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NATURE'S SUPREME DESIRE.

MAN is a product of nature. Nature is the great ocean of intelligence in which we are bathed. It is the Spirit of Life that is everywhere manifest—in animals, birds, bees, butterflies, trees, plants, flowers, and even in the rocks.

We are strong only as we lay hold on the forces of nature, and move with them. Happiness, health, efficiency, and long life are possible only to the individual who obeys the laws of nature. All our difficulties, heartaches, tears and fears and diseases come from violation of nature's rules.

If a man is sent to the penitentiary, it is because he has broken the laws of the land. If he is sent to the hospital, it is because he has violated the laws of nature. In case of being sent to the penitentiary, the man is disgraced, and his one wish is to have society forget. In case he is sent to the hospital, he is supplied a topic of conversation, and often is boastful.

To violate the laws of nature marks the man as criminal just as much as if he violated the laws of the state. And the world is rapidly coming to this view. As man evolves out of savagery, the manifestations of nature alarm him and fill his soul with fear. He gives personality to the elements, and talks of the God of thunder, of lightning, of the rain, the wind, the snow. And these things are appealed to in an endeavor to placate, cajole and propitiate. Here we get the basis of all superstition.

Later, instead of praying for rain, we build irrigating ditches, and lo, the prayers of labor are answered. And the desert blossoms like the rose, and the waste places are made green.

From fearing the lightnings and trembling in dread and awe, we harness the electric current, and, in fact, produce it at will.

So we get the proposition: First, we fear nature; next, in degree, we understand nature; then we manipulate nature and think for her; and finally we control nature.

The desire of nature is to produce a seeing eye and an understanding heart, and nature never yet betrayed the heart that loved her.

It is nature that plants in the mother-heart the love that is forever loyal, that cares for the unborn babe, feeds it, watches over it, fights for it, protects it, teaches and loves it, not only into being, but into manhood. And nature is with us in old age, and sings us to sleep with a lullaby, as we dream again the dreams of childhood.

At times man has substituted his intellect for nature's promptings. Intellect is a bright blade, newly discovered, which so far man has not fully accustomed himself to. And so, instead of using intellect for his advancement, he has used it to his disadvantage and has cut himself with the tool that was designed to serve him.

Nature rewards her votaries with every blessing. She penalizes those who disregard her, flout her and despise her, and for them misery and woe await. And these things are now being proclaimed from all pulpits and all schools and colleges.

This general reverence of nature, now everywhere in evidence, is slowly but surely evolving a new race. It presages that nature's wish to be loved and understood will eventually be achieved.

What man's life will be when, as a people, we have studied the laws of nature and learned to obey them automatically and through habit, no man can possibly say. And when, at last, nature has produced a being that is a part of herself and yet seemingly stands outside of herself and understands her and loves her, the object of the universe, seemingly, will have been attained.

A complete understanding of nature would be Omnipotence. A man is a god in the chrysalis. And it doth not yet appear what we shall be.—*Elbert Hubbard.*