

Rock of Ages

Augustus M. Toplady · 1776 · Tune: Toplady (Thomas Hastings)
Meter: 7.7.7.7.7

Verse 1

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Verse 2

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Verse 3

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

Verse 4

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

History

Augustus Toplady, an Anglican curate, published these verses in 1776. Tradition (probably legendary) says he wrote the first stanza while sheltering from a storm in a cleft of rock at Burrington Combe.

Scripture References (KJV)

Exodus 33:22

I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by.

1 Corinthians 10:4

And that Rock was Christ.

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