

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
 Leaning on the everlasting arms;
 What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
 Leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way
 Leaning on the everlasting arms;
 O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 Leaning on the everlasting arms.

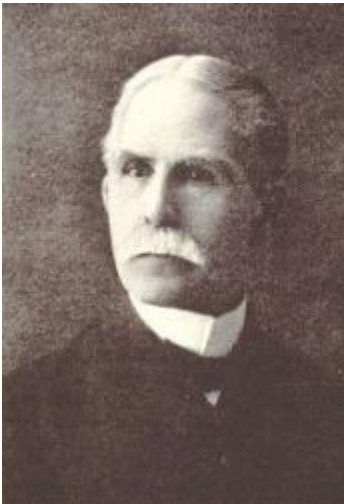
What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
 Leaning on the everlasting arms?
 I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
 Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms;
 Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,
 Leaning on the everlasting arms.

I. The Song

- A. This song was written by two men, Elisha Albright Hoffman and Anthony Johnson Showalter.
- B. E. A. Hoffman (1839 – 1929) was a graduate of Union Seminary in Pennsylvania and ordained as a minister in 1868.
 1. Most of his work as a preacher was conducted in the area around Cleveland, Ohio.
 2. In his lifetime, he wrote over 2,000 hymns including “Glory To His Name” and “Are You Washed in the Blood?”.
- C. The idea for this song originated with A. J. Showalter.
 1. Showalter (1858 – 1924) was sought after as a teacher of music and singing schools.
 2. He wrote over 60 books about music theory and composition.
 3. In the year 2,000, he was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame.
- D. Over the years he instructed many students in singing schools at local churches and enjoyed remaining in contact with them.
- E. While teaching a singing school in Hartselle, Alabama in 1887, Showalter received letters from two former students.
 1. Both of these men had just lost their wives and wrote of their sorrow to their teacher and friend.
 2. Seeking to find words of comfort, Showalter turned to Deuteronomy 33:27 – “*The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*”

3. From this passage he wrote the chorus: *“Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.”*
 - F. After replying to his students, he wrote a letter to E. A. Hoffman including the newly written chorus and asking for help with verses to go with it.
 - G. Thus, E. A. Hoffman penned the 3 verses of this song and A. J. Showalter wrote the chorus and composed the music.
- II. The Scripture
- A. “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them” (Deuteronomy 33:27).
 - B. In the background, the hands of Moses (Exodus 17:8-13)
 - C. In contrast, the Hands of the Lord (Isaiah 26:3-4)
 - D. In safety, the hope of salvation (1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24-25).
- Conclusion:
1. There is peace and security when one leans upon the everlasting arms of the Lord.
 2. Are you leaning on Jesus?



Elisha Albright Hoffman



Anthony Johnson Showalter