

An Artist's Inspiration

The Desert

“The desert has gone a-begging for a word of praise these many years. It never had a sacred poet; it has in me only a lover. I take you far beyond the wire fence of civilization to those places where the trail is unbroken and the mountain peak unblazed.

The sandy wastes, the arid lands, the porphyry mountain peaks may be thought profitless places for pilgrimages. Try as I might, I shall never be able to tell you the grandeur of these mountains, nor show you the glory of color that wraps the burning sands at their feet.

We shoot arrows at the sun in vain--yet still we shoot.”

John C. Van Dyke In *The Desert*

Roads

**“The road goes ever on and on
Down from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the road has gone,
And I must follow if I can,
Pursuing it with eager feet,
Until it joins some larger way
Where many paths and errands meet.
And wither then? I cannot say.”**

J.R.R. Tolkien In *Lord of the Rings*

All Maria Arango woodcuts are originals, designed,
cut and printed by the artist