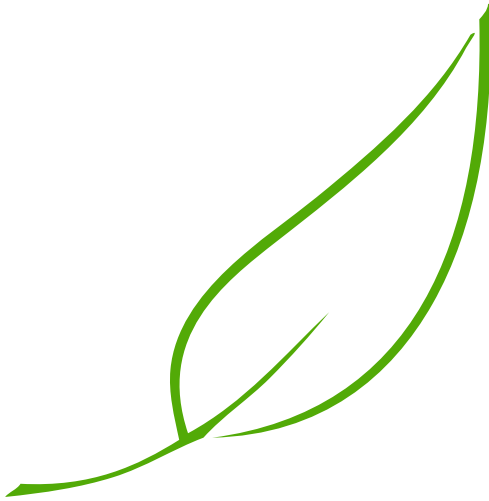


TOP OF THE WORLD

by Ken Bradbury



GREEN ROOM PRESS

greenroompress.com

Copyright Notice

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Green Room Press. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Green Room Press. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Green Room Press. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Green Room Press.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Green Room Press.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Green Room Press.

TOP OF THE WORLD
by Ken Bradbury

TOP OF THE WORLD

by Ken Bradbury

A scene for two characters: Hillary, a mountain climber and Dali, a person on the mountain. Both are referred to as "he" but may be played by actors of either gender.

HILLARY: *(crawling into the scene, struggling, panting, clawing his way up the mountain)* Ahh ... oh ... ugh ... *(stopping, breathing heavily)* Almost to the top. *(more crawling, panting and huffing)* All my life ... all my life I've wanted to climb this mountain ... and now ... almost ... almost there! The first man to ever climb it! Just a few more ...

DALI: *(calmly walking into the scene)* Good morning.

HILLARY: Wh-what? Who are ... I mean, what are you ...?

DALI: Nice morning.

HILLARY: I must be seeing things.

DALI: I hope so. It's a beautiful view from up here.

HILLARY: Are ... are you real?

DALI: *(touching himself here and there)* Let's see. Arm, shoulder, leg, head. Yes, I seem to be very much real. How about you?

HILLARY: What about me?

DALI: Are you real?

HILLARY: That's a ridiculous question.

DALI: But you just asked me.

HILLARY: I mean ... I've been climbing this mountain for six days! No man in the world has ever climbed it!

DALI: Yes, I've noticed the crowds have been rather small.

HILLARY: But how did you?

DALI: I live here.

- HILLARY:** But I thought I was the first!
- DALI:** Oh, you are. Congratulations. I didn't climb up. I was already here. Would you have a newspaper with you? I haven't heard about the Chicago Cubs in years.
- HILLARY:** A newspaper?
- DALI:** Radio? Telegraph? Anything? Look, am I bothering you? I didn't mean to interrupt your climb.
- HILLARY:** Am I at the top?
- DALI:** Can't get any topper than this. You're at the summit.
- HILLARY:** (*standing, looking around*) Wow! What a sight. I made it.
- DALI:** And that's wonderful. I don't suppose you have a candy bar? It's been years.
- HILLARY:** Who are you?
- DALI:** I'm a sage.
- HILLARY:** A what?
- DALI:** Sage. Soothsayer. Wiseman of the Mountain. Hoop-hoop-tee-doo and La-tee-dah-dah!
- HILLARY:** And you live up here?
- DALI:** Something wrong with that?
- HILLARY:** But why would anyone come up here and ...
- DALI:** Didn't you climb the mountain?
- HILLARY:** Of course, but ...
- DALI:** And you think it's strange that I'm here?
- HILLARY:** Oh. Sorry. So ... I mean, what's your purpose?
- DALI:** Wisdom.
- HILLARY:** Huh?
- DALI:** I dispense wisdom. I know all the secrets of the universe.
- HILLARY:** Wow! You know everything?

DALI: Except the Cubs' scores. I can never get the Cubs' scores. Maybe they just aren't scoring. No candy bars?

HILLARY: No. Sorry. So let me get this straight. You live up here on the mountain.

DALI: Well actually, it's just over that ridge there. A nice little condo, two bedrooms, one and a half baths, central air and a great view of Tibet. Nothing fancy, but I like it. No neighbors knocking on my door looking for their lost dogs, no vacuum cleaner salesmen.

HILLARY: And you know all the secrets of the universe?

DALI: Google calls me to ask questions.

HILLARY: Wow.

DALI: Thank you. Now if you'll excuse me, I've got a casserole in the oven.

HILLARY: Wait! Wait a minute! Could I ... well ... ask you things?

DALI: (*checking his imaginary watch*) Sure. I haven't added the cheese and French fried onion rings yet.

HILLARY: Uh ... okay. Gosh ... there's so much I want to know. I don't know where to begin.

DALI: How about asking how to get back down?

HILLARY: Uh ... yeah. What's the best way?

DALI: Same way you came up. What a silly question. Most people want to know the meaning of life.

HILLARY: Oh ... well okay, what's ... Wait a minute! What do you mean, "most people?" I thought I was the first one to climb this mountain!

DALI: Oh, you are. I used to live on that mountain over there. Lots of traffic. Lots of questions. I had to move.

HILLARY: Okay. So ... what's the meaning of life?



GREEN ROOM PRESS

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

TOP OF THE WORLD

by Ken Bradbury.

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

GREEN ROOM PRESS, INC.

customerservice@greenroompress.com

www.greenroompress.com