

THE UNFAILING LOVE OF GOD

Numbers 14:10-20

NUMBERS 14:10-20

¹⁰ But the whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb. Then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites at the Tabernacle. ¹¹ And the Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? Will they never believe me, even after all the miraculous signs I have done among them? ¹² I will disown them and destroy them with a plague. Then I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they are!”

¹³ But Moses objected. “What will the Egyptians think when they hear about it?” he asked the Lord. “They know full well the power you displayed in rescuing your people from Egypt. ¹⁴ Now if you destroy them, the Egyptians will send a report to the inhabitants of this land, who have already heard that you live among your people. They know, Lord, that you have appeared to your people face to face and that your pillar of cloud hovers over them. They know that you go before them in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

15 Now if you slaughter all these people with a single blow, the nations that have heard of your fame will say, ¹⁶ 'The Lord was not able to bring them into the land he swore to give them, so he killed them in the wilderness.'

17 "Please, Lord, prove that your power is as great as you have claimed. For you said,

¹⁸ ‘The Lord is slow to anger and filled with unfailing love, forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion. But he does not excuse the guilty. He lays the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations.’ ¹⁹ In keeping with your magnificent, unfailing love, please pardon the sins of this people, just as you have forgiven them ever since they left Egypt.”

20 Then the Lord said, "I will pardon them as you have requested."

Hesed

Steadfast Love // Lovingkindness // Covenant Loyalty

חֶסֶד

**GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE IS WHERE
WE FIND THE TRUTH**

¹⁰ But the whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb. Then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites at the Tabernacle. ¹¹ And the Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? Will they never believe me, even after all the miraculous signs I have done among them? ¹² I will disown them and destroy them with a plague...

- Numbers 14:10-12a

¹⁶ “If a malicious witness comes forward and accuses someone of a crime, ¹⁷ then both the accuser and accused must appear before the Lord by coming to the priests and judges in office at that time. ¹⁸ The judges must investigate the case thoroughly. If the accuser has brought false charges against his fellow Israelite, ¹⁹ you must impose on the accuser the sentence he intended for the other person. In this way, you will purge such evil from among you.

- Deuteronomy 19:16-19

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ...²⁵ So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth... - Ephesians 4:15,25a

**GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE IS WHERE
WE FIND OUR FORGIVENESS**

¹⁷ “Please, Lord, prove that your power is as great as you have claimed. For you said, ¹⁸ ‘The Lord is slow to anger and filled with unfailing love, forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion. But he does not excuse the guilty. He lays the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations.’ ¹⁹ In keeping with your magnificent, unfailing love, please pardon the sins of this people, just as you have forgiven them ever since they left Egypt.”

20 Then the Lord said, "I will pardon them as you have requested.

- Deuteronomy 14:20

**GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE DRAWS US
AND PURSUES US, IN ORDER FOR US
TO BE AT HOME WITH THE LORD**

*Long ago the Lord said to Israel:
“I have loved you, my people, with an
everlasting love. With HESED I have drawn
you to myself.”*

- Jeremiah 31:3

*And when I am lifted up from the earth, I
will draw everyone to myself.*

- John 12:32

*Surely your goodness and HESED will
pursue me*

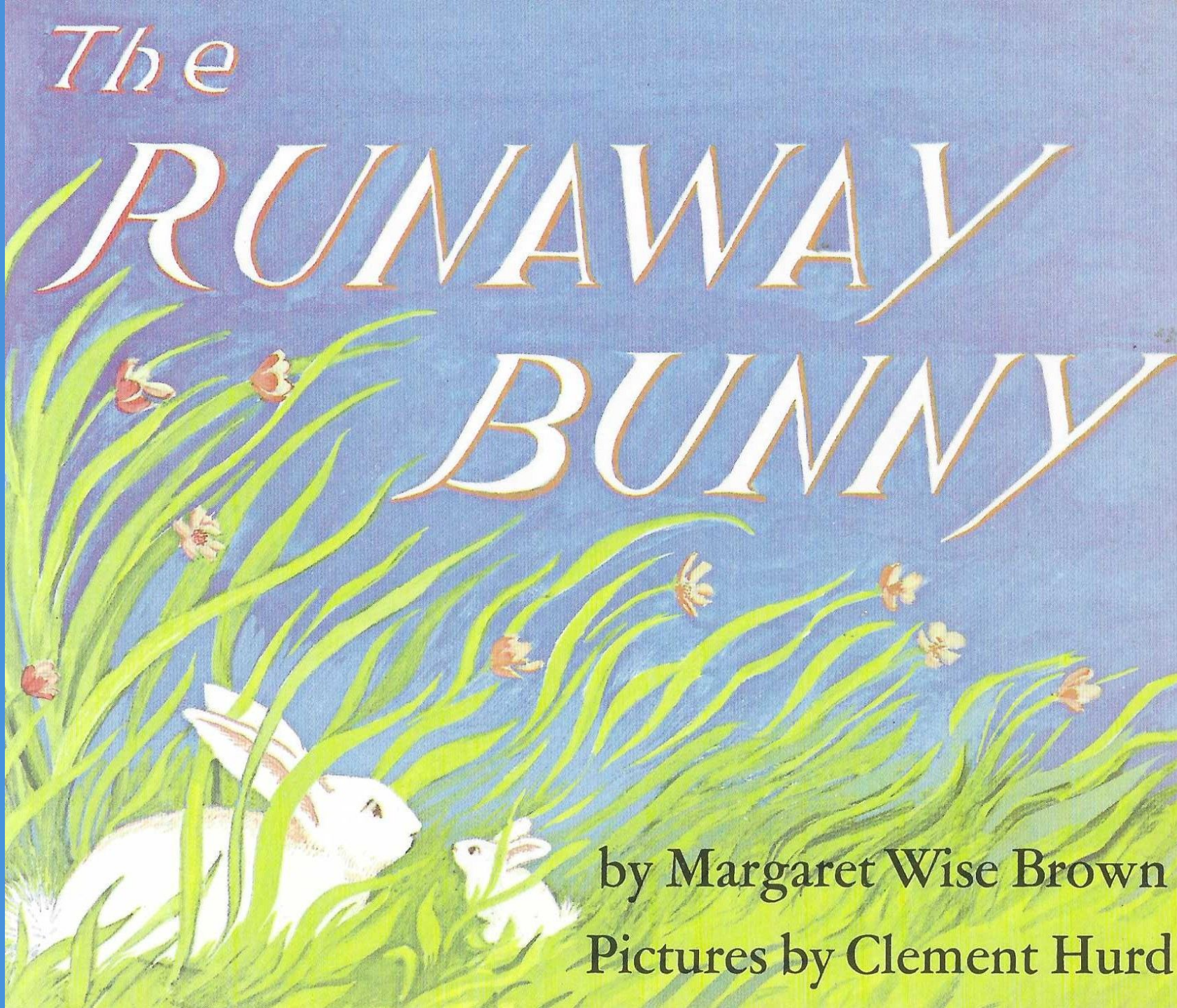
*all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of
the Lord forever.*

Psalm 23:6

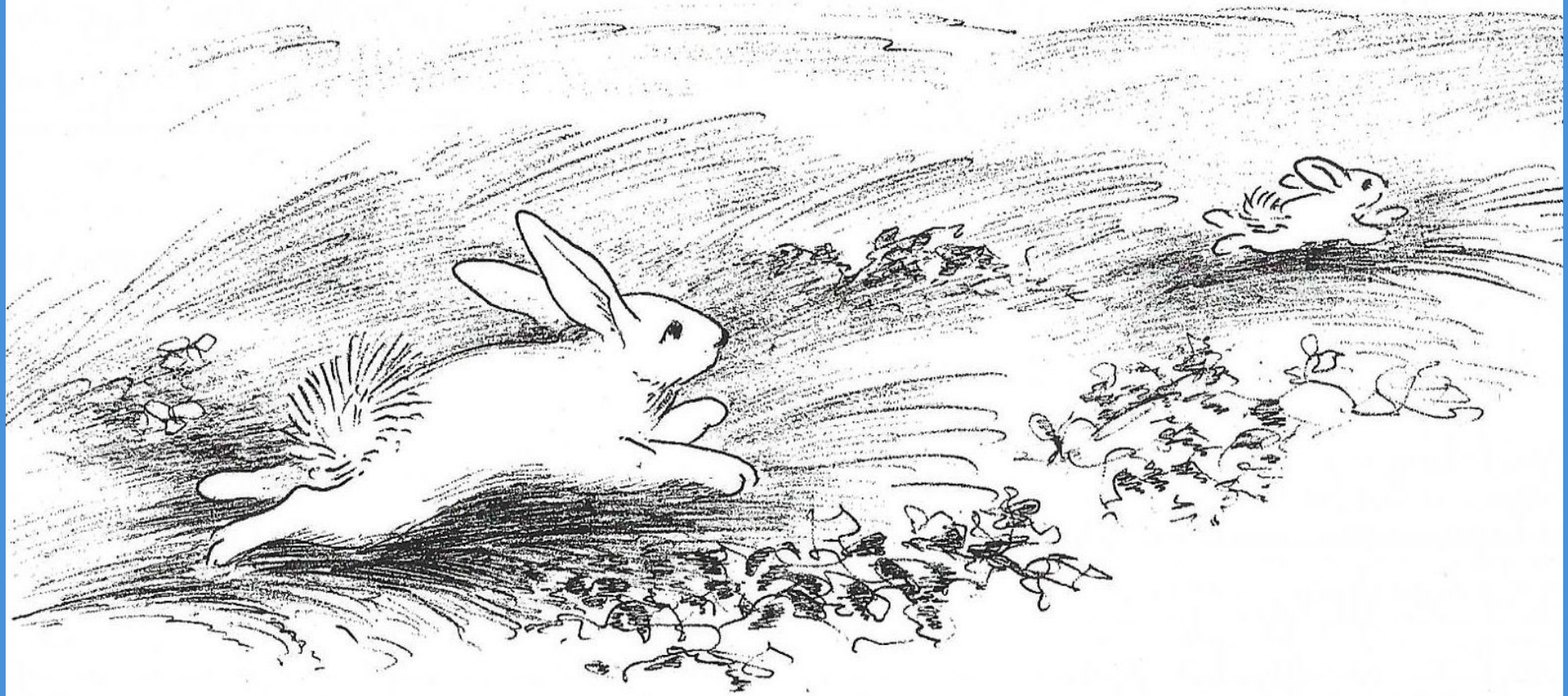
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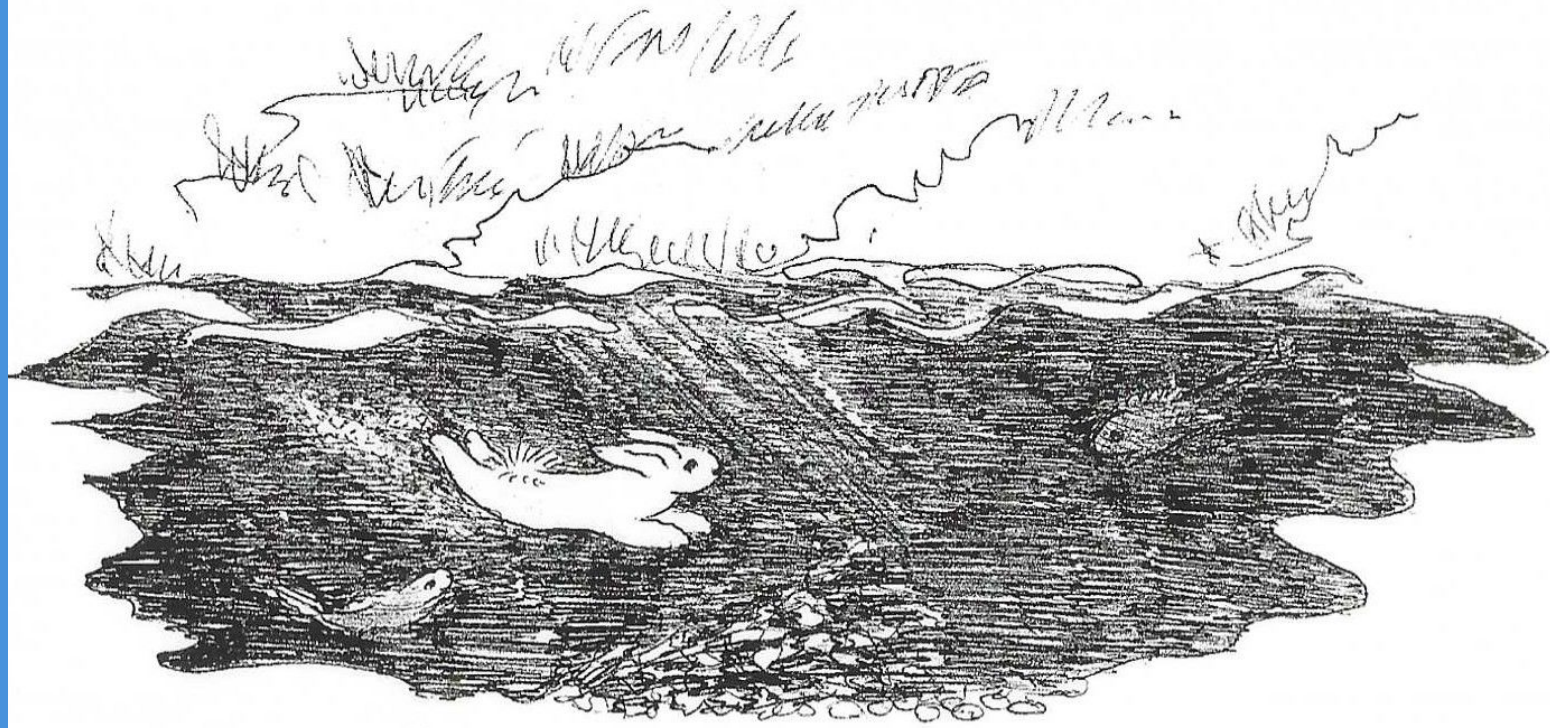
RUNAWAY BUNNY



by Margaret Wise Brown
Pictures by Clement Hurd



Once there was a little bunny who wanted to run away.
So he said to his mother, "I am running away."

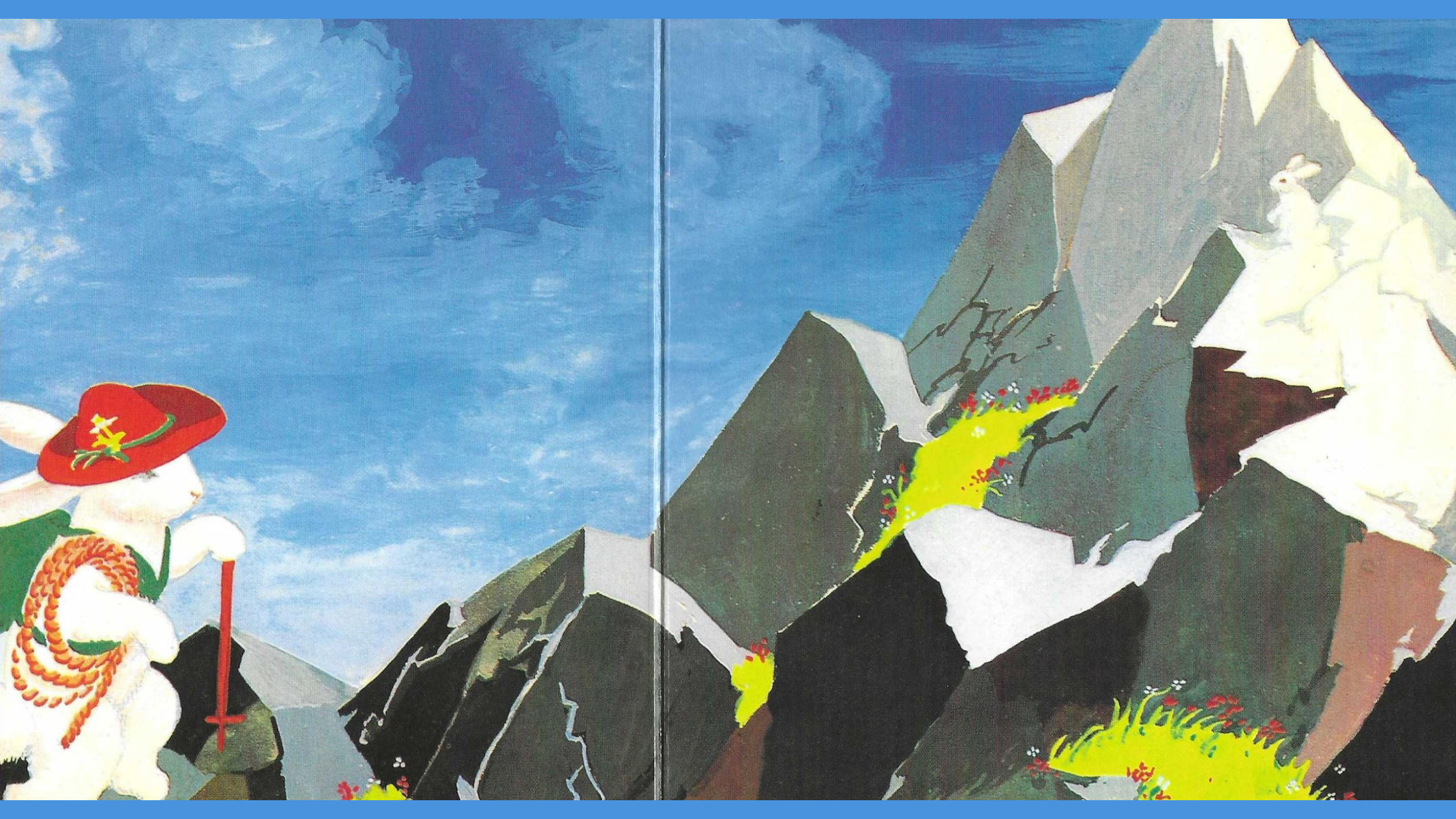


“If you run after me,” said the little bunny,
“I will become a fish in a trout stream
and I will swim away from you.”





“If you become a fisherman,” said the little bunny,
“I will become a rock on the mountain, high above you.”





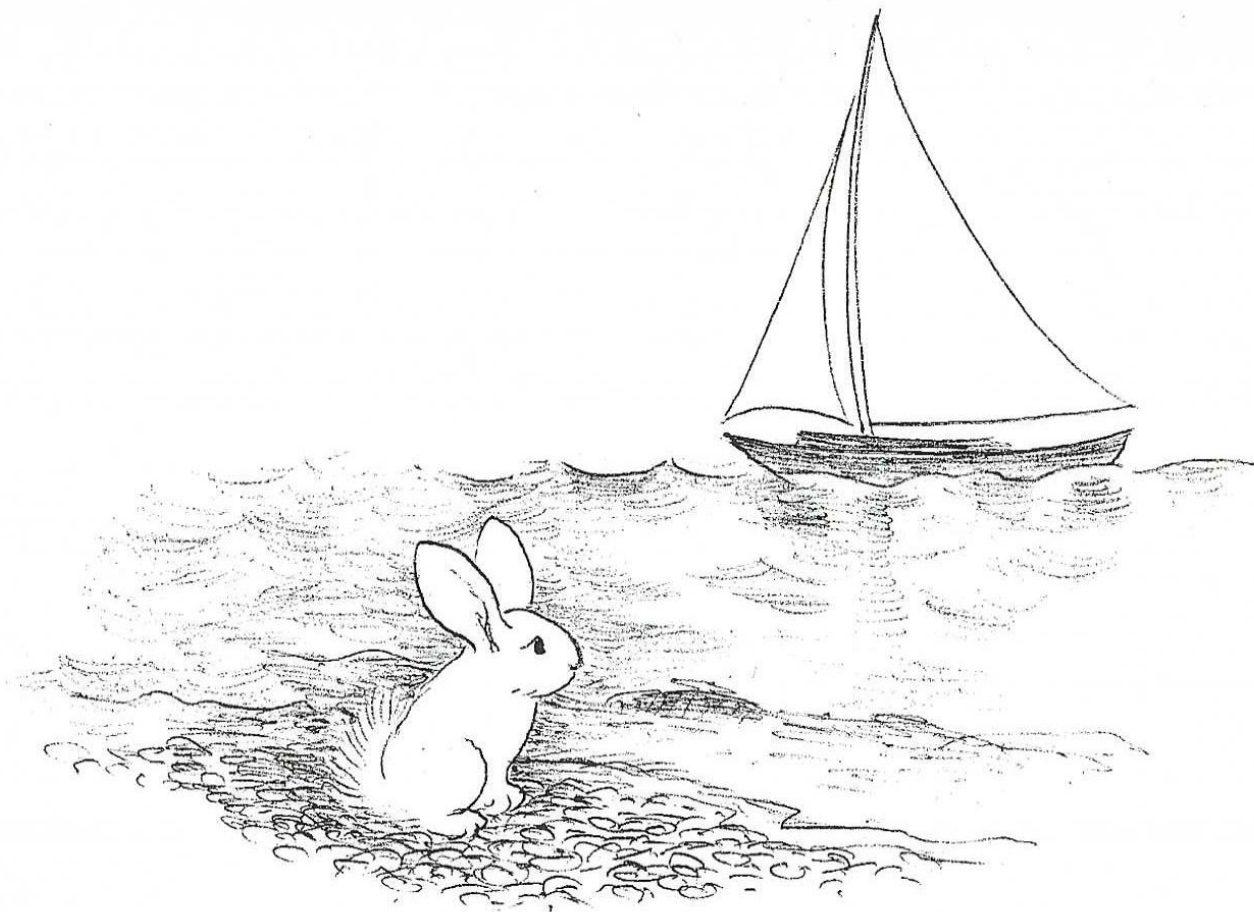
“If you become a mountain climber,”
said the little bunny,
“I will be a crocus in a hidden garden.”



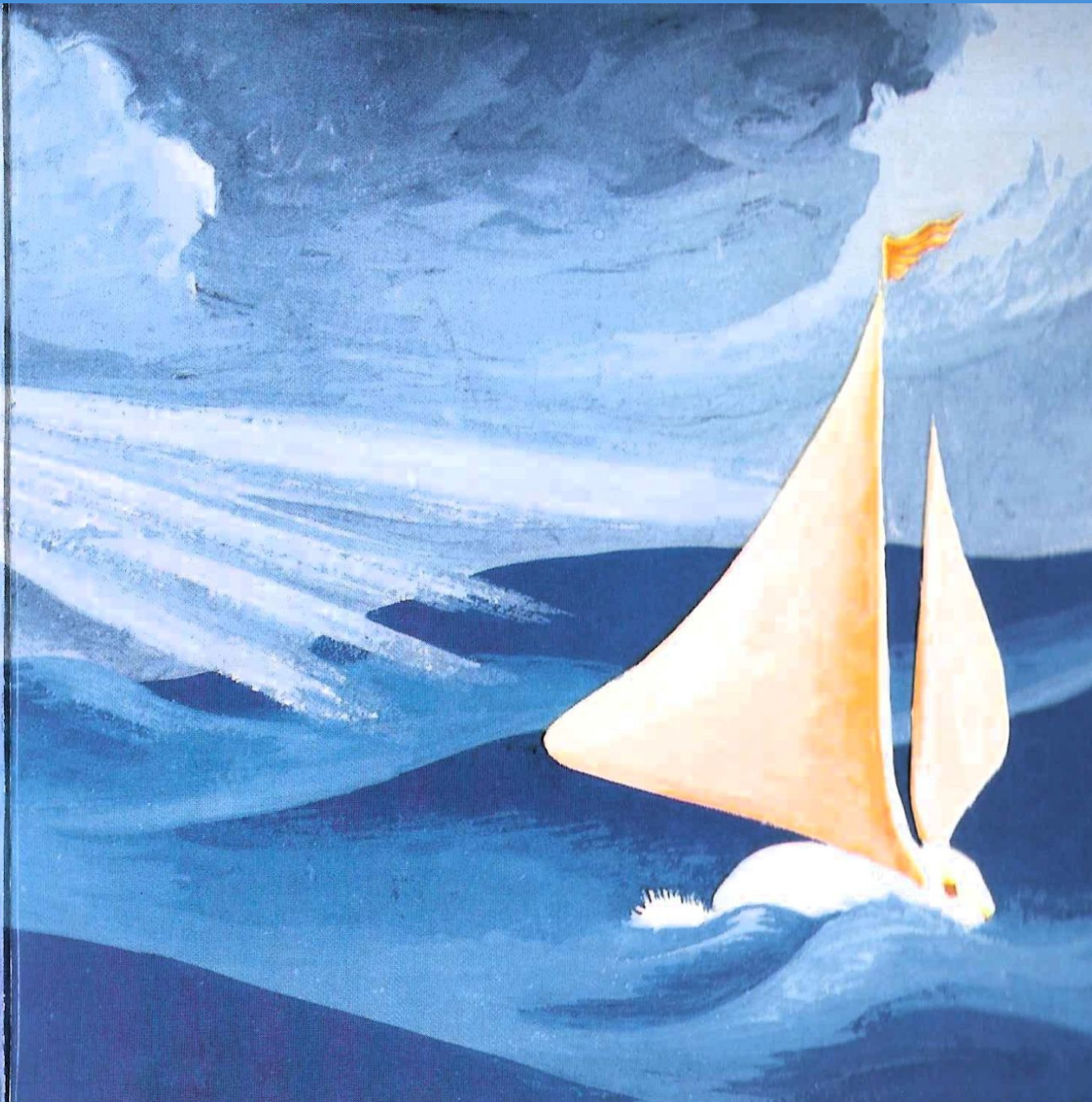


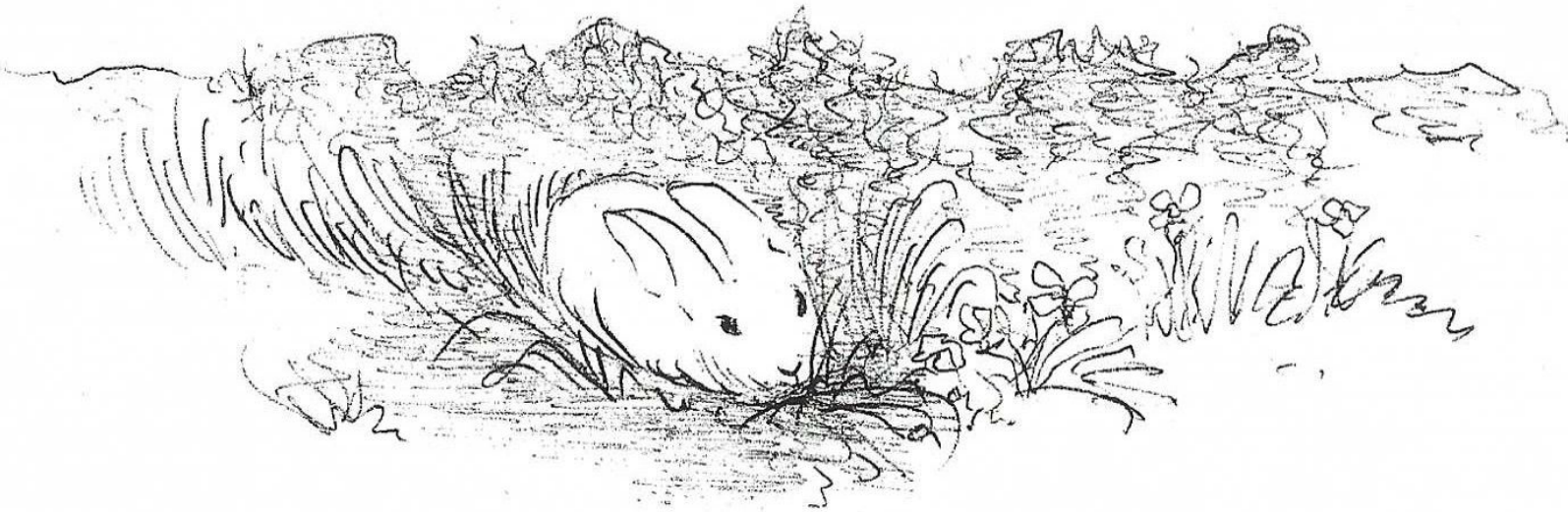
“If you are a gardener and find me,”
said the little bunny, “I will be a bird
and fly away from you.”





“If you become a tree,” said the little bunny,
“I will become a little sailboat,
and I will sail away from you.”





“Shucks,” said the bunny, “I might just as well stay where I am and be your little bunny.”



**GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE IS WHERE WE
FIND OUR PURPOSE**

*Hear the word of the Lord, O people of
Israel!*

*The Lord has brought charges against
you, saying:*

*“There is no faithfulness, no HESED,
no knowledge of God in your land.”*

- Hosea 4:1

...O people, the Lord has told you what is good,

*and this is what he requires of you:
to do what is right, to love HESED,
and to walk humbly with your God.*

- Micah 6:8



“God has chosen not to heal me, but to hold me. The more intense the pain, the closer His embrace... Real satisfaction comes not in understanding God’s motives, but in understanding His character.”

- Joni Eareckson Tada

**GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE IS WHERE WE
FIND OUR HOPE**

*19 The thought of my suffering and
homelessness*

is bitter beyond words.

*20 I will never forget this awful time,
as I grieve over my loss.*

*21 Yet I still dare to hope
when I remember this:*

*22 The HESED of the Lord never ends!
His mercies never cease.*

*23 Great is his faithfulness;
his mercies begin afresh each morning.*

- Lamentations 3:19-23

