



Penned by Lantern Light

This column will spotlight members of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter of the Western Music Association. It will highlight an invited poet guest with possible short biographical information of his/her works. If a member of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter and if interested in submitting one piece of original work for publication, please contact the Western Wordsmiths chapter president.

Let This Be My Heaven

By Dan Wilson
24 December 2014

I've often heard the story told
Of the pearly gates on high,
Of golden streets and jasper walls
In the sweet, sweet, bye and bye,

But where in Heaven can I find
A lone dusty trail in spring
Where poppies dot the desert hills
'Neath an eagle on the wing?

And where's the mighty anthem now
To the clean, crisp, mountain airs,
Or songs to match the yodeling
Of coyotes at their prayers?

They never speak of cottonwoods
Or the mourning doves at night,
So, I can't picture heaven's scene
'Cuz the landscape's just not right.

I've roamed this western land for years
And I never wanted much
'Cept just a mount and trails to ride
Lined with purple sage and such.

So let there be a sacred place
Like this western land I love
With canyons for cathedral walls,
And a cloudless sky above.

Let desert trails and mountain streams
Winding through the timberline
Join with the sage and tumbleweeds
To complete the grand design.

And when my time is runnin' low
And the roll is called on high,
Just tell St. Pete I've made my choice
For the sweet, sweet, bye and bye.

Just leave my spirit here somewhere
In a stand of pinyon pine,
And let this be my Heaven, Lord,
This rough western land of mine.



Dan "Doc" Wilson is a singer, songwriter, cowboy poet, performer, retired educator, and a long-time resident of Scottsdale, Arizona. He has sung and played in various groups since his high school years, including folk, jazz and western music. He is a long-time barbershop harmony enthusiast, and has written award winning songs and vocal arrangements for both competing quartets and choruses. He enjoys writing lyrics, cowboy poetry and western history. He is currently playing bass and singing with the Phoenix-based western music group, Cimarron.