

1994

JOSHUA

TREE

NATIONAL

PARK



To the north I looked out over the Mojave Desert . . . from this point a wilderness of mountains, arid, aerial, almost phantasmal.

"Come," they seemed to say, "we are waiting for you, have waited since eternity began."

J. Smeaton Chase
California Desert Trails,
1919

In this particular desert, the strong appeal to every lover of wild places lies in the very vastness of its broad, pebble-strewn and brush-covered basins, and in the surrounding bizarre, sere, and often barren but colorfully banded mountain ranges, which rise with remarkable steepness from the desert floor.

Edmund C. Jaeger
*The North American
Deserts,* 1957

The basins that are in the higher altitudes contain thousands of the giant yuccas known as Joshua Trees, which from a distance appear as skeleton forests. These weird trees assume shapes well described as *giants in agony*.

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