

The Oasis

Lord of the desert,
Lord of the tropical rain forest,
Lord of everything-in-between,
Perhaps one of the greatest feats of Creation is the Oasis!
Nowhere else have I been made more aware of the miracle of life
than in the Oasis.

The Oasis is friendly;
The Oasis is green;
The Oasis is refreshing;
The Oasis is persistent;
The Oasis is alive!

By some miracle, life-giving water has been channeled
And stored in the earth, giving birth to the Oasis.
Surrounded by wastelands, shifting sands and an
Unfriendly environment, the Oasis invites the weary and
Dusty traveller to rest and refresh.

The demands of the Oasis are few!
I do not have to reveal
--where I've been or where I'm going,
--who my parents were,
--how I wear my hair,
--what I believe,
--where I went to school or how my skin is tinted!

The Oasis freely shares its living waters
with everyone who passes by.
Life for many persons is a weary journey through the desert.
Oh God, make me an oasis to all who pass my way.
Amen.

(written by Marion Baumgardner in the Sahara Desert in
Western Sudan on a United Nations consultancy mission
in Oct 1975; mailed to Maralee from Khartoum, Sudan.)