

The Beautiful Moon

Did you see the moon this week?

Did you notice its fullness, its splendor, its spellbinding power?

This gleaming silver globe, this night traveler, is a wonder to behold.

Despite man's conquest of its surface, the moon still holds its intrigue.

It beckons to lovers.

It gives promise of the dawn in the blackness of the moment.

It hints of new beginnings.

It radiates peace and serenity.

It challenges man to look upward and to meditate.

It gives silent witness to God and His power.

It warms the spirit.

It has always stirred the imagination of man.

The famed English playwright William Shakespeare compared the moon to "a silver bow new-bent in heaven." What a gift with words!

In *The Cloud*, the English poet Percy Bysshe Shelley described the moon as "that orb'd maiden, with white fire laden, whom mortals call the moon."

During the A.D. 100s, the Greek writer Lucian told of a hero who was lifted to the moon after his space ship got caught in a waterspout.

In 1638, Francis Godwin, an English bishop, wrote a story about a man who flew to the moon in a raft pulled by trained swans.

One of the 14 piano sonatas written by Ludwig van Beethoven, the famous German composer, came to be known as the *Moonlight Sonata*.

Clair de lune, meaning moonlight, is the title of musical works by at least three French composers, including Claude Debussy.

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And what about those popular American songs, *Moonlight Bay*, *Moonlight and Roses*, *By the Light of the Silvery Moon* and *Moon River*?

Step outside tonight, if the sky is clear, or Saturday night, when the moon is officially at its fullest, and gaze at one of God's beautiful creations.

And let your imagination work.

It will be a refreshing experience.

--Beecher Hunter