

Three Days Climbing

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Three days' climbing, he said,
and we spent five minutes on the peak,
only five minutes,
the wind was too strong.

Maybe five minutes were a blessing
and all is climbing up up up.
If you stop climbing, you can fall,
or slip down, or start an avalanche.

Is the climb a vain
clichéd achievement.
Yet, what is the peak
where the wind's too strong?

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SELECTED POEMS