

Messenger of God

Thinking about the transition from life to the life beyond ...

Moses was the most powerful hero in Biblical history. But he was not without blemish. Because he had once murdered a man, it was forbidden that he be allowed to follow his people into the Promised Land.

After moving through the Sinai Desert, the whole company stood on the east side of the Jordan according to one of the traditional Jewish stories. In his last hour, Moses blessed the tribes passing before him.

Then, escorted by a small entourage, Moses climbed Mt. Nebo, slowly entering the cloud that waited him.

With tears in his eyes he reached the top of the mountain, where God told him he had one minute more. Finally God told him to lie down, close his eyes, and fold his arms across his chest.

Moses did as he was bidden. "Then, in silence, God kissed his lips. And the soul of Moses found shelter in God's breath and was swept into eternity." (Noted by Elie Wiesel in *Messengers of God*)

Below the mountain people wept, and anger grew among them so that they refused to accept Joshua as their leader until their grief had been assuaged.

Moses' resting place is not known. Some say it is one place, some another. "Everywhere and elsewhere."

How I love that expression, "God kissed (Moses) into eternity". God took his faithful servant unto himself. What a wonderful way to think of the transition from life to the life beyond. .. to have ourselves absorbed into the very essence of the Divine. What better resting place?

Hymn writer Natalie Sleeth reminds us: *"In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity, / in our doubt there is believing, in our life eternity./ In our death a resurrection; at the last a victory,/ unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."*