

EKO KOTIČEK

Nasmeh nas nič ne stane, vendar čudežno deluje. Obogati tistega, komur je namenjen in ne osiromaši tistega, ki ga poklanja. Zablesti kot sončni žarek, a spomin nanj lahko ostane za vedno. Nihče ni tako bogat niti tako reven, da si ga ne bi mogel privoščiti. Z njim lahko vsak samo pridobi.

Nasmeh prinaša srečo v hišo, pozdrav prijatelju, pomoč pri sklepanju poslov. Je počitek utrujenemu, kažipot zgubljenemu, sončni žarek žalostnemu in najboljše naravno zdravilo proti jezi. Ni ga moč kupiti, izprositi, izposoditi ali ukrasti, ker ima vrednoto samo, kadar se ga podarja.

LEGENDA O GRIČU TISOČERIH ROŽ

Prebivalci mest in vasi pod skrivnostnim hribovjem so si ob večerih pripovedovali legendo o Griču tisočerih rož in šepetajočih dreves, s katerega se je nad naselja v blagodejnih valovih razširjala sreča. Legende, kot je ta, se namreč pripoveduje samo v večernih urah, ko se besede že rahlo vtkejo v sanje in se v podobah noči pridružijo sestavljanji življenja.

Naslednje besede so bile z zlatimi črkami vklesane v temeljne kamne njihovih stavb:

»Dokler bodo ljudstva Zemlje varovala naravo, njene prastare gozdove, bistre vode in živalska kraljestva, bodo živela v blaginji, njihove domove bosta napolnila sreča in obilje.«

Legenda se je širila iz roda v rod, kot opomin prihodnjim rodovom pa so se zlate črke nadaljevale v svarilo:

»A gorje ljudem, ki se bodo obrnili proti viru moči, vrelcu življenja, ki bodo grobo izkoriščali naravo, po nepotrebnem izsekavali drevesa, povzročali trpljenje nemočnim živalim in neodgovorno zastrupljali reke. Takrat jim bodo skrbniki vseh elementov odtegnili pomoč, neomejeni tok blaginje, ki se razliva z griča dol med ljudi, bo nepreklicno usahnil. Duh vode se bo dvignil visoko nad reko. In vilini bodo z dobrimi, svetlimi poslanci Luči zapustili te kraje. Ljudje bodo ostali prepuščeni razdejanju, ki so ga sami povzročili. Živahni kraji se bodo v najkrajšem času spremenili v kraljestvo senc, kjer ne bodo hotele letati niti muhe. Metulji bodo prhnili daleč stran in ptice bodo v teh naseljih obnemele. Tesnoba se bo prikradla v srca ljudi. Temna, gosta reka odplak bo zastrupljala njihovo hrano, umazana brozga bo njihova pijača. Orkani bodo razdejali njihove domove, hribovje se bo v blatnih plazovih rušilo nad mesta in ljudje ne bodo več poznali mirne urice.«

Da, to je pripoved o povezanosti vsega živega. Vse, od najmanjše travice, najmanjšega žužka do najmogočnejšega drevesa, je povezano z ljudstvi tega Planeta in materjo Zemljo, njenimi vetrovi, ognji in vodami.

(Julija Doria, odlomek iz knjige AIDOR - LEGENDA O GRIČU TISOČERIH ROŽ)

MISLI O NARAVI

Zemlja ne pripada človeku. Človek pripada zemlji. To dobro vemo. Vse je povezano med seboj, tako kot družino družijo kri. Vse je povezano. Človek ni stvarnik tkanja življenja, ampak samo vlakno v njem. Kar naredi s tkanjem, dela tudi s samim seboj.

(Misli indijanskega poglavarja Seattla)

Zemlja ne pripada nikomur. Kdor si jo lasti, je njen suženj in ne svoboden Zemljan.

Človek je izumil kolo, vlak in letalo. Ptica ni izumila ničesar, zato je srečna in svobodna.

(Rudi Kerševan, misli iz knjige KAKO NAJ PTICAM TO POVEM)

Posvojite hišnega ljubljence, še bolje - dva. To je čudovit način dajanja in prejemanja brezpogojne ljubezni.

(Louise Hay, misel iz knjige 101 POT DO SREČE)

Kadar v smeti vržemo plastično vrečko, vemo, da je drugačna od bananinega olupka. Da bo postala roža, bo potrebovala zelo veliko časa. »Ko vržem v smeti plastično vrečko, vem, da mečem v smeti plastično vrečko.« Že tako zavedanje pomaga, da varujemo Zemljo, sklepamo mir in skrbimo za življenje v sedanjem trenutku in prihodnosti.

(Thich Nhat Hanh, misel iz knjige MIR V VSAKEM KORAKU)

Zemlja je kot lepa nevesta, ki za okras ne potrebuje draguljev, ki jih je obdelal človek, temveč je zadovoljna z zelenenjem svojih travnikov, zlatim peskom svojih morskih obal in dragocenimi kamninami svojih planin.

(Kahlil Gibran, misel iz knjige ČISTA AMBROZIJA)

Celo najbolj skeptični fiziki so začeli priznavati, da zamah metuljevih kril lahko povzroči vremenske spremembe tisoče kilometrov daleč. Vse, kar počnemo, šteje.

(Gloria Steinem)

Ko bo posekano zadnje drevo, zastrupljena zadnja reka, ulovljena zadnja riba, boste ugotovili, da denarja ne morete jesti.

(Cree Indijanec)

Jaz sem zemlja, moje oči so nebo, moji udje drevesa, jaz sem skala in globina vode. Nisem tukaj, da bi vladal naravi ali jo izkoriščal, jaz SEM narava.

(Hopi Indijanec)

Ali veš, da drevesa govorijo? Da, natanko to počnejo. Govorijo med sabo in govorijo s tabo, če jih poslušáš. Vendar beli ljudje ne poslušajo. Nikoli niso želeli poslušati nas Indijancev in bojim se, da niti drugih glasov iz narave ne bodo poslušali. Jaz sam sem izvedel veliko od dreves: včasih nekaj o vremenu, drugič o živalih, pa tudi o velikem duhu.

(Indijanec Tatanga Mani Stoney)

EKO LITERATURA ZA OTROKE

- o Ivan Gantchev: ZELENI OTOK IN SIVIOTOK
- o Ivan Gantchev: DREVO KRIŠTOF
- o Shomei Yoh: DOMINO IN TJULENJ
- o Friedrich Recknagel: SARINA VRBA
- o Anej Sam: ZGODBA O KNJIGI
- o Vladimir Verdnik: SAMOTNA JELKA
- o Schim Schimmel: OTROCI ZEMLJE NE POZABLJAJO
- o Eveline Hasler: MESTO CVETJA
- o Jernej Fefer: JAKA POMAGA NARAVI
- o Otmar Grissemann: POTOVANJE VODNE KAPLJICE
- o Matea Reba: JURČEK IN PACKARIJA
- o John Javna: 50 PREPROSTIH STVARI, KI JIH OTROCI LAHKO NAREDIJO ZA REŠITEV ZEMLJE

EKO LITERATURA ZA ODRASLE

- o 100 PREPROSTIH STVARI, KI JIH LAHKO NAREDIŠ ZA REŠITEV ZEMLJE
- o Iztok Geister: LJUBLJANSKO BARJE
- o Michael Scott: EKOLOGIJA

- o Richard Spurgeon: EKOLOGIJA
- o Lado Eleršek: KNJIGA O GOZDU
- o Nigel Hawks: PODNEBNE SPREMEMBE
- o Dalton Exley: NAJLEPŠE MISLI O NARAVI
- o ALI VEŠ, DA DREVESA GOVORIJO - MODROST INDIJANCEV
- o TUDI TRAVA IMA SVOJO PESEM - BESEDE INDIJANCEV
- o KAKO NAJ VAM PRODAMO MODRINO NEBA - GOVORI INDIJANSKIH
POGLAVARJEV
- o Henry Ward Beecher: NAJLEPŠE MISLI O NARAVI
- o Douglas Adams, Mark Carwardine: ZADNJA PRILOŽNOST

Tu pa je teh nekaj skromnih modrosti in misli:

Človek je kakor kaplja na veji.

Živi le, kdor ljubi. Ne živeti in ne ljubiti sta sopomenki.
LUDWIG FEUERBACH

"... narava sama ne pomeni ničesar, ne pove ničesar neobčutljivemu duhu... Lepota je tam, kjer jo opazijo... gotovo jo boste videli... če ste jo pripravljene videti - če jo boste iskali..."
HENRY DAVID THOREAU (1817-1862)

Zemeljske razdalje vabijo oko. In tako kot oko doseže svoj cilj, se mora tudi um potruditi, da doseže ta nova obzorja. Stavim, da bo vsakdo, ki se jeseni postavi na vrh griča, opazil nove razsežnosti ne samo okrog sebe, temveč tudi v sebi.
HAL BORLAND

"Tisti, ki opazuje lepoto Zemlje, najde zaloge moči, ki bodo zdržale, dokler bo trajalo življenje. Koliko simbolične, pa tudi prave lepote je v seljenju ptic, v plimi in oseki bibavice, v zvutih popkih, pripravljenih na pomlad. Nekaj neskončno zdravilnega je v ponavljajočih se pripevih narave - zagotovilo, da po noči pride zora in po zimi pomlad."
RACHEL CARSON (1907-1964)

"Ko bi Zemlja merila v premeru le nekaj čevljev in bi nekje lebdela nekaj čevljev nad nekim poljem, bi jo ljudje prihajali občudovat od vsepovsod... Čudili bi se vsem bitjem, ki bi hodila po površini krogle, in vsem bitjem v vodi. Ljudje bi jo razglasili za sveto, ker bi bila edina, in bi jo zavarovali, da je ne bi nič prizadelo. Krogla bi bila največje znano čudo in ljudje bi prihajali k njej molit, prosit za zdravje, za znanje, spoznavat lepoto in se čuditi, kako je sploh mogoča."
JOE MILLER

"Evolucija nam je pokazala, da nič ne ostane nespremenjeno: celine se pomikajo čez oceane, pragozdovi se spreminjajo v puščave in dinosavri se umikajo svilnatim mravljinčarjem. In če sta nekoč potek evolucije narekovala veter in sonce, je bližnja prihodnost tega planeta v mislih in dejanjih človeka. Uravnoveženost in boj med pohlepom, sočutjem, strahom in razumom bosta odslej odločala o usodi vsega živega na Zemlji."

CHARLES LYNN BRAGG

Narava sama uniči vsakogar, ki ne pozna meja svojih moči.

TONE SVETINA

Le kaj bil bi svet, če oropali bi ga vlage in divjine? Dovoli, dovoli, da ostaneta vlaga in divjina; naj dolgo še žive pleveli in ledina.

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS (1844-1889)

"Narava je bila vedno neomejeno prijazna z nami, človeštvu je pomagala, da se je pojavilo, se dvignilo in okrepilo. Velikodušno nam je dala vse, kar je nakopičila v milijardah let neživega razvoja. Postali smo močni in mogočni, toda kako smo se odzvali na to dobroto?"

JURIJ GLAZKOV

Človek dobroto pozablja, žival nikoli. Človek pozablja tudi zlo, žival nikoli.

TONE SVETINA

Sem samo eden. Pa vendar eden. Vsega ne zmorem, pa vendar nekaj zmorem. In ker ne zmorem vsega, ne bom odklonil, da storim tisto, kar zmorem.

EDWARD HALE (1822-1909)

"Narava tako blago ozdravi vsako rano. Z meditacijo tisočev drobnih mahov in gliv tudi najbolj neugledne stvari zažarijo od lepote."

RUSSELL L. SCHWEICKART

"Drevo, ki nekatere gane do solz radosti, je v očeh drugih samo zelena stvar, ki jim stoji napoti. Nekateri vidijo v Naravi samo smešnost in pokvečenost... Drugi Naravo komaj opazijo."

WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827)

Če človek resnično ljubi naravo, lahko povsod najde lepoto.

VINCENT VAN GOGH (1853-1892)

DANAŠNJE MISLI O NARAVI (Tatjana Malec)

Narava govori v vseh človeških jezikih in jo poganjajo neustavljive sile dobrega, ki se prepoznajo med sabo kot sila ljubezni.

Narava je v davni prižgana žeja, ki razigrano pritrjuje dežju, da sta dva, ki ju spaja ljubezenska vez.

Najstarejši mistični zapis je narava, ki te nauči brati najbolj izvirno abecedo. V njej so zbrane in zapisane vse dobrohotne moči učinka, da se žrtev preoblikuje v življenje.

Narava je zgradila epitafo soncu z zapisi v barvah rož.

Z letnim prirastkom volje narava odene zemljo s svojo praznično obleko in te uči, kako preusmeriti svoje zanimanje k lepemu.

Narava neprestane odpira zlata vrata materialnih stvarim, ki se poduhovijo. Prinaša ti sporočilo, da si tudi ti njena rastoča rastlina.

S svojo tišino se narava odpira zvenu tvojega glasu in mu odgovarja z barvami, ki puščajo sledi dotikov ljubezni.

Svetloba je vez prijateljstva vsega živega v naravi.

V dolgih krčih reke jočejo, da jih obrežja utesnjujejo in da jih narava iztiska v sol.

Užiti naravo v vsej lepoti in darežljivosti njene ljubezni je težje, kot spoznati njene slabosti.

Narava je kljub zamolčanim priložnostim za čudenje, čistejša kot tvoja misel, ki te priložnosti trži.

Narava nosi v sebi skrivnost pesnikove intimne in navdiha, zato ji človek priznava božanskost.

Molk je uspešnica narave, ki se sama udejani, podpre in te molče sprejme vase.

Vsa ta neizmerne energija, ustvarjalna in jalova, napadalna in skrita v silah narave se je stapljala v človeku, ki je postal njeno nasprotje.

Krčeviti boj za obstanek se je spremenil v brezobzirno suverenost za ugodje človeka, zapisanega uničenju narave.

Misli o gozdu http://www.vrbov-log.org/staro/znanje/gozd_misli.htm

Spokojno, nemoteno se blage srne pasejo:

vse, kar potrebujejo,

jim daje gozd - njihov dom.

Ne sla po bogastvu ne zavist

ne oblačita jim dneva.

A to so le živali, mi pa smo modri.

BHARTRIHARI, iz "Pesmi iz sanskrta"

... previsoko ceno plačujemo za tisto, čemur pravimo "napredek".

Ni samo Zemlja tista, ki je plačala ceno naše obsedenosti z industrijskim napredkom, temveč tudi tisti krhki delec nas, ki se odziva na višje vrednote, kakor pa je materialno bogastvo.

JONATHAN PORRIT

Nekoč mi je sova, ptica ostrega sluha, previdna,

s kljunom, polodrasla in veličastna, sedla na prst;

in začutil sem, da mi je njen velikanski,
rumeni pogled vsadil nekaj novega v srce,
globok mir, noro svobodo;
srce se mi je zasmajalo,
ko je ptica dvignila svoja mehka krila.

THORKILD BJORNVIG, iz "Sove"

Po vseh višavah je mir,
po vseh goščavah skoraj nikjer
ne gane se dih;
po gozdu so ptički pospali.

Čakaj le,

kmali boš tudi sam tih.

J.W. GOETHE, Po vseh višavah

Pomirjuoč duha,
globoko v gozdu kaplja voda.

HOSHA

Ljubimo tišino; dovolimo miši, da se igra;
ko pa veter zašumi v gozdovih,
se ne bojimo.

INDIJANSKI POGLAVAR

GUVERNERJU PENSILVANIE, 1796

Podeli mi sposobnost, da bom sam.

Naj postane moja navada,

da grem

vsak dan ven,
med drevje in bilke,
med vse, kar raste,
in tam naj bom sam
in se zatopim v molitev
in se pogovarjam z edinim,
ki mu pripadam.

RABIN NACHMAN

Posebno rad imam majhne hrastove gaje.

Zelo rad jih gledam, ker prestanejo zimske viharje in poletne vročine in ker se - ne drugače kot mi - v njih krepijo.

TATANKA YOTANKA ali

SEDEČI BIK (1834-1890)

Res, ni njegova lepota tista, s katero gozd
priklepa nase človeška srca,
temveč tisti nežni nekaj,
posebni znak, ki veje iz starih dreves,
ki tako čudovito spreminja in obnavlja utrujenega duha.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON (1850-1894)

Drevesa so pesmi, ki jih zemlja piše
na nebo. Mi jih podiramo in jih spreminjamo v papir, da lahko ovekovečimo svojo praznost.

KAHLIL GIBRAN (1883-1931) iz "Peska in pene"

Iztrebljanje gozdov pomeni velikansko grožnjo ekosistemu celotnega planeta. Skupaj s prirodnim okoljem izginjajo rastlinske in živalske vrste, obdelovalne površine so izpostavljene eroziji in lokalno in globalno se kažejo tudi vplivi na podnebje, ki vodijo do hudih suš in poplav. Gozdovi so pljuča našega planeta, saj vsrkavajo

ogljikov dioksid in sproščajo kisik. Zato ima njihovo lokalno uničevanje globalne posledice: zastrupljanje in izginjanje gozdov zadeva vsakogar in nas vse.

PATRICE BOUCHARDON: Zdravilna energija dreves

Tako sem zlagoma hodil, ogledujoč se za kakšnim divjim koščkom gozda, nedotaknjenim prostorom, kjer ne bi bilo nobenega znaka sužnosti in gospodovanja, ki ju ustvarja človek... za skritim krajem, za katerega bi lahko verjel, da sem prvi stopil nanj.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Vsaka steza in vsaka pot ima svojo lastno senzibilnost in duševni obstoj, oblikovana je z zavestjo tistih, ki so jo naredili in uporabljali. Zato imajo nekatere stare ceste močno energijsko osebnost in lahko povzdignejo določena bivanjska stanja ter človeka odprejo navdihu duha tistega kraja.

Nathalie in Michel Vogt, Skrivnosti in legende Renskega gozda

Moj je svet, v katerem je človek spoznal, da ni lastnik narave, ampak njen del. Ravnotežje med človekom in naravo je nujno, če naj se življenje na tem planetu ohrani.
Emanuel Singer, Mehika, Videnja boljšega sveta

Moje besede so zvezane v eno z visokimi gorami, visokimi pečinami, visokimi drevesi, v eno z mojim telesom in mojim srcem.

Molitev jokutskih Indijancev

Gozd lahko zbuja strah. To je odmev davnih spominov človeške vrste, ki jih stopnjuje občutek, da globine gozda predstavljajo globine podzavesti. Navzven se to preobrazi v strah pred tem, da bi se izgubili ali pred nevarnostjo.

Sprehod skozi gozd je primerna priložnost, da vadimo biti v sedanjosti, kar je nujno, če se želimo naučiti in uživati v vsem, kar nas obdaja.

PATRICE BOUCHARDON: Zdravilna energija dreves

Stik z drevesi omogoča neposredno povezavo z bitjo življenja. Gozd v svoji lepoti in moči varuje nekaj, kar je večje od nas ter presega strukturirane sisteme prepričan in vsakdanjih skrbi.

V gozdu je vse, kar vidimo, del življenjskega cikla, zato se tam polagoma bližamo odkritju tega, kar je v nas res živega, svoje biti. Živost v naravi sproži odmev živosti v nas v duhovnem doživetju, ki nas poveže z življenjsko silo.

PATRICE BOUCHARDON: Zdravilna energija dreves

Drevesa v gozdu ponujajo roko v pomoč, a nas hkrati izzivajo, naj postanemo odgovornejši za lastni samorazvoj:
»Pridi in srečaj se z nami, da se boš razvil naprej – a najprej se razvij, da se bomo lahko srečali.«

PATRICE BOUCHARDON: Zdravilna energija dreves

V nobenem gozdu še nisem videl takšnega reda, pravzaprav prareda, kot ravno v pragozdu, kjer opešena drevesa legajo spokojno k počitku. Nasprotno pa je v gospodarskem gozdu vse nastlano z ostanki sečnje in drugih grobosti. Tako sem se ponovno prepričal, da je vir vsega zla v naših gozdovih naš odnos do gozda, ne pa morda »kisli dež«. Le tako lahko ob umiranju gozda nastaja tudi vera v njegovo vstajenje.

IZTOK GEISTER: Gozd skušnjav

Thank God men cannot fly, and lay waste the sky as well as the earth. ~Henry David Thoreau

The sun, the moon and the stars would have disappeared long ago... had they happened to be within the reach of predatory human hands. ~Havelock Ellis, *The Dance of Life*, 1923

There is a sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed.
~Mohandas K. Gandhi

There's so much pollution in the air now that if it weren't for our lungs there'd be no place to put it all. ~Robert Orben

It wasn't the *Exxon Valdez* captain's driving that caused the Alaskan oil spill. It was yours. ~Greenpeace advertisement, *New York Times*, 25 February 1990

Modern technology
Owes ecology
An apology.
~Alan M. Eddison

In America today you can murder land for private profit. You can leave the corpse for all to see, and nobody calls the cops. ~Paul Brooks, *The Pursuit of Wilderness*, 1971

Don't blow it - good planets are hard to find. ~Quoted in *Time*

Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites. ~William Ruckelshaus, *Business Week*, 18 June 1990

When a man throws an empty cigarette package from an automobile, he is liable to a fine of \$50. When a man throws a billboard across a view, he is richly rewarded.
~Pat Brown, quoted in David Ogilvy, *Ogilvy on Advertising*, 1985

Because we don't think about future generations, they will never forget us. ~Henrik Tikkanen

I'm not an environmentalist. I'm an Earth warrior. ~Darryl Cherney, quoted in *Smithsonian*, April 1990

I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend? ~Robert Redford, Yosemite National Park dedication, 1985

Let us a little permit Nature to take her own way; she better understands her own affairs than we. ~Michel de Montaigne, translated

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry. ~Thomas Fuller, *Gnomologia*, 1732

Your grandchildren will likely find it incredible - or even sinful - that you burned up a gallon of gasoline to fetch a pack of cigarettes! ~Paul MacCready, Jr.

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.
~Native American Proverb

There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew. ~Marshall McLuhan, 1964

Newspapers: dead trees with information smeared on them. ~*Horizon*, "Electronic Frontier"

They kill good trees to put out bad newspapers. ~James G. Watt, quoted in *Newsweek*, 8 March 1982

I have no doubt that we will be successful in harnessing the sun's energy.... If sunbeams were weapons of war, we would have had solar energy centuries ago. ~Sir George Porter, quoted in *The Observer*, 26 August 1973

The use of solar energy has not been opened up because the oil industry does not own the sun. ~Ralph Nader, quoted in Linda Botts, ed., *Loose Talk*, 1980

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. ~Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

The earth we abuse and the living things we kill will, in the end, take their revenge; for in exploiting their presence we are diminishing our future. ~Marya Mannes, *More in Anger*, 1958

The packaging for a microwavable "microwave" dinner is programmed for a shelf life of maybe six months, a cook time of two minutes and a landfill dead-time of centuries. ~David Wann, *Buzzworm*, November 1990

So bleak is the picture... that the bulldozer and not the atomic bomb may turn out to be the most destructive invention of the 20th century. ~Philip Shabecoff, *New York Times Magazine*, 4 June 1978

Economic advance is not the same thing as human progress. ~John Clapham, *A Concise Economic History of Britain*, 1957

And Man created the plastic bag and the tin and aluminum can and the cellophane wrapper and the paper plate, and this was good because Man could then take his automobile and buy all his food in one place and He could save that which was good to eat in the refrigerator and throw away that which had no further use. And soon the earth was covered with plastic bags and aluminum cans and paper plates and disposable bottles and there was nowhere to sit down or walk, and Man shook his head and cried: "Look at this Godawful mess." ~Art Buchwald, 1970

The problem is no longer that with every pair of hands that comes into the world there comes a hungry stomach. Rather it is that, attached to those hands are sharp elbows. ~Paul A. Samuelson, *Newsweek*, 12 June 1967

Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them. ~Bill Vaughn

For 200 years we've been conquering Nature. Now we're beating it to death. ~Tom McMillan, quoted in Francesca Lyman, *The Greenhouse Trap*, 1990

If civilization has risen from the Stone Age, it can rise again from the Wastepaper Age. ~Jacques Barzun, *The House of Intellect*, 1959

I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority. ~Elwyn Brooks White, *Essays of E.B. White*, 1977

The insufferable arrogance of human beings to think that Nature was made solely for their benefit, as if it was conceivable that the sun had been set afire merely to ripen men's apples and head their cabbages. ~Savinien de Cyrano de Bergerac, *États et empires de la lune*, 1656

Such is the audacity of man, that he hath learned to counterfeit Nature, yea, and is so bold as to challenge her in her work. ~Pliny the Elder, *The Natural History*, translated by Philemon Holland

Oh Beautiful for smoggy skies, insecticided grain,
For strip-mined mountain's majesty above the asphalt plain.
America, America, man sheds his waste on thee,
And hides the pines with billboard signs, from sea to oily sea.
~George Carlin

A living planet is a much more complex metaphor for deity than just a bigger father with a bigger fist. If an omniscient, all-powerful Dad ignores your prayers, it's taken personally. Hear only silence long enough, and you start wondering about his power. His fairness. His very existence. But if a world mother doesn't reply, Her excuse is simple. She never claimed conceited omnipotence. She has countless others clinging to her apron strings, including myriad species unable to speak for themselves. To Her elder offspring She says - go raid the fridge. Go play outside. Go get a job. Or, better yet, lend me a hand. I have no time for idle whining. ~David Brin

Why do people give each other flowers? To celebrate various important occasions, they're killing living creatures? Why restrict it to plants? "Sweetheart, let's make up. Have this deceased squirrel." ~*The Washington Post*

Till now man has been up against Nature; from now on he will be up against his own nature. ~Dennis Gabor, *Inventing the Future*, 1964

When you defile the pleasant streams
And the wild bird's abiding place,
You massacre a million dreams
And cast your spittle in God's face.
~John Drinkwater

A virgin forest is where the hand of man has never set foot. ~Author Unknown


When a man says to me, "I have the intensest love of nature," at once I know that he has none. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Journals*, 1857

I conceive that the land belongs to a vast family of which many are dead, few are living, and countless numbers are still unborn. ~Author Unknown

When we heal the earth, we heal ourselves. ~David Orr

We cannot command Nature except by obeying her. ~Francis Bacon

There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before. ~Robert Lynd, *The Blue Lion and Other Essays*

 Will urban sprawl spread so far that most people lose all touch with nature? Will the day come when the only bird a typical American child ever sees is a canary in a pet shop window? When the only wild animal he knows is a rat - glimpsed on a night drive through some city slum? When the only tree he touches is the cleverly fabricated plastic evergreen that shades his gifts on Christmas morning? ~Frank N. Ikard, North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Houston, March 1968

How long can men thrive between walls of brick, walking on asphalt pavements, breathing the fumes of coal and of oil, growing, working, dying, with hardly a thought of wind, and sky, and fields of grain, seeing only machine-made beauty, the mineral-like quality of life? ~Charles A. Lindbergh, *Reader's Digest*, November 1939

It is imperative to maintain portions of the wilderness untouched so that a tree will rot where it falls, a waterfall will pour its curve without generating electricity, a trumpeter swan may float on uncontaminated water - and moderns may at least see what their ancestors knew in their nerves and blood. ~Bernand De Voto, *Fortune*, June 1947

Take care of the earth and she will take care of you. ~Author Unknown

We could have saved the Earth but we were too damned cheap. ~Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed; if we permit the last virgin forests to be turned into comic books and plastic cigarette cases; if we drive the few remaining members of the wild species into

zoos or to extinction; if we pollute the last clear air and dirty the last clean streams and push our paved roads through the last of the silence, so that never again will Americans be free in their own country from the noise, the exhausts, the stinks of human and automotive waste. ~Wallace Stegner, letter to David E. Pesonen of the Wildland Research Center, 3 December 1960 (*Thanks, Bekah*)

Waste not the smallest thing created, for grains of sand make mountains, and atoms infinity. ~E. Knight

Opie, you haven't finished your milk. We can't put it back in the cow, you know.
~Aunt Bee Taylor, *The Andy Griffith Show*

The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river. ~Ross Perot

Civilization... wrecks the planet from seafloor to stratosphere. ~Richard Bach

It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.
~Ansel Adams

We say we love flowers, yet we pluck them. We say we love trees, yet we cut them down. And people still wonder why some are afraid when told they are loved.
~Author Unknown

Take nothing but pictures.
Leave nothing but footprints.
Kill nothing but time.
~Motto of the Baltimore Grotto, a caving society

Why should man expect his prayer for mercy to be heard by What is above him when he shows no mercy to what is under him? ~Pierre Troubetzkoy

For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for Nature cannot be fooled. ~Richard P. Feynman

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect. ~Chief Seattle, 1855

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.

~John Muir

You forget that the fruits belong to all and that the land belongs to no one. ~Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discours sur l'origine et les fondements de l'inégalité parmi les hommes*, 1755

Understanding the laws of nature does not mean that we are immune to their operations. ~David Gerrold

Man has lost the capacity to foresee and to forestall. He will end by destroying the earth. ~Albert Schweitzer, quoted in James Brabazon, *Albert Schweitzer*

The mother of the year should be a sterilized woman with two adopted children. ~Paul R. Ehrlich

Man is a blind, witless, low brow, anthropocentric clod who inflicts lesions upon the earth. ~Ian McHarg

Man must feel the earth to know himself and recognize his values.... God made life simple. It is man who complicates it. ~Charles A. Lindbergh, *Reader's Digest*, July 1972

The control man has secured over nature has far outrun his control over himself. ~Ernest Jones, *The Life and Work of Sigmund Freud*, 1953

The old Lakota was wise. He knew that man's heart away from nature becomes hard; he knew that lack of respect for growing, living things soon led to lack of respect for humans too. ~Chief Luther Standing Bear

The magnificence of mountains, the serenity of nature - nothing is safe from the idiot marks of man's passing. ~Loudon Wainwright

Every day is Earth Day. ~Author Unknown

Remember when atmospheric contaminants were romantically called stardust? ~Lane Olinghouse

Nature's laws affirm instead of prohibit. If you violate her laws you are your own prosecuting attorney, judge, jury, and hangman. ~Luther Burbank

Dig a trench through a landfill and you will see layers of phone books like geographical strata or layers of cake.... During a recent landfill dig in Phoenix, I found newspapers dating from 1952 that looked so fresh you might read one over breakfast. ~William Rathje, *The Economist*, 8 September 1990

Environmentalists have long been fond of saying that the sun is the only safe nuclear reactor, situated as it is some ninety-three million miles away. ~Stephanie Mills, ed., *In Praise of Nature*, 1990

How can the spirit of the earth like the white man?... Everywhere the white man has touched it, it is sore. ~Anonymous Wintu Woman

Our environmental problems originate in the hubris of imagining ourselves as the central nervous system or the brain of nature. We're not the brain, we are a cancer on nature. ~Dave Foreman, *Harper's*, April 1990

The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony with human ambition. ~Carl Sagan

The gross heathenism of civilization has generally destroyed nature, and poetry, and all that is spiritual. ~John Muir, letter to J.B. McChesney, 19 September 1871

Every creature is better alive than dead, men and moose and pine trees, and he who understands it aright will rather preserve its life than destroy it. ~Henry David Thoreau, "Chesuncook," *The Maine Woods*, 1848

Man maketh a death which Nature never made. ~Edward Young

It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose, should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. ~Rachel Carson

God forbid that India should ever take to industrialism after the manner of the west... keeping the world in chains. If [our nation] took to similar economic exploitation, it would strip the world bare like locusts. ~Mahatma Gandhi

It is the safest of times, it is the riskiest of times.... What the Dickens is going on here? ~Denton Morrison, on chemicals, technology, and risk, quoted in National Academy of Sciences, *Improving Risk Communication*, 1989

Man is a complex being: he makes deserts bloom - and lakes die. ~Gil Stern

Human consciousness arose but a minute before midnight on the geological clock. Yet we mayflies try to bend an ancient world to our purposes, ignorant perhaps of the messages buried in its long history. Let us hope that we are still in the early morning of our April day. ~Stephen Jay Gould, "Our Allotted Lifetimes," *The Panda's Thumb*, 1980

Humanity is on the march, earth itself is left behind. ~David Ehrenfeld, *The Arrogance of Humanism*, 1978

The American reading his Sunday paper in a state of lazy collapse is perhaps the most perfect symbol of the triumph of quantity over quality.... Whole forests are being ground into pulp daily to minister to our triviality. ~Irving Babbitt

Drive Nature forth by force, she'll turn and rout
The false refinements that would keep her out.
~Horace, *Odes*

Nature always strikes back. It takes all the running we can do to remain in the same place. ~Rene Dubos, *Medical Utopias*, 1961

In its broadest ecological context, economic development is the development of more intensive ways of exploiting the natural environment. ~Richard Wilkinson

Ironically, rural America has become viewed by a growing number of Americans as having a higher [quality of life] not because of what it has, but rather because of what it does not have! ~Don A. Dillman, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, January 1977

We have been god-like in the planned breeding of our domesticated plants, but rabbit-like in the unplanned breeding of ourselves. ~Arnold Toynbee

Human destiny is bound to remain a gamble, because at some unpredictable time and in some unforeseeable manner nature will strike back. ~Rene Dubos, *Mirage of Health*, 1959

Time and space - time to be alone, space to move about - these may well become the great scarcities of tomorrow. ~Edwin Way Teale, *Autumn Across America*, 1956

Waste is a tax on the whole people. ~Albert W. Atwood

It appears to be a law that you cannot have a deep sympathy with both man and nature. ~Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*, 1854

The rose has thorns only for those who would gather it. ~Chinese Proverb

Soon silence will have passed into legend. Man has turned his back on silence. Day after day he invents machines and devices that increase noise and distract humanity from the essence of life, contemplation, meditation... tooting, howling, screeching, booming, crashing, whistling, grinding, and trilling bolster his ego. His anxiety subsides. His inhuman void spreads monstrously like a gray vegetation. ~Jean Arp

We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive.
~Albert Einstein

Man has been endowed with reason, with the power to create, so that he can add to what he's been given. But up to now he hasn't been a creator, only a destroyer. Forests keep disappearing, rivers dry up, wild life's become extinct, the climate's ruined and the land grows poorer and uglier every day. ~Anton Chekhov, *Uncle Vanya*, 1897

A human being is part of the whole, called by us "Universe," a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest - a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole [of] nature in its beauty. ~Albert Einstein, 1950

A margin of life is developed by Nature for all living things - including man. All life forms obey Nature's demands - except man, who has found ways of ignoring them.
~Eugene M. Poirot, *Our Margin of Life*, 1978

When you use a manual push mower, you're "cutting" down on pollution and the only thing in danger of running out of gas is you! ~Grey Livingston

After a visit to the beach, it's hard to believe that we live in a material world. ~Pam Shaw

As we watch the sun go down, evening after evening, through the smog across the poisoned waters of our native earth, we must ask ourselves seriously whether we really wish some future universal historian on another planet to say about us: "With all their genius and with all their skill, they ran out of foresight and air and food and water and ideas," or, "They went on playing politics until their world collapsed around them." ~U Thant, speech, 1970

The command "Be fruitful and multiply" was promulgated, according to our authorities, when the population of the world consisted of two people. ~William Ralph Inge, *More Lay Thoughts of a Dean*, 1931

Christianity, with its roots in Judaism, was a major factor in the development of the Western worldview.... A basic Christian belief was that God gave humans dominion over creation, with the freedom to use the environment as they saw fit. Another important Judeo-Christian belief predicted that God would bring a cataclysmic end to the Earth sometime in the future. One interpretation of this belief is that the Earth is only a temporary way station on the soul's journey to the afterlife. Because these beliefs tended to devalue the natural world, they fostered attitudes and behaviors that had a negative effect on the environment. ~Donald G. Kaufman and Cecilia M. Franz, *Biosphere 2000: Protecting Our Global Environment*, 1996

For the first time in the history of the world, every human being is now subjected to contact with dangerous chemicals, from the moment of conception until death. ~Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, 1962

I realized that Eastern thought had somewhat more compassion for all living things. Man was a form of life that in another reincarnation might possibly be a horsefly or a bird of paradise or a deer. So a man of such a faith, looking at animals, might be looking at old friends or ancestors. In the East the wilderness has no evil connotation; it is thought of as an expression of the unity and harmony of the universe. ~William O. Douglas, *Go East, Young Man*, 1974

If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos. ~Edward O. Wilson

Malthus has been buried many times, and Malthusian scarcity with him. But as Garrett Hardin remarked, anyone who has to be reburied so often cannot be entirely dead. ~Herman E. Daly, *Steady-State Economics*, 1977

The human race will be the cancer of the planet. ~Julian Huxley, attributed

Man will survive as a species for one reason: He can adapt to the destructive effects

of our power-intoxicated technology and of our ungoverned population growth, to the dirt, pollution and noise of a New York or Tokyo. And that is the tragedy. It is not man the ecological crisis threatens to destroy but the quality of human life. ~René Dubos, quoted in *Life*, 28 July 1970

One of the first laws against air pollution came in 1300 when King Edward I decreed the death penalty for burning of coal. At least one execution for that offense is recorded. But economics triumphed over health considerations, and air pollution became an appalling problem in England. ~Glenn T. Seaborg, Atomic Energy Commission chairman, speech, Argonne National Laboratory, 1969

Our children may save us if they are taught to care properly for the planet; but if not, it may be back to the Ice Age or the caves from where we first emerged. Then we'll have to view the universe above from a cold, dark place. No more jet skis, nuclear weapons, plastic crap, broken pay phones, drugs, cars, waffle irons, or television. Come to think of it, that might not be a bad idea. ~Jimmy Buffet, *Mother Earth News*, March-April 1990

Racial injustice, war, urban blight, and environmental rape have a common denominator in our exploitative economic system. ~Channing E. Phillips, speech, Washington, D.C., 22 April 1970

The days a man spends fishing or spends hunting should not be deducted from the time that he's on earth. In other words, if I fish today, that should be added to the amount of time I get to live. That's the way I look at recreation. That's why I'll be a big conservation, environmental President, because I plan to fish and hunt as much as I possibly can. ~George Bush, quoted in *Los Angeles Times*, 30 December 1988

The desire to build a risk-free society has always been a sign of decadence. It has meant that the nation has given up, that it no longer believes in its destiny, that it has ceased to aspire to greatness, and has retired from history to pet itself. ~Henry Fairlie, quoted in *Conservation Foundation Letter*, November 1981

The exquisite sight, sound, and smell of wilderness is many times more powerful if it is earned through physical achievement, if it comes at the end of a long and fatiguing trip for which vigorous good health is necessary. Practically speaking, this means that no one should be able to enter a wilderness by mechanical means. ~Garrett Hardin, *The Ecologist*, February 1974

The struggle to save the global environment is in one way much more difficult than the struggle to vanquish Hitler, for this time the war is with ourselves. We are the enemy, just as we have only ourselves as allies. ~Al Gore

Give a man a fish, and he can eat for a day. But teach a man how to fish, and he'll be dead of mercury poisoning inside of three years. ~Charles Haas

You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of your grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves. ~Native American Wisdom

The system of nature, of which man is a part, tends to be self-balancing, self-adjusting, self-cleansing. Not so with technology. ~E.F. Schumacher, *Small is Beautiful*, 1973

The tourist business is a trap, it is a tainted honey;
Man clearly should have stayed in bed, and not invented money.
~Kenneth E. Boulding, "The Ballad of Ecological Awareness," in M. Taghi Farvar and John P. Milton, eds., *The Careless Technology*, 1972

There is hope if people will begin to awaken that spiritual part of themselves, that heartfelt knowledge that we are caretakers of this planet. ~Brooke Medicine Eagle

This is a beautiful planet and not at all fragile. Earth can withstand significant volcanic eruptions, tectonic cataclysms, and ice ages. But this canny, intelligent, prolific, and extremely self-centered human creature had proven himself capable of more destruction of life than Mother Nature herself.... We've got to be stopped.
~Michael L. Fischer, *Harper's*, July 1990

Those who wish to pet and baby wild animals "love" them. But those who respect their natures and wish to let them live normal lives, love them more. ~Edwin Way Teale, *Circle of the Seasons*, 1953

To live a pure unselfish life, one must count nothing as one's own in the midst of abundance. ~Buddha

To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed. ~Theodore Roosevelt, seventh annual message, 3 December 1907

Today's world is one in which the age-old risks of humankind - the drought, floods, communicable diseases - are less of a problem than ever before. They have been replaced by risks of humanity's own making - the unintended side-effects of beneficial

technologies and the intended effects of the technologies of war. Society must hope that the world's ability to assess and manage risks will keep pace with its ability to create them. ~J. Clarence Davies, quoted in Conservation Foundation, *State of the Environment: An Assessment at Mid-Decade*, 1984

U.S. consumers and industry dispose of enough aluminum to rebuild the commercial air fleet every three months; enough iron and steel to continuously supply all automakers; enough glass to fill New York's World Trade Center every two weeks. ~Environmental Defense Fund advertisement, *Christian Science Monitor*, 1990

Water flows uphill towards money. ~Anonymous, saying in the American West, quoted by Ivan Doig in Marc Reisner, *Cadillac Desert*, 1986

Living in the midst of abundance we have the greatest difficulty in seeing that the supply of natural wealth is limited and that the constant increase of population is destined to reduce the American standard of living unless we deal more sanely with our resources. ~W.H. Carothers

We have always had reluctance to see a tract of land which is empty of men as anything but a void. The "waste howling wilderness" of Deuteronomy is typical. The Oxford Dictionary defines wilderness as wild or uncultivated land which is occupied "only" by wild animals. Places not used by us are "wastes." Areas not occupied by us are "desolate." Could the desolation be in the soul of man? ~John A. Livingston, in Borden Spears, ed., *Wilderness Canada*, 1970

We must not be forced to explore the universe in search of a new home because we have made the Earth inhospitable, even uninhabitable. For if we do not solve the environmental and related social problems that beset us on Earth - pollution, toxic contamination, resource depletion, prejudice, poverty, hunger - those problems will surely accompany us to other worlds. ~Donald G. Kaufman and Cecilia M. Franz, *Biosphere 2000: Protecting Our Global Environment*, 1996

Our modern industrial economy takes a mountain covered with trees, lakes, running streams and transforms it into a mountain of junk, garbage, slime pits, and debris. ~Edward Abbey

We shall continue to have a worsening ecologic crisis until we reject the Christian axiom that nature has no reason for existence save to serve man. ~Lynn White, Jr., "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis," 1967

The victory of Christianity over paganism was the greatest psychic revolution in the history of our culture. By destroying pagan animism, Christianity made it possible to exploit nature in a mood of indifference to the feelings of natural objects. ~Lynn I.

White, Jr., *Science*, 10 March 1967

The word "wilderness" occurs approximately three hundred times in the Bible, and all its meanings are derogatory. ~René Dubos, *The Wooing of Earth*, 1980

We're finally going to get the bill for the Industrial Age. If the projections are right, it's going to be a big one: the ecological collapse of the planet. ~Jeremy Rifkin, *World Press Review*, 30 December 1989

Western society has accepted as unquestionable a technological imperative that is quite as arbitrary as the most primitive taboo: not merely the duty to foster invention and constantly to create technological novelties, but equally the duty to surrender to these novelties unconditionally, just because they are offered, without respect to their human consequences. ~Lewis Mumford

When a man wantonly destroys one of the works of man we call him a vandal. When he destroys one of the works of god we call him a sportsman. ~Joseph Wood Krutch

When some high-sounding institute states that a compound is harmless or a process free of risk, it is wise to know whence the institute or the scientists who work there obtain their financial support. ~*Lancet*, editorial on the "medical-industrial complex," 1973

When we Indians kill meat, we eat it all up.... When we build houses, we make little holes. When we burn grass for grasshoppers, we don't ruin things. We shake down acorns and pinenuts. We don't chop down the trees. ~Wintu Indian, quoted in Julian Burger, *The Gaia Atlas of First Peoples*, 1990

We have to shift our emphasis from economic efficiency and materialism towards a sustainable quality of life and to healing of our society, of our people and our ecological systems. ~Janet Holmes à Court

With laissez-faire and price atomic,
Ecology's Uneconomic,
But with another kind of logic
Economy's Unecologic.

~Kenneth E. Boulding, in Frank F. Darling and John P. Milton, eds., *Future Environments of North America*, 1966

You go into a community and they will vote 80 percent to 20 percent in favor of a tougher Clean Air Act, but if you ask them to devote 20 minutes a year to having their car emissions inspected, they will vote 80 to 20 against it. We are a long way in this

country from taking individual responsibility for the environmental problem.
~William D. Ruckelshaus, former EPA administrator, *New York Times*, 30 November 1988

Zoos are becoming facsimiles - or perhaps caricatures - of how animals once were in their natural habitat. If the right policies toward nature were pursued, we would need no zoos at all. ~Michael Fox, *Sierra*, November-December 1990

Loyd: "It has to do with keeping things in balance. It's like the spirits have made a deal with us. We're on our own. The spirits have been good enough to let us live here and use the utilities, and we're saying: We know how nice you're being. We appreciate the rain, we appreciate the sun, we appreciate the deer we took. Sorry if we messed up anything. You've gone to a lot of trouble, and we'll try to be good guests."

Codi: "Like a note you'd send somebody after you'd stayed in their house?"

Loyd: "Exactly like that. "Thanks for letting me sleep on your couch. I took some beer out of the refrigerator, and I broke a coffee cup. Sorry, I hope it wasn't your favorite one."

~Barbara Kingsolver, *Animal Dreams*

To people who think of themselves as God's houseguests, American enterprise must seem arrogant beyond belief. Or stupid. A nation of amnesiacs, proceeding as if there were no other day but today. Assuming the land could also forget what had been done to it. ~Barbara Kingsolver, *Animal Dreams*

In an underdeveloped country, don't drink the water; in a developed country, don't breathe the air. ~*Changing Times* magazine

The Wonder & Magic of Nature

Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet
and the winds long to play with your hair.

~ *Kahlil Gibran* ~



Fieldes have eies and woods have eares.

~ *John Heywood, 1565* ~



To find the universal elements enough;
to find the air and the water exhilarating;
to be refreshed by a morning walk
or an evening saunter;
to be thrilled by the stars at night;
to be elated over a bird's nest
or a wildflower in spring

- these are some of the rewards of the simple life.

~ *John Burroughs, Naturalist (1837-1921)* ~



If one way be better than another,
that you may be sure is Nature's way.

~ *Aristotle - Nichomachean Ethics* ~



There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society, where none intrudes,
By the deep sea, and music in its roar:

I love not man the less, but Nature more.
~ George Gordon, Lord Byron
from 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage' ~



God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone,
but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars.
~ Martin Luther ~



Nature does not hurry,
yet everything is accomplished.
~ Lao Tzu ~



Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth
are never alone or weary of life.
~ Rachel Carson ~



In wilderness I sense the miracle of life,
and behind it our scientific accomplishments fade to trivia.
~ Charles A. Lindbergh,
from 'Life', 22 December 1967 ~



What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet,

Long live the weeds and the wildness yet.
~ Gerard Manley Hopkins, *Inversnaid* ~



Look deep into nature,
and then you will understand everything better.
~ Albert Einstein ~



Nature is the art of God.
~ Thomas Browne, *Religio Medici*, 1635 ~



If the sight of the blue skies fills you with joy,
if a blade of grass springing up in the fields has power to move you,
if the simple things of nature have a message that you understand,
rejoice, for your soul is alive.
~ Eleonora Duse ~



I remember a hundred lovely lakes,
and recall the fragrant breath of pine and fir
and cedar and poplar trees.
The trail has strung upon it, as upon a thread of silk,
opalescent dawns and saffron sunsets.
It has given me blessed release from care and worry
and the troubled thinking of our modern day.
It has been a return to the primitive and the peaceful.
Whenever the pressure of our complex city life
thins my blood and benumbs my brain,
I seek relief in the trail;
and when I hear the coyote wailing to the yellow dawn,
my cares fall from me

- I am happy.
~ Hamlin Garland - McClure's, February 1899 ~



The woods were made for the hunters of dreams,
The brooks for the fishers of song;
To the hunters who hunt for the gunless game
The streams and the woods belong.
~ Sam Walter Foss ~



We cannot command Nature except by obeying her.
~ Francis Bacon ~



Trees Are Precious

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.
~ Joyce Kilmer
from 'Trees', 1914 ~



I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall,
I'll never see a tree at all.
~ *Ogden Nash*
from 'Song of the Open Road', 1933 ~



God is the experience of looking at a tree and saying, "Ah!"
~ *Joseph Campbell* ~



When you enter a grove peopled with ancient trees,
higher than
the ordinary, and shutting out the sky
with their thickly inter-twined branches,
do not the stately shadows of the wood,
the stillness of the place,
and the awful gloom of this doomed cavern
then strike you with the presence of a deity?
~ *Seneca* ~



It is not so much for its beauty
that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts,
as for that subtle something,
that quality of air that emanation from old trees,
that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.
~ *Robert Louis Stevenson* ~



Trees are poems that earth writes upon the sky,
We fell them down and turn them into paper,
That we may record our emptiness.
~ *Kahlil Gibran* ~



The creation of a thousand forests
is in one acorn.
~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson* ~



For in the true nature of things,
if we rightly consider,
every green tree is far more glorious
than if it were made of gold and silver. ~
~ *Martin Luther King* ~



Who leaves the pine-tree, leaves his friend,
Unnerves his strength, invites his end.
~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*,
from 'Woodnotes' ~



I willingly confess to so great a partiality for trees
as tempts me to respect a man
in exact proportion to his respect for them.
~ *James Russell Lowell* ~



The oaks and the pines, and their brethren of the wood,
have seen so many suns rise and set, so many seasons come and go,
and so many generations pass into silence,
that we may well wonder what "the story of the trees" would be to us
if they had tongues to tell it, or we ears fine enough to understand.

~ *Author Unknown*,

quoted in Quotations for Special Occasions by Maud van Buren, 1938 ~



Alone with myself
The trees bend to caress me
The shade hugs my heart
~ *Candy Polgar* ~



He that planteth a tree is a servant of God,
he provideth a kindness for many generations,
and faces that he hath not seen shall bless him.

~ *Henry Van Dyke* ~



I am not bound for any public place,
but for ground of my own
where I have planted vines and orchard trees,
and in the heat of the day
climbed up into the healing shadow of the woods.
Better than any argument
is to rise at dawn and pick dew-wet red berries in a cup.
~ *Wendell Berry* ~



To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass
is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.

~ *Helen Keller* ~



He who plants a tree
Plants a hope.

~*Lucy Larcom, from 'Plant a Tree'* ~



Caring for Our Environment

There is hope
if people will begin to awaken that spiritual part of themselves,
that heartfelt knowledge
that we are caretakers of this planet.

~ *Brooke Medicine Eagle* ~



Every creature is better alive than dead,
men and moose and pine trees,
and he who understands it aright
will rather preserve its life than destroy it.

~ *Henry David Thoreau,*
from 'Chesuncook' The Maine Woods, 1848 ~



The struggle to save the global environment is in one way
much more difficult than the struggle to vanquish Hitler,
for this time the war is with ourselves.

We are the enemy, just as we have only ourselves as allies.

~ Al Gore ~



Our children may save us
if they are taught to care properly for the planet;
but if not, it may be back to the Ice Age or the caves
from where we first emerged.

Then we'll have to view the universe above
from a cold, dark place.

No more jet skis, nuclear weapons, plastic crap,
broken pay phones,
drugs, cars, waffle irons, or television.

Come to think of it, that might not be a bad idea.

~ Jimmy Buffet

from 'Mother Earth News' March-April 1990 ~



A human being is part of the whole,
called by us "Universe,"

a part limited in time and space.

He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings
as something separated from the rest

- a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness.

This delusion is a kind of prison for us,
restricting us to our personal desires and
to affection for a few persons nearest to us.

Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison
by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures
and the whole of nature in its beauty.

~ Albert Einstein, 1950 ~



It is imperative to maintain portions of the wilderness untouched
so that a tree will rot where it falls,
a waterfall will pour its curve without generating electricity,
a trumpeter swan may float on uncontaminated water
- and moderns may at least see
what their ancestors knew in their nerves and blood.
~ *Bernard De Voto, Fortune, June 1947* ~



Oh Beautiful for smoggy skies, insecticided grain,
For strip-mined mountain's majesty above the asphalt plain.
America, America, man sheds his waste on thee,
And hides the pines with billboard signs, from sea to oily sea.
~ *George Carlin* ~



Man has been endowed with reason, with the power to create,
so that he can add to what he's been given.
But up to now he hasn't been a creator, only a destroyer.
Forests keep disappearing, rivers dry up, wild life's become extinct,
the climate's ruined and the land grows poorer and uglier every day.
~ *Anton Chekhov*
'Uncle Vanya' 1897 ~



We must not be forced to explore the universe in
search of a new home
because we have made the Earth inhospitable, even
uninhabitable.
For if we do not solve the environmental and related
social problems
that beset us on Earth - pollution, toxic

contamination,
resource depletion, prejudice, poverty, hunger
- those problems will surely accompany us to other worlds.

~ Donald G. Kaufman and Cecilia M. Franz

from 'Biosphere 2000: Protecting Our Global Environment' 1996 ~



Something will have gone out of us as a people
if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed;
if we permit the last virgin forests to be turned into
comic books and plastic cigarette cases;
if we drive the few remaining members of the wild species
into zoos or to extinction;
if we pollute the last clear air and dirty the last clean streams
and push our paved roads through the last of the silence,
so that never again will Americans be free in their own country
from the noise, the exhausts, the stinks of human and automotive waste.

~ Wallace Stegner,

letter to David E. Pesonen of the Wildland Research Center,

3 December 1960 ~



To waste, to destroy our natural resources,
to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness,
will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity
which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.

~Theodore Roosevelt,

7th Annual Message, 3 December 1907 ~



We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.

~ Thomas Fuller

'Gnomologia' 1732 ~



Will urban sprawl spread so far that most people lose all touch with nature?

Will the day come when the only bird a typical American child ever sees
is a canary in a pet shop window?

When the only wild animal he knows is a rat -
glimpsed on a night drive through some city slum?

When the only tree he touches
is the cleverly fabricated plastic evergreen
that shades his gifts on Christmas morning?

~ Frank N. Ikard,

*North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference,
Houston, March 1968 ~*



The earth we abuse and the living things we kill
will, in the end, take their revenge;
for in exploiting their presence we are diminishing our future.

~ Marya Mannes 'More in Anger' 1958 ~



How long can men thrive between walls of brick,
walking on asphalt pavements,
breathing the fumes of coal and of oil,
growing, working, dying,
with hardly a thought of wind, and sky, and fields of grain, seeing only machine-made beauty,
the mineral-like quality of life?

~ Charles A. Lindbergh,
Reader's Digest, November 1939 ~



EARTH DAY PRAYER

O GOD,

we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, and rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

GRANT US a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thornbush is aflame with your glory.

Vtipkaj environment quotes