

A shepherd's reading of the Twenty Third Psalm

Imagine yourself as a sheep belonging to our heavenly father. The flock needs to be taken out for the day and led into far off pastures where they can graze and be exercised before bringing them back to the safety and comfort of home. Only a good shepherd can take them out and bring them all back safely and satisfied.

I am as a sheep belonging to Yahweh who is as my shepherd who guides, protects and provides for me. I will never want for any of my needs. He takes me to lush green pastures where I can lay down to rest in peace and comfort. He leads me away from the dangerous rushing waters to the safe and calm streams where I am refreshed and restored with its cool and clear water. He always leads me along the safe and right paths for the sake of His name as the Good Shepherd.

Yes, even though I walk through the valley where the death of innocents throws its eerie shadow over the land, I will not fear any of its evils. Because you, Yahweh are here with me. Your rod of strength and staff of guidance give me comfort and peace. You calmly set up a place close by me in this dangerous valley for your afternoon meal while wolves and other predators who want to destroy and consume my flesh look down upon me with desire from the surrounding hills.

After the long hot day's journey, you lead me back to your home where you pour cool oil upon my head and give me refreshing water from an overflowing cup that quenches my thirst completely. I know that the goodness of this day will continue throughout my life because of your love and mercy and I choose to live in your household forever.

David R. Hughes (Inspired by the book "The Song of Our Syrian Guest" by W.A. Knight)

Psalm 23 King James Version (KJV)

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.