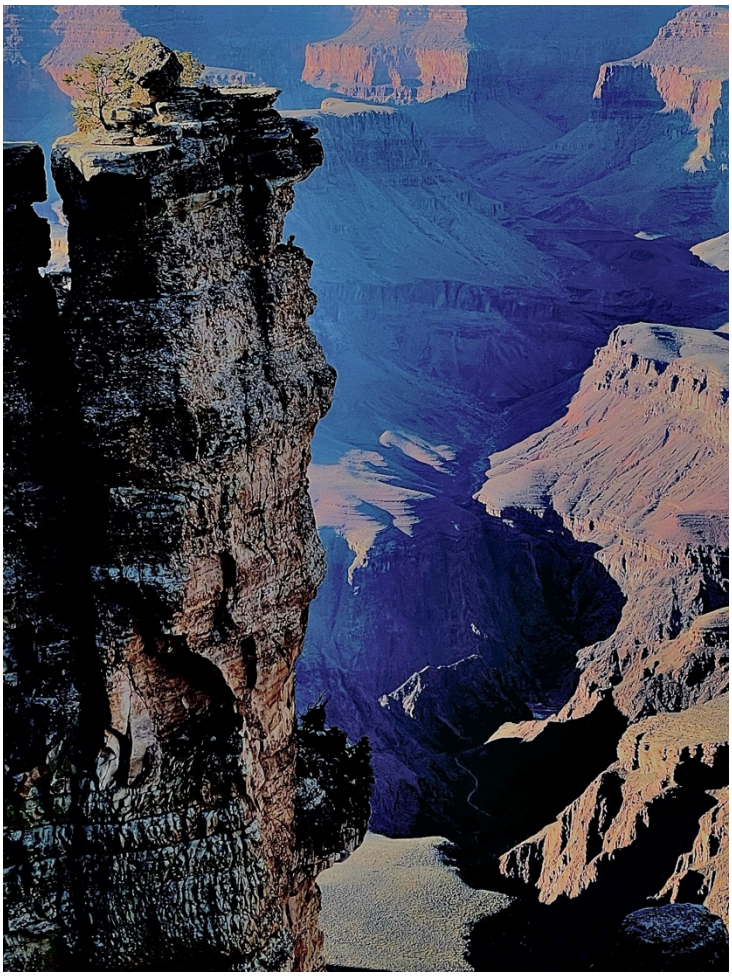
# the GODFATHER #2 - I Am

✨***Exodus 3:5, "'Do not come any closer,' God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."'(NIV)***✨

The kindness of a holy God is truly a remarkable concept. There is not a shortage of human beings, men and women alike, who want to believe they are people of great importance. Yet, the God of the Universe somehow chooses to dwell with you and me. The Godfather makes Himself known to us. He postures Himself to be available to the humanity He dreamt into being. He inclines to hear our cry and longs to know our need.

He showed up for me when I could never recognize Him, long before I would ever utter His name. I think I would be shocked at all the ways, all the times, the Godfather is there for me. I didn't see a burning bush with a voice emanating from within like Moses did (Exodus 3), but it might as well have been. The night my parents said 'no' when I begged and pleaded to go with my friends to the 'innocent' party where the car I would have been in wrecked after driving away. The rollover on the interstate that I narrowly missed by a bumper. The gun that jammed, the drug dose that was cut, the bottle that spilled. The time when he didn't answer my call, and also when *he* did answer, and all the Monday mornings I woke up after a weekend binge. A holy God is why the friendship ended and why that relationship never materialized, and I believe to this day, that a kind and loving Godfather is exactly why I was removed from some people's lives, as my trip would've caused them to stumble.



Today, I stand, barefoot, with my shoes removed, on holy ground, before a loving Father who only has my best interest in the pulse of His heartbeat. From the beginning of time, the Godfather has been looking out for me. He has caused more things to not work out so He could bring other details to fruition for my good and to show me His glory through the life He has intended for me. He has patiently waited on me, not so I could get it together, but so He could walk right alongside me, holding my hand and teaching me His ways (Exodus 33). And the promise is, I will never see His back where He walks away. He has hidden me in the secret place and He has covered me with His hand for my protection, but no matter what, I can be assured, the Godfather will go with me and before me, and He will never leave me, nor forsake me (Deuteronomy 31:8).

Father God, fix my focus on Your face. Keep my heart upon its knees. May my feet be on Your path, and Yours alone. Amen

✨***Exodus33:20-23, "'But," He said, "you cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live." Then the Lord said, "There is a place near Me where you may stand on a rock. When My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove My hand and you will see My back; but My face must not be seen."'(NIV)***✨