

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Elisha A. Hoffman · 1887 · Tune: Showalter (Anthony J. Showalter)
Meter: 10.9.10.9 with refrain

Verse 1

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Verse 2

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Verse 3

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

History

Music teacher Anthony J. Showalter wrote the chorus and tune in 1887 after receiving letters from two former students whose wives had died on the same day. He sent the verses to Elisha A. Hoffman, who completed the hymn. The phrase comes from Deuteronomy 33:27.

Scripture References (KJV)

Deuteronomy 33:27

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.