible, yet equally powerful, *natural limits*.

The mystery of limit is that we never see it, and yet it guides every step of Creativity's dance.

Who has not marvelled at the clear sound of rushing mountain water? And yet, the rocks that bind together the movement remain silently in the background, *ever-more* polished, *ever-more* serene.

The rushing sound of spring mountain snowmelt... asking us, "*Is sound alive? Is water alive? Is sound sacred? Is water sacred?*" How we answer profoundly shapes our culture . . .

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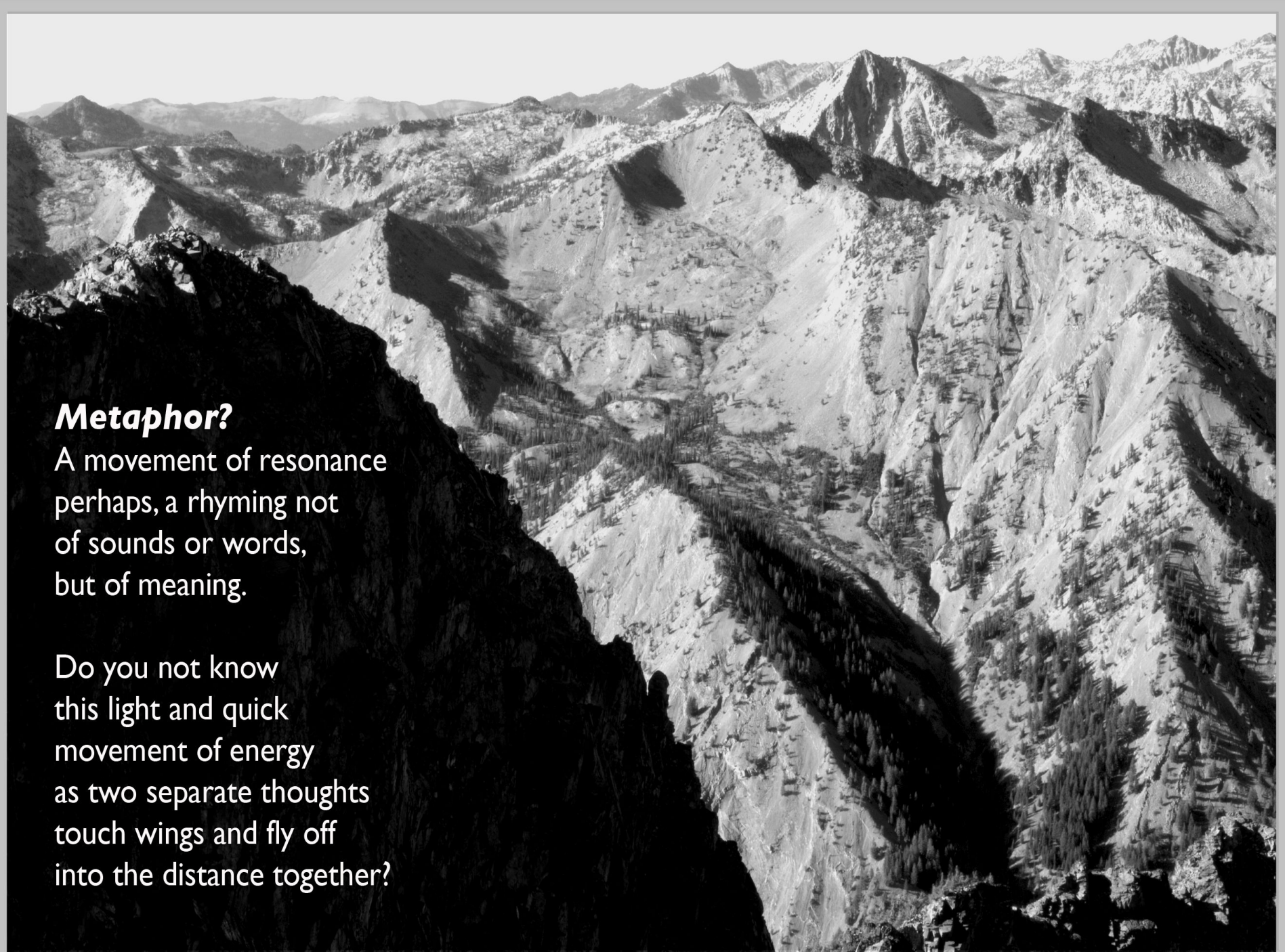
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The simplest and most powerful
of all possible tests is the test
of doing without.



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Metaphor?

A movement of resonance
perhaps, a rhyming not
of sounds or words,
but of meaning.

Do you not know
this light and quick
movement of energy
as two separate thoughts
touch wings and fly off
into the distance together?

A U G U S T 2 0 1 5

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RETHINKING RELIGION IN AN AGE OF VIOLENT FRAGMENTATION

Religion is not its content.
Religion is a way of being
that has nothing to do with faith,
or belief, or scripture of any kind,
but is rather the demonstration
of a life lived *without conflict*,
without contradiction,
without waste. It is this
movement of negation
that helps Religion, like Science,
transcend self-deception.



Camas Lily
(*Camassia quamash*),
the sweet root given to
The Corps of Discovery
by the Nez Perce
after they crossed
the Bitterroots
during the cold & snowy
September of 1805

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 5

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Conclusions *fight*;
Questions, *ask*.

YUM CHENMO "*Great Wisdom Mother*"
EWAM--Garden of 1000 Buddhas, Montana

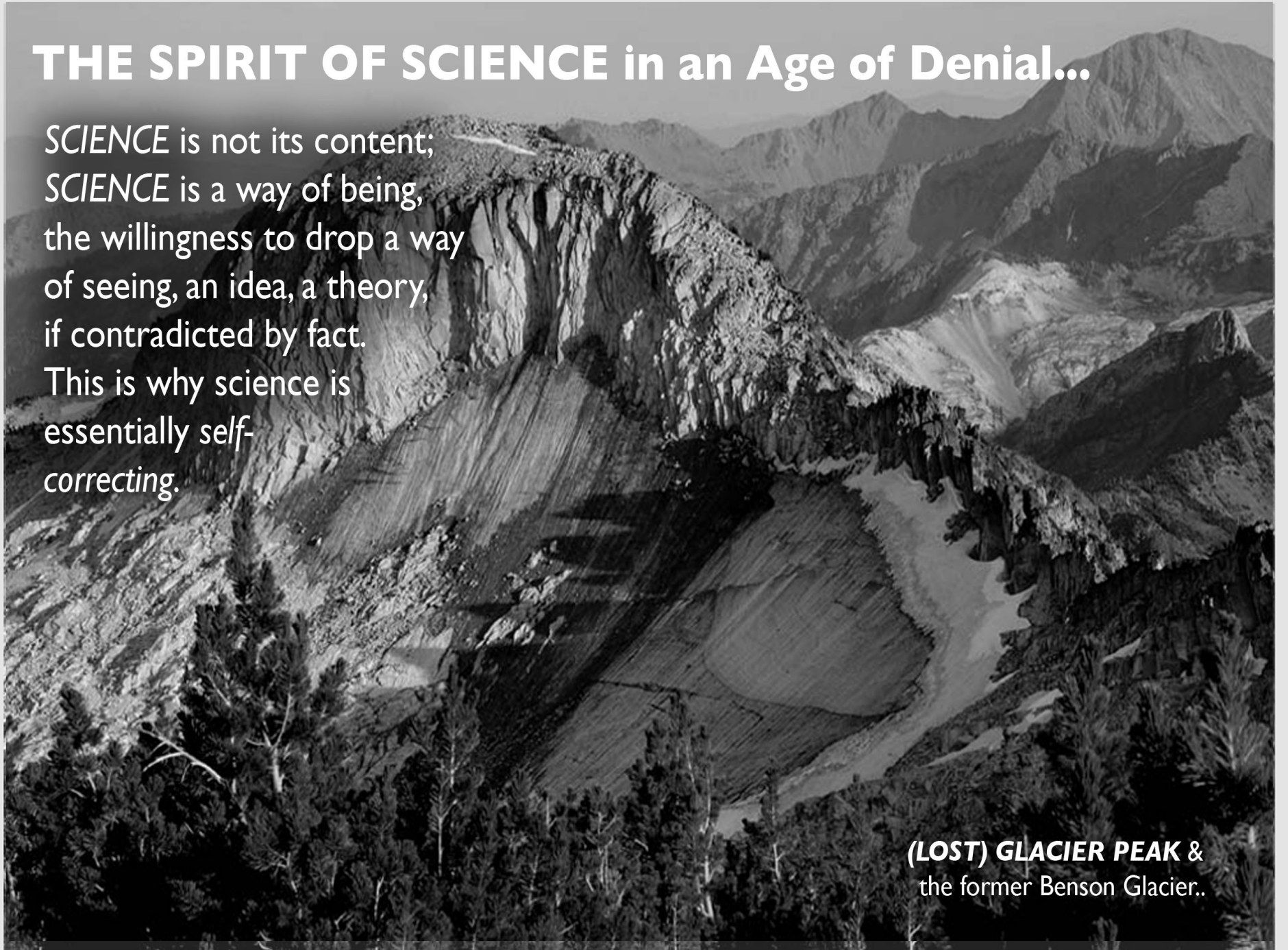
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THE SPIRIT OF SCIENCE in an Age of Denial...

SCIENCE is not its content;
SCIENCE is a way of being,
the willingness to drop a way
of seeing, an idea, a theory,
if contradicted by fact.
This is why science is
essentially *self-*
correcting.

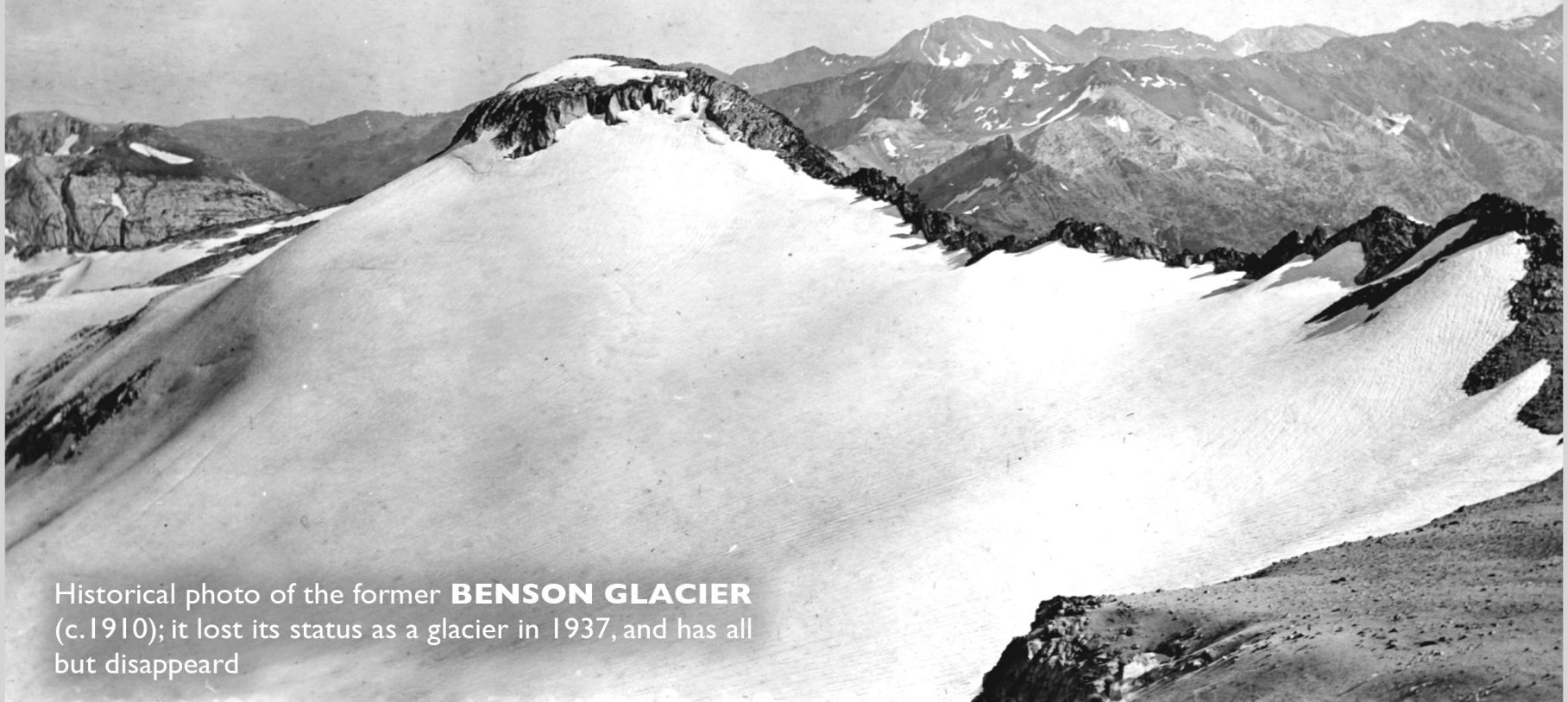
(LOST) GLACIER PEAK &
the former Benson Glacier..



N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 5

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KNOW YOUR MOUNTAIN CLIMATE FACTS



Historical photo of the former **BENSON GLACIER** (c. 1910); it lost its status as a glacier in 1937, and has all but disappeared

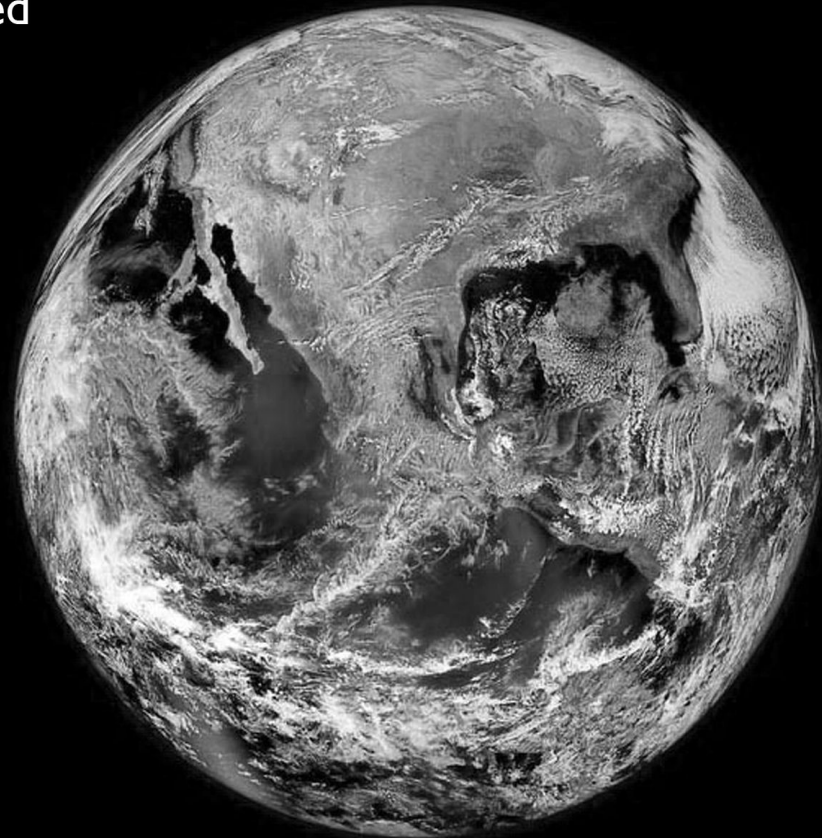
With the *Climate Crisis*, ice world-wide is disappearing at an ever-accelerating rate. If *Lewis & Clark* would have entered the Wallowas just 200 years ago, they would have seen small, vestigial glaciers and ice fields in many of the high cirques and hanging valleys. Since the end of the Little Ice Age (c. 1850), these ice fields have all but vanished. Over the same period: (1) the average temperature has increased by, in round numbers, 1 C [1.8 F.]; (2) snowpack has decreased by 50%, begins to build about three weeks later, and melts three weeks earlier; (3) and most importantly, atmospheric CO₂ has risen by 30% from 250 to over 395 ppmv. Increase of CO₂, because it holds warmth, is like adding more and more layers of insulation to a down blanket. The other important fact that should be remembered is that the effects of climate change increase greatly with both altitude and latitude, largely because of loss of snow reflectivity.

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CONTRA NATURAM . . .

Footprint? We already use **1.4 EARTHS** worth of resources, this *much-will-have-more* of the Banker's ever-expanding greed slamming into the crystal clear finite sphere of Wisdom's natural limit, and the *less-is-more* of Sacred Space. The eye of an angel is not needed to see that our planet provides enough for all our *wants* and *needs*, but *not* for the false scarcity of perpetual *war* and *waste*.



NASA's "Blue Marble," hi-resolution composite, 1.4.2012

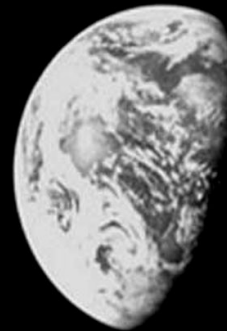
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ID CARD—

Where is the form
I can check off?

My religion is *NATURE*;
My country, *EARTH*



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SUNSIGHT!

—for Mark Simmons

Sunrise. No!

Sunsight. Yes!

Fuller was right. Each morning,
the Earth turns to greet the Sun.

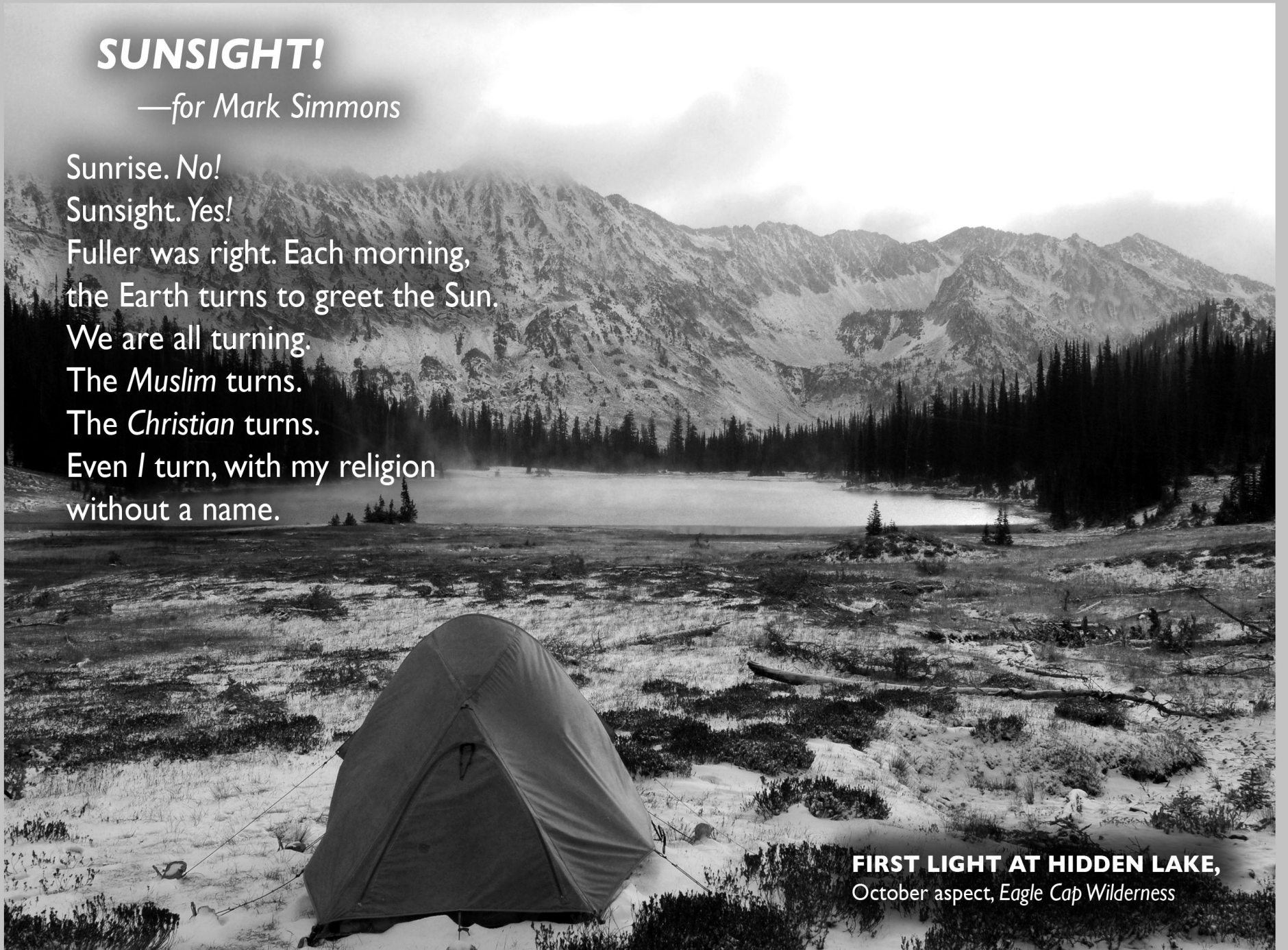
We are all turning.

The *Muslim* turns.

The *Christian* turns.

Even *I* turn, with my religion
without a name.

FIRST LIGHT AT HIDDEN LAKE,
October aspect, *Eagle Cap Wilderness*



M A R C H 2 0 1 6

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**WE SHAPE THE WORLD &
THE WORLD SHAPES US . . .**

After *muting* the river and *building* the dam,
we quickly lose the sensitivity of ear that once
heard the music which is now no longer there.
Children who grow up in a world of straightened,
muted rivers will never know that
no one ever taught them:—*how to sing*.

RIVERS are the heart; **FORESTS**, the lungs.
BOTH die without untying the knots
between them

Above the (Muted) Snake,
present day Oregon/Idaho border

A P R I L 2 0 1 6

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THINKING LIKE A STONEPINE . . .

In both **Music** and **Poetry**, what is important is not just what we think of as style or aesthetics, but rather the quality of energy which manifests in a piece as we bring it to life in performance.

What makes **Music** or **Poetry** relevant or new, regardless of when it was composed, who is playing or saying it, or from which world culture it originates, is the strength of resonance its energy has with the repertoire of metaphysical urgencies of the present moment.



WHITEBARK PINE COUNTRY

(*Pinus albicaulis*), Eagle Cap Wilderness, Oregon, great Nestor of the PNW, threatened with collapse by the little-understood effects of the Climate Crisis at higher altitudes

M A Y 2 0 1 6

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MIRRORS MADE OF SOUND?

When strings at rest reflect in sympathetic resonance the movements of other sounds played around them, we hear the beginnings of *Love* and *Compassion* in the physical world.



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LOVE & WATER

There may well indeed be another planet in the Universe with high mountains and streams of pure, fast-flowing water, but we do not know that for a fact.

There may also be other beings in the Universe capable of *Love* and *Compassion*, but also that we do not know for a fact.

Love is like *water*: wherever it is there in abundance, life flourishes;
And *water* is like *love*: wherever it is wasted, polluted, blocked or dammed, we not only abuse Earth's defining essence, but also somehow our own.

MUTED SNAKE, just upstream
from HELLS CANYON DAM

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THE TWIN GUIDEPOSTS OF LEARNING— YOGA & THE ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE

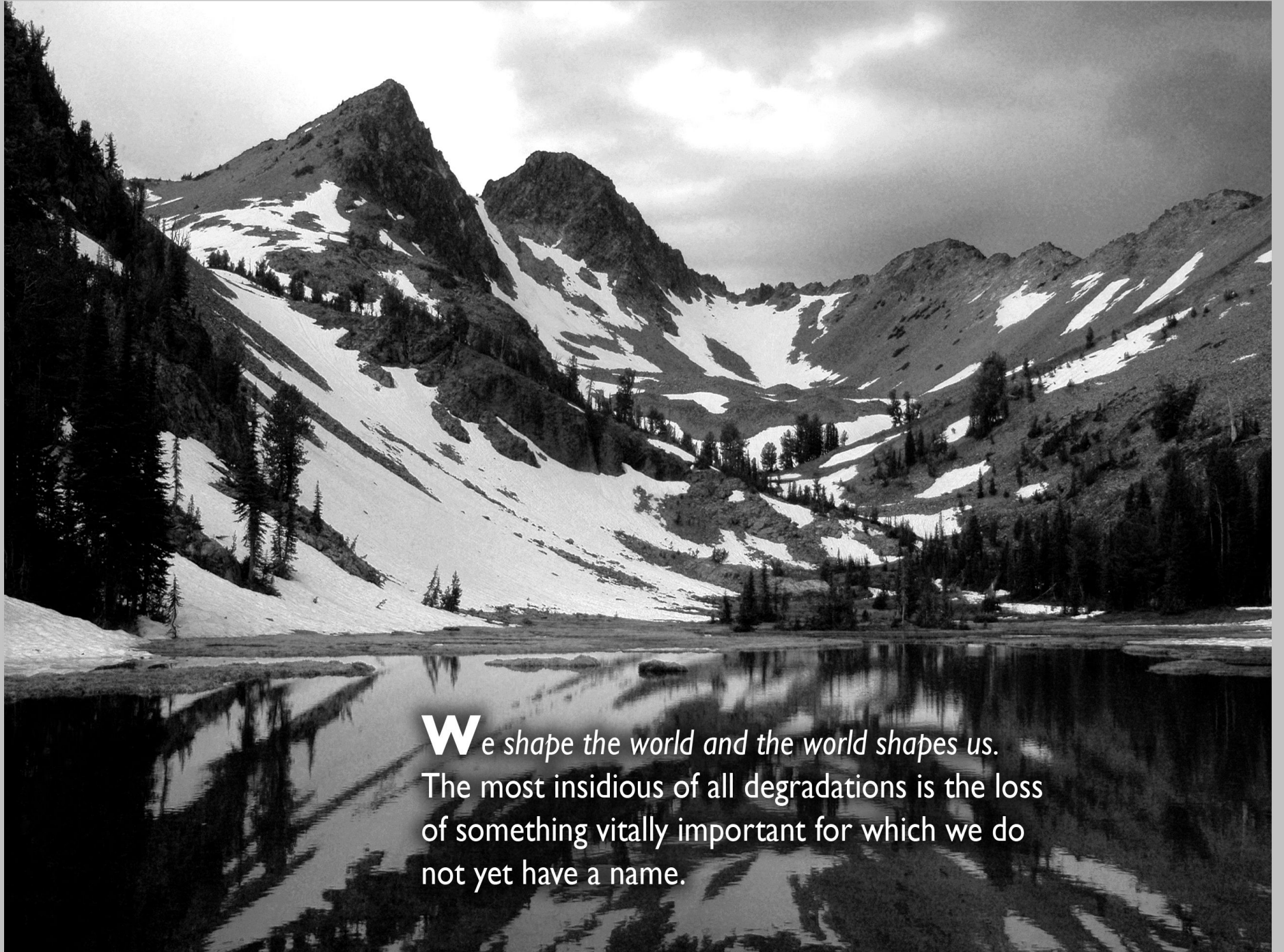
A mistake is a mistake repeated...

The twin guideposts of all learning and education are *Yoga* and *The Alexander Technique*. **Yoga** is in this view much more than simply doing daily exercises or stretches, but is also the life-long practice of learning to work and move and do things, important things like learning itself, **without force**. And **The Alexander Technique** (AT) forms the complementary life-long practice of learning to work and move and do things **without unnecessary tension**. So we have movement without force, and we have movement without unnecessary tension. This is learning free of content, becoming aware of learning itself as it flows around blocks like *jealousy* or *the fear of failure* as easily as mountain water flows around even the hardest of granite rocks.

The smooth, rounded forms of glacier polished granite,
(at least 15,000 years old), PINE LAKES, the South Wallowas, Oregon

A U G U S T 2 0 1 6

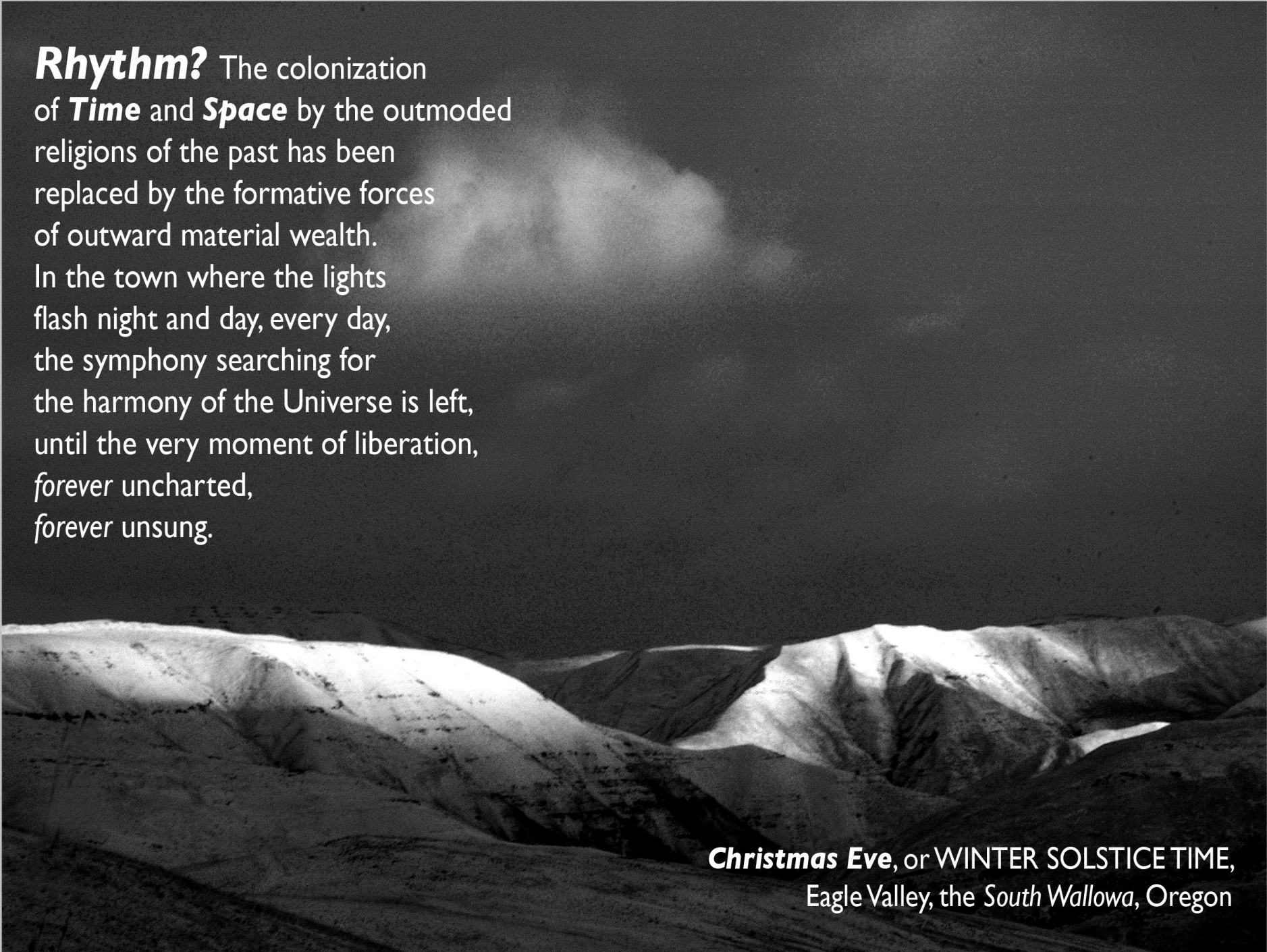
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We shape the world and the world shapes us.
The most insidious of all degradations is the loss
of something vitally important for which we do
not yet have a name.

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 6

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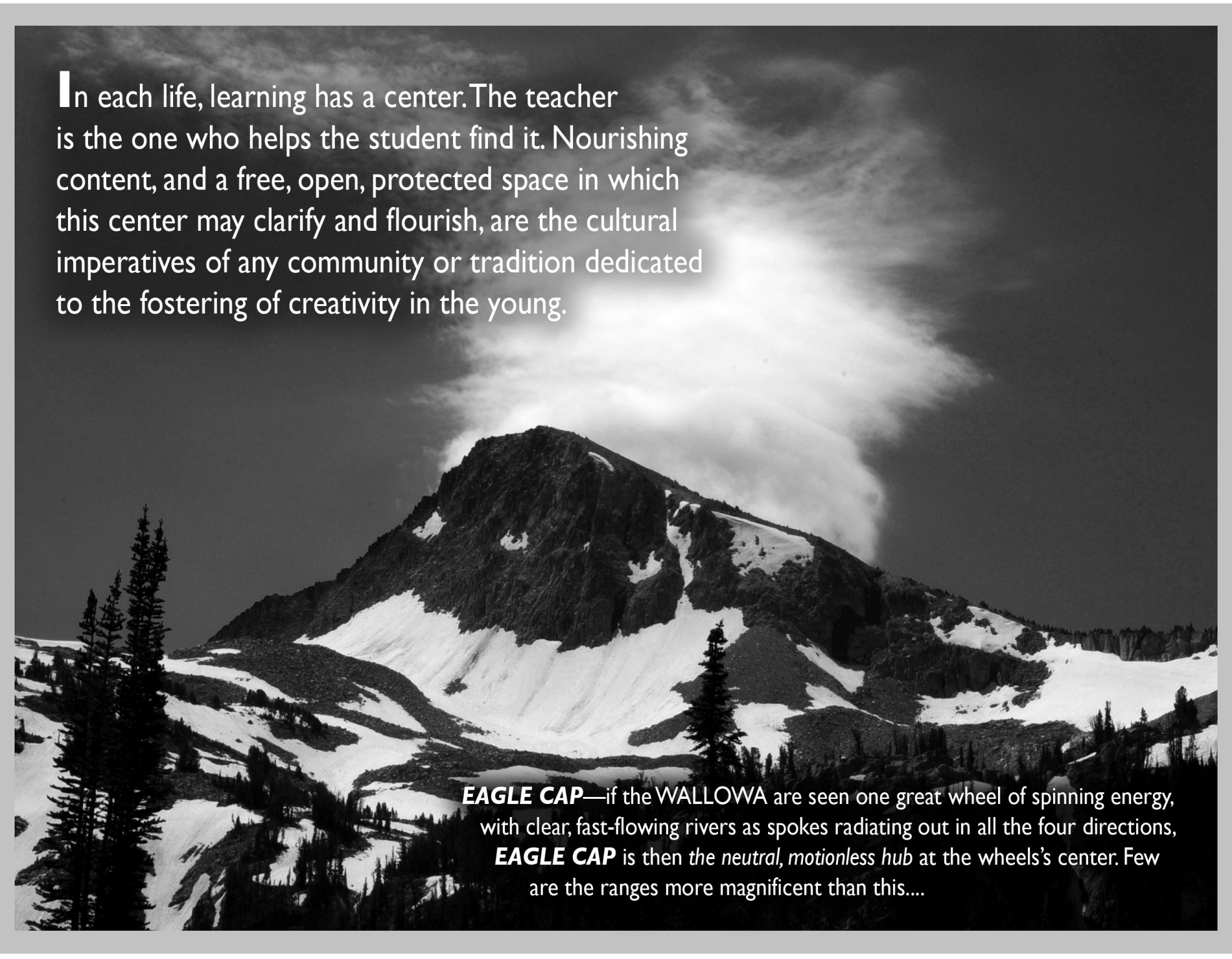


Rhythm? The colonization
of ***Time*** and ***Space*** by the outmoded
religions of the past has been
replaced by the formative forces
of outward material wealth.
In the town where the lights
flash night and day, every day,
the symphony searching for
the harmony of the Universe is left,
until the very moment of liberation,
forever uncharted,
forever unsung.

Christmas Eve, or WINTER SOLSTICE TIME,
Eagle Valley, the *South Willowa*, Oregon

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 6

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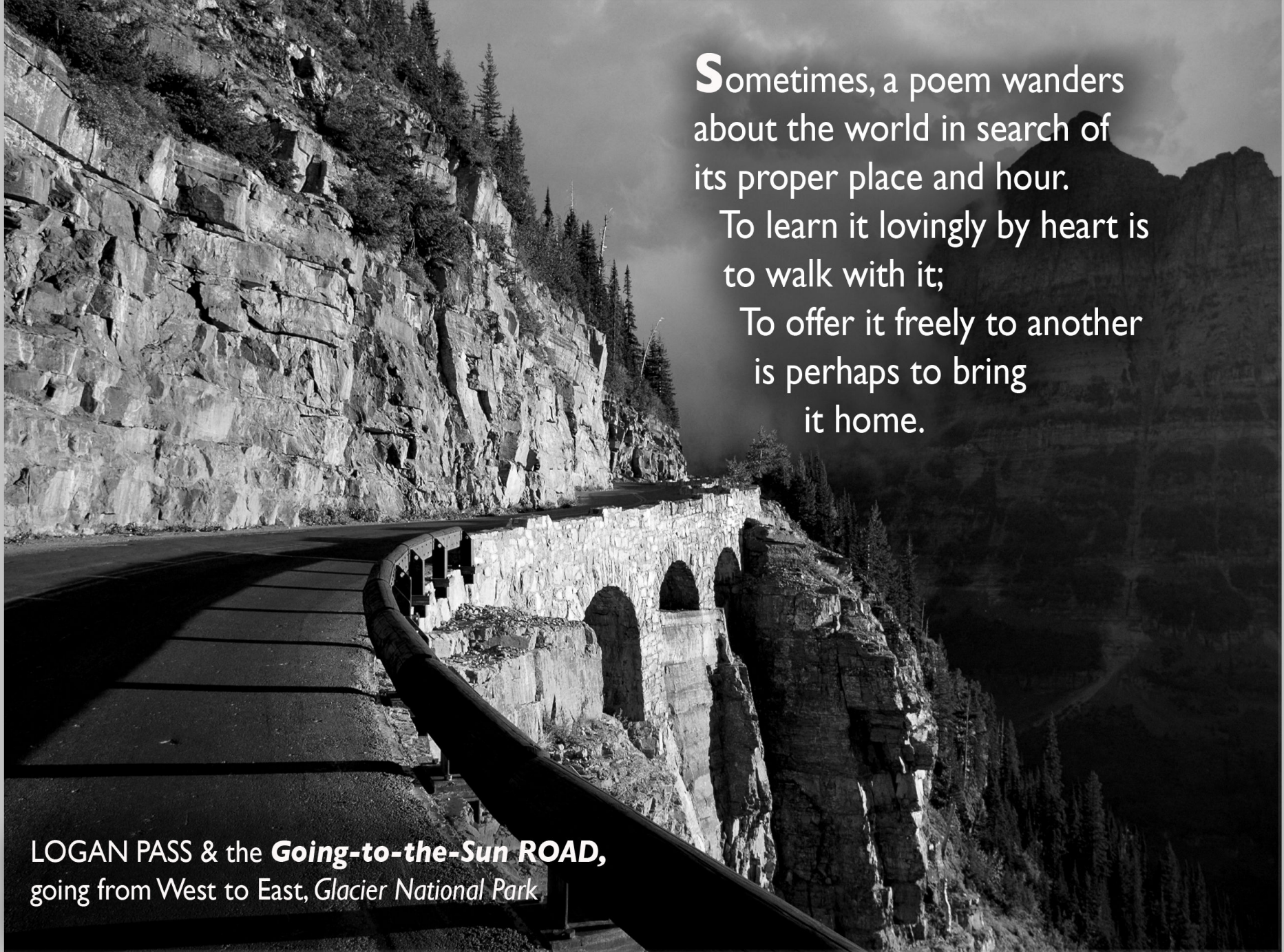


In each life, learning has a center. The teacher is the one who helps the student find it. Nourishing content, and a free, open, protected space in which this center may clarify and flourish, are the cultural imperatives of any community or tradition dedicated to the fostering of creativity in the young.

EAGLE CAP—if the WALLOWA are seen one great wheel of spinning energy, with clear, fast-flowing rivers as spokes radiating out in all the four directions, **EAGLE CAP** is then *the neutral, motionless hub* at the wheels's center. Few are the ranges more magnificent than this....

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Sometimes, a poem wanders
about the world in search of
its proper place and hour.
To learn it lovingly by heart is
to walk with it;
To offer it freely to another
is perhaps to bring
it home.

LOGAN PASS & the **Going-to-the-Sun ROAD**,
going from West to East, *Glacier National Park*

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 6

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ROUGH ROAD AHEAD?

All passengers in a car running on a full tank of *Fundamentalist Religion*, we're tied up with *Freedom* and *Democracy* in back. *Money's* in the driver's seat, with *Nation States*, spinning one against the other, for wheels. "Hey," somebody just yelled, "Get out at the next right!"

ROAD OF CHANGE?

Down the rough road of change, a bike's wheel keeps its true by centering in the clear intentions of its motionless hub.



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HOW I WORK, *or when how you get there is more than half the photograph, more than half the text . . .*

Following the simple ethical principle, "**First, do no harm,**" I never use cars. Instead, I do everything on foot, by bike, or snowshoe, or ski. I think this in a direct way affects the spirit of my work; it also deeply influences how I see and sense the world. The photos in this **24 MINIATURES Calendar** were all approached in this way—including the spaces in between each image—as a kind of pilgrimage, sometimes involving journeys of many weeks or even months. Similarly, most of the texts were composed while walking, or at basecamps, or otherwise living outside. I would not want to work any other way.

Cliff Crego, X.29.2013
Wallowas | Alps | Amsterdam

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