

The Strength of the Hills
Perry Epes

is God's, who made them,
but daily I try to measure it
by what it takes for me to climb the crest
of our far field over the road
where our neighbor shepherd grazes his ewes
three weeks at a time till moving them
in later winter to the lambing barn.
Then the field is open for us,
the people of his pasture,
and our dog can run free where his herders have worked.

Early mornings, walking our untrained retriever
through the yard to the edge of the road,
I lift up mine eyes to that crest
and ask myself where the strength will come from
to climb it again,
with anemia barely held at bay
by iron infusions
and nausea yielding go grudgingly
to costly anti0viral medications.

When I'm done complaining that docs can't fix it faster
and thank God for waiting with and within me,
and the strength of the hills ius mine also.

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