

# *The Mountain Paintbrush*



Dedicated to Sister Margaret Ledwith,  
chaplain at Medical Center Hospital Odessa

*Hot, dusty, barren, the endless incline climbs the mountain  
Stifling warm air fills lungs, inhale, exhale, fatigue setting in  
Unexpected, a small burst of color from the desert trail  
A little flower beckons a rest, and a closer look  
Red velvety petals contrast with the harsh, sharp rock  
Pondering sudden refreshment, and new strength  
Who placed it there to renew the weary?  
Moving on, I consider the mountain paintbrush*

*Cold, clean, sterile, the white corridors traverse the hospital  
Ventilator oxygen fills lungs, inhale, exhale, prognosis is grim  
Suddenly, a rosy smile between the flickering monitors  
Irish brogue speaks concern and comfort together  
Warm hands folded contrast with cold technology  
Renewed and encouraged the family arises  
Who placed her there to console the grieving?  
Turning away, I consider God's paintbrush*

Craig Daniel, M.D.

Dr. Daniel (ΑΩΑ, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 1986) is in practice in general and trauma surgery, and is medical director of Trauma Services at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, Texas. The photograph of the mountain paintbrush was taken by Dr. Daniel. His address is: Medical Center Hospital, P.O. Box 7239, Odessa, Texas 79760. E-mail: [cdaniel@echd.org](mailto:cdaniel@echd.org).