

# Falling upward

by [Scott Dalgarno](#) in the [August 9, 2005](#) issue

“. . . he was carried up, and a cloud took him.” Acts 1:9

Gravity, they say, is all about mass. Big attracts  
Big sucks big pulls big, like death, won't let go. Still,  
We worship those who try: “Lucky Lindy,” St. Michael  
Jordan. Leonardo, bless him, forever plotting how  
To fly, or assuage the general jowliness of time.

Jesus was taken up, and Mary. St. Teresa of Ávila  
Had to cling to the rail during prayer to keep from  
Floating skyward—the Assumption being that things  
Sometimes fall up. But, come on, which way is  
Up? That is to say, which way *isn't*? If Teresa was

A person of such faith, why didn't she just let go? Like  
The man I knew who, after being told he had “maybe  
Six months,” immediately signed up for swimming  
Lessons. “Well,” he said, “I just felt that if I could learn  
How to float, I could learn how to die.”