

A Climber's Prayer

By Lance Johnson

The Mountains

Dear God, you have created us, and all that we have around us; the soil, sky, sun, moon, seasons, weather, water, wind and rock. Lord, we marvel at this world made in such perfection. Thank you for these beautiful mountains, the rock, the crisp clean air, the many states of water; clouds, rain, snow, ice, lakes, and streams. Thank you for the beauty we see, the beauty we touch, reminding us of you.

Thank you for such an amazing playground, so abundant, so perfect, beautifully rugged and so provisional to so many different needs. As we venture out on our climb today, be with us in our diligence to intentionally respect and preserve what you have created, leaving it as we have found it, minimizing the impact, as we climb and descend, caring for it as we can along the way, so that we and others on a future day can experience this awesome place, perhaps in a better condition than we found it.

Safety

Please keep us, sustain us, and protect us in any harsh weather we may encounter, and also from natural and the humanly inherent hazards of our sport. Help us endure the challenges before us, reach our objectives, and keep us within a margin of safety within our collective and individual physical, technical and mental capabilities.

Decision Making

Help us we keep our objective today in the right perspective, within reasonable and calculated risk. On our climb, please preserve our lives, our health, and the unity of our relationship as climbing partners. Provide us wisdom, and courage in our communication, respecting and honoring each other's input in weighing risks, and working through decisions to go on, go up, go down, stay put, or go home.

Comradery

Thank you for the special bond of our climbing partnership. May our bond as friends and climbing partners strengthen, as well as our appreciation for each other, and our individually unique gifts of athletic ability, technique, mountain sense, decision making, sense of humor and other personality traits. Help us recognize, value, and rely on each other's strengths to endure the challenges of our objective, and deliver our team safely back to our families.

Family

Please be with our loved ones at home. In our absence, keep them safe and free of worry. Help us capture the full joy of our experience with renewed minds, so that upon our return, we can also share our freshened perspective with the ones we love, and better nurture our relationships. With this mountain experience, please clear our minds, afford us better perspective, rejuvenating our awareness and sense of purpose in our most important priorities; first in our relationship with you our God, and secondly with our families.

Privilege

Thank you for affording us our present health, physical strength, endurance, and abilities. Thank you for the opportunity to get out and move among your awesome creation, and to experience your gift of this perfect and abundant physical world you made us all stewards of. Renew us spiritually in this immersion in this isolated, calm, natural perfection, and provision of your creation, away from our routine environments and schedules.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.