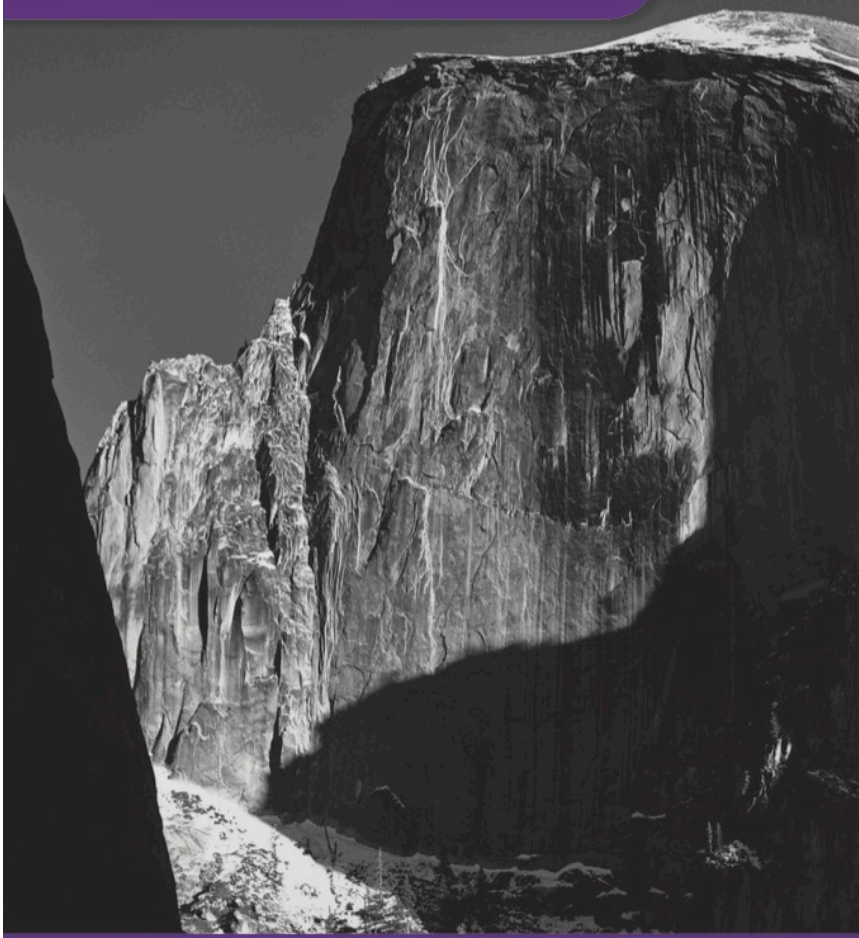




Primary Source



Ansel Adams, *The Portfolios of Ansel Adams*

Yosemite National Park, one of the best-known national parks in the country, is located in California, within the Sierra Nevada. Inside the park, you can visit thick pine forests, giant rock cliffs, waterfalls, and streams. It attracts tourists from all over the world.

One person who visited Yosemite in the 1900s was the photographer Ansel Adams. He loved Yosemite and took famous photographs of it. He also wrote about the natural wonders he found in the Yosemite Valley.

A photograph of Yosemite's Half Dome by Ansel Adams.

Vocabulary Support

that can match the power

the huge size may be all you notice at first

we see and appreciate the details

edifice, *n.*, building, structure

patina, *n.*, thin layer

colossal, *adj.*, huge

dominate, *v.*, control

Yosemite Valley, to me, is always a sunrise, a glitter of green and golden wonder in a vast **edifice** of stone and space. I know of no sculpture, painting, or music that exceeds the compelling spiritual command of the soaring shape of the granite cliff and dome, of **patina** of light on rock and forest, and of the thunder and whispering of the falling, flowing waters. At first the **colossal** aspect may **dominate**; then we perceive and respond to the delicate and persuasive complex of nature.

- Ansel Adams, *The Portfolios of Ansel Adams*

Close Reading

1. **Identify** and draw a square around a place where Adams refers to large rock structures like Half Dome. Circle a place where he refers to waterfalls.
2. **Identify** three things Adams compares to the natural wonders in Yosemite.

Wrap It Up

Ansel Adams worked to preserve the Yosemite Valley. Do you agree that it is important to preserve beautiful natural places? Why or why not?
