

**1623**  
**A PARAPHRASE ON PSALM 114**  
**John Milton**

**Milton, John (1608-1674) - English poet and prose writer who is one of the most highly regarded figures in world literature and is widely considered the greatest poet since Shakespeare. Often called the "Puritan Poet," he had many of the good traits of the Puritans as well as many of the bad and spent much of his life immersed in political and religious controversy. A Paraphrase on Psalm 114 (1623) - One of Milton's early minor poems. He penned this poem when he was fifteen years old.**

**A PARAPHRASE ON PSALM 114**

This and the following Psalm were don by the Author at fifteen years old.

When the blest seed of Terah's faithfull Son,  
After long toil their liberty had won,  
And past from Pharian fields to Canaan Land,  
Led by the strength of the Almighty's hand,  
Jehovah's wonders were in Israel shown,  
His praise and glory was in Israel known.

That saw the troubl'd Sea, and shivering fled,  
And sought to hide his froth-becurled head  
Low in the earth, Jordans clear streams recoil,  
As a faint host that hath receiv'd the foil.  
The high, huge-bellied Mountains skip like Rams  
Amongst their Ews, the little Hills like Lambs.  
Why fled the Ocean? And why skipt the Mountains?  
Why turned Jordan toward his Crystall Fountains?

Shake earth, and at the presence be agast  
Of him that ever was, and ay shall last,  
That glassy flouds from rugged rocks can crush,  
And make soft rills from fiery flint-stones gush.

**THE END**