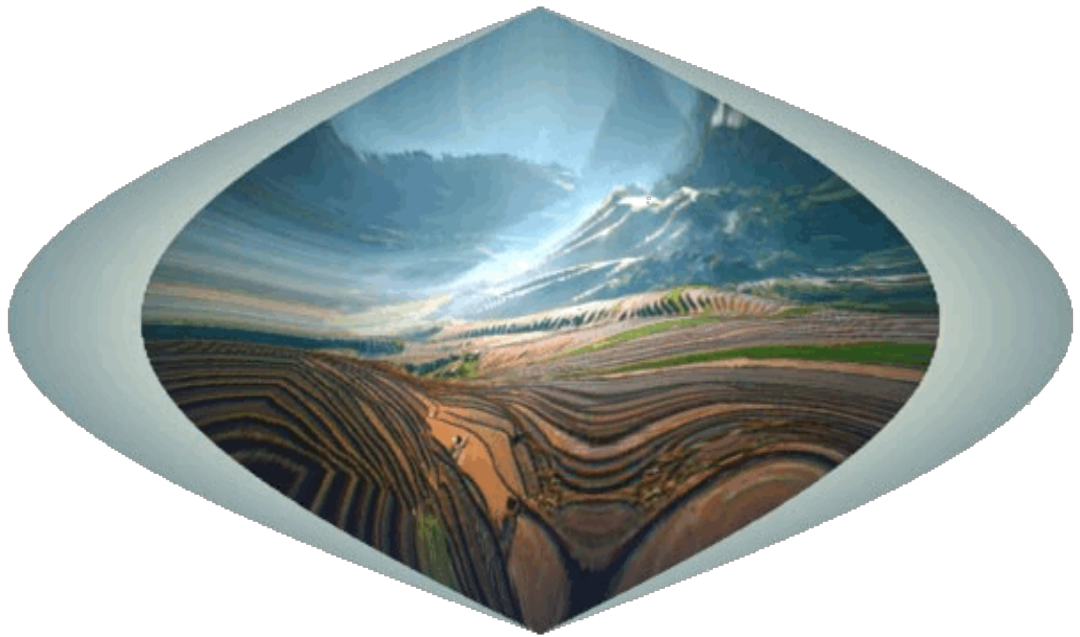


## **SUMMITS:**

In praise of mountains

Notice when earth touches  
heaven and stars seem  
to be in reach ~ times when  
our eyes become confounded by massive  
vertical structures and clouds seem  
to merge with mountain peaks?

Not as mere geological structures nor barriers  
between you and XYZ recognize mountains as the living skin  
of this planet: poetry moving so slowly it takes  
millions of years  
to see



**Noel:** This is a paean to mountains, right?

**Gwen:** Seems so.

**Orapan:** Mountains don't need paeans – they need environmental protection.

**Gwen:** Isn't it the other way around? Mountains (being inanimate) actually need nothing, but humans (being alive) need protection because . . .

**Noel:** Because blah, blah, blah . . . (shrugging) I've heard it a thousand times before.

**Tara:** Ah, the mountains of discourse are difficult to climb!

**- T Newfields**

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