Nature

If you wish to know the divine,
feel the wind on your face and the warm sun
on your hand.
(Buddha)

Some keep the Sabbath going to Church,
I keep it staying at Home –
With a bobolink for a Chorister,
And an Orchard, for a Dome.
(Emily Dickinson)
Whether you like it or not, whether you know it or not, secretly nature seeks, hunts, tries to ferret out the track on which God may be found. 
(Meister Eckhart)

![The Grand Canyon](image)

Nature had devised a grand plan leading toward perfection. Life itself is one lengthy march to such an ideal…
(Shantidasa)
I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright.
(Henry David Thoreau)

The goal of life is to make your heartbeat match the beat of the universe, to match your nature with Nature.
(Joseph Campbell)
Earth’s crammed with heaven,  
and every common bush afire with God.  
(Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

Nature is too thin a screen;  
The glory of the omnipresent God  
bursts through everywhere.  
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)
The experience of being one with nature in which everything hangs together is the oldest form of mysticism. (Bruno Borchert)

It was like entering into another world, a new state of existence. Natural objects were glorified. My spiritual vision was so clarified that I saw beauty in every material object in the universe. The woods were vocal with heavenly music. Oh, how I was changed! Everything became new. My horses and hogs and everybody became changed! When I went in the morning into the fields to work the glory of God appeared in all His visible creation. I well remember we reaped oats, and how every straw and head of the oats seemed, as it were, arrayed in a kind of rainbow glory, or to glow, if I may so express it, in the glory of God. (Starbuck)
The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw – and knew I saw – all things in God and God in all things.

(Mechthild of Magdebur)

I’ve always regarded nature as the clothing of God.

(Alan Hovhaness)
Nature is the art of God.
(Thomas Browne)

There was a time when meadow, grove, and stream, the earth, and every common sight, to me did seem appareled in celestial light, the glory and the freshness of a dream.
(William Wordsworth)
Nothing is void of God; He Himself fills His work.
(Seneca)

My profession is to always find God in nature.
(Henry David Thoreau)
The fullness of joy
is to behold God in everything.
(Julian of Norwich)

I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station,
through which God speaks to us every hour,
if we will only tune in.
(George Washington Carver)
I believe in God, only I spell it Nature.
(Frank Lloyd Wright)

I can find God in nature, in animals, in birds and the environment.
(Pat Buckley)
We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature – trees, flowers, grass – grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. We need silence to be able to touch souls.

(Mother Teresa)

Forests, lakes and rivers, clouds and winds, stars and flowers, stupendous glaciers and crystal snowflakes – every form of animate or inanimate existence, leaves its impress upon the soul of man.

(Orison Swett Marden)
We know that God is everywhere; but certainly we feel His presence most when His works are on the grandest scale spread before us; and it is in the unclouded night-sky, where His worlds wheel their silent course, that we read clearest His infinitude, His omnipotence, His omnipresence. (Charlotte Bronte)

I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God. (Abraham Lincoln)
The color of the mountains is Buddha's body;
The sound of running water is his great speech.
(Dogen)

The mind, in proportion as it is cut off from free communication with nature,
with revelation, with God, with itself, loses its life, just as the body droops
when debarred from the air and the cheering light from heaven.
(William Channing)
Look at the trees, look at the birds, look at the clouds, look at the stars... and if you have eyes you will be able to see that the whole existence is joyful. Everything is simply happy. Trees are happy for no reason; they are not going to become prime ministers or presidents and they are not going to become rich and they will never have any bank balance. Look at the flowers – it is simply unbelievable how happy flowers are.

(Osho)

I experienced this state from the evening prayer until one third of the night was over, and I heard the voices of the creatures in the praise of God, with elevated voices so that I feared for my mind. I heard the fish who said, “Praised be the King, the most holy, the Lord.”

(Dhu-L-Nun)
Wilderness is not a luxury
but a necessity of the human spirit.
(Edward Abbey)

To one who has been long in city pent,
'Tis very sweet to look into the fair
And open face of heaven, to breathe a prayer
Full in the smile of the blue firmament.
(John Keats)
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)

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

(Kahlil Gibran)
Life is full of beauty. Notice it. Notice the bumble bee, the small child, and the smiling faces. Smell the rain, and feel the wind. Live your life to the fullest potential, and fight for your dreams. (Ashley Smith)

Let the rain kiss you.
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops.
Let the rain sing you a lullaby.
(Langston Hughes)
Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.

(John Ruskin)

Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth.

(Henry David Thoreau)
If you only sit and reflect on the wonders of nature, you will gradually begin to feel that everything happens by divine will and power.

(Papa Ramdas)

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

(John Muir)
I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.  
(John Muir)

An early morning walk is a blessing for the whole day.  
(Henry David Thoreau)
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)

Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books, for they speak with the voice of God.

(George Washington Carver)
Ah, dear nature, the mere remembrance, after a short forgetfulness, of the pine woods! I come to it as a hungry man to a crust of bread. (Henry David Thoreau)

I think that I cannot preserve my health and spirits, unless I spend four hours a day at least – and it is commonly more than that – sauntering through the woods and over the hills and fields, absolutely free from all worldly engagements. (Henry David Thoreau)
The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness. (John Muir)

The more civilized man becomes, the more he needs and craves a great background of forest wildness, to which he may return like a contrite prodigal from the husks of an artificial life. (Ellen Burns Sherman)
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.

(Lord Byron)

Nothing is more beautiful
than the loveliness of the woods before sunrise.

(George Washington Carver)
I go to nature to be soothed and healed,
and to have my senses put in order.
(John Burroughs)

Where a love of natural beauty has been cultivated,
all nature becomes a stupendous gallery, as much superior in form
and in coloring to the choicest collections of human art, as the heavens
are broader and loftier than the Louvre or the Vatican.
(Horace Mann)
Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time. (John Lubbock)

To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug. (Helen Keller)
Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful; for beauty is God’s handwriting - a wayside sacrament. Welcome it in every fair face, in every fair sky, in every fair flower, and thank God for it as a cup of blessing.  
( Ralph Waldo Emerson)

A thing of beauty is a joy forever.  
(John Keats)
If you truly love Nature, you will find beauty everywhere.
(Vincent Van Gogh)

In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.
(Aristotle)
I believe a leaf of grass
is no less than the journey-work of the stars.
(Walt Whitman)

Look deep into nature,
and then you will understand everything better.
(Albert Einstein)
To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.
(William Blake)

The tree which moves some to tears of joy
is in the eyes of others only a green thing
that stands in the way. Some see nature all ridicule
and deformity and some scarce see nature at all.
But to the eyes of the man of imagination,
nature is imagination itself.
(William Blake)
If the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would appear to man as it is – infinite.
(William Blake)

Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.
(Nathaniel Hawthorne)
Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own; and from morning to night, as from the cradle to the grave, is a succession of changes so gentle and easy we can scarcely mark their progress. (Charles Dickens)

To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring. (George Santayana)
What good is the warmth of summer,
without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.
(John Steinbeck)

O summer day beside the joyous sea! O summer day so wonderful and white,
so full of gladness and so full of pain! Forever and forever shalt thou be to some
the gravestone of a dead delight, to some the landmark of a new domain.
(Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)
Autumn, the year’s last, loveliest smile.
(William Cullen Bryant)

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
(Albert Camus)
I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, “Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again.”

(Louis Carroll)

The snow itself is lonely or, if you prefer, self-sufficient. There is no other time when the whole world seems composed of one thing and one thing only.

((Joseph Wood Krutch)
God had done me a singular favor in that in the winter, seeing a tree stripped of its leaves, and considering that within a little time the leaves would be renewed, and after that the flower and fruit appear, I received a high view of the providence and Power of God which never left my soul.
(Brother Lawrence)

The ground we walk on, the plants and creatures, the clouds above constantly dissolving into new formations - each gift of nature possessing its own radiant energy, bound together by cosmic harmony.
(Ruth Bernhard)
Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"
(Robin Williams)

If spring came but once a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all the hearts to behold the miraculous change.
(Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)
Everything is blooming most recklessly; if it were voices instead of colors, there would be an unbelievable shrieking into the heart of the night. (Rainer Maria Rilke)

People from a planet without flowers would think we must be mad with joy the whole time to have such things about us. (Iris Murdoch)
If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly, our whole life would change.
(Buddha)

I never had any other desire so strong, and so like covetousness, as that I might be master at last of a small house and a large garden, with very moderate conveniences joined to them, and there dedicate the remainder of my life to the culture of them and the study of nature.
(Abraham Cowley)
Trees are the earth's endless effort to speak to the listening heaven.
(Rabindranath Tagore)

I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do.
(Willa Cather)
The sea is everything. It covers seven tenths of the terrestrial globe. Its breath is pure and healthy. It is an immense desert, where man is never lonely, for he feels life stirring on all sides.

(Jules Verne)

What makes a river so restful to people is that it doesn't have any doubt – it is sure to get where it is going, and it doesn't want to go anywhere else.

(Hal Boyle)
Does every creature have a soul? Surely they do; for anything God has touched will have life forever, and all creatures He has held.
(Saint Francis of Assisi)

If the extension of your compassion does not include all living beings, then you will be unable to find peace by yourself.
(Albert Schweitzer)
I think I could turn and live with animals,
They are so placid and self-contain'd,
I stand and look at them long and long.
They do not sweat and whine about their condition,
They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins,
They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God,
Not one is dissatisfied, not one is demented with the mania of owning things,
Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that lived thousands of years ago,
Not one is respectable or unhappy over the whole earth.

(Walt Whitman)

Did you ever see an unhappy horse? Did you ever see a bird that had the blues?
One reason why birds and horses are not unhappy is because they are not trying to impress other birds and horses.

(Dale Carnegie)
Birds initially had no desire to fly, what really happened was this: God once sat close to them playing music. When He left they missed Him so much their great longing sprouted wings, needing to search the sky. Listen, nothing evolves us like love.

(Hafiz)

The birds’ favorite songs you do not hear, for their most flamboyant music takes place when their wings are stretched above the trees and they are smoking the opium of pure freedom.

I once asked a bird, “How is it that you fly in this gravity of darkness?” She responded, “Love lifts me.”

(Hafiz)
I could not have slept tonight
if I had left that helpless little creature to perish on the ground.
(Abraham Lincoln)
(Reply to friends who chided him for delaying them
by stopping to return a fledgling to its nest.)

The good man is the friend of all living things.
(Mahatma Gandhi)
Watching birds has become part of my daily meditation affirming my connection to the earth body.  
(Carol P. Christ)

The bird has an honor that man does not have.  
Man lives in the traps of his abdicated laws and traditions, but the birds live according to the natural law of God who causes the earth to turn around the sun.  
(Kahlil Gibran)
I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive.
(Gilda Radner)

For many of us, love for creation deepens through the relationship we form with our pets, particularly our dogs. By their very nature and need, dogs draw us out of ourselves: they root us in nature, making us more conscious of the mystery of God inherent in all things.
(The monks of New Skete)
Dog - a kind of additional or subsidiary Deity designed to catch the overflow and surplus of the world's worship.
(Ambrose Bierce)

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.
(Josh Billings)
Until you have loved an animal, part of your soul will have remained dormant. (Anatole France)

Dogs can always grow in learning and responsiveness, in attentiveness and bonding, significantly broadening the parameters of what most of us think is possible from a relationship. (The monks of New Skete)
More than anything else, dogs are creatures of play, whose spontaneous interaction with life bespeaks its goodness. (The monks of New Skete)

Sometimes I take my dog for a walk and turn her loose in a field. When I can’t give her that freedom I feel in debt. I hope God thinks like that and is keeping track of all the bliss He owes me! (Rabia)
A person can learn a lot from a dog, even a loopy one like ours. Marely taught me about living each day with unbridled exuberance and joy, about seizing the moment and following your heart. He taught me to appreciate the simple things – a walk in the woods, a fresh snowfall, a nap in a shaft of winter sunlight. And as he grew old and achy, he taught me about optimism in the face of adversity. Mostly, he taught me about friendship and selflessness and above all else, unwavering loyalty.

(John Grogan)

We are alone, absolutely alone on this chance planet: and, amid all the forms of life that surround us, not one, excepting the dog, has made an alliance with us.

(Maurice Maeterlinck)
I agree that dogs possess something very like a conscience. Dogs possess some power of self-command, and this does not appear to be wholly the result of fear. (Charles Darwin)

Mark what a generosity and courage a dog will put on when he finds himself maintained by a man, who to him is instead of a God. (Francis Bacon)
Prowling his own quiet backyard or asleep by the fire, he is still only a whisker away from the wilds.

(Jean Burden)

The smallest feline is a masterpiece.

(Leonardo da Vinci)
Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods.
Cats have never forgotten this.
(Anonymous)

I love cats because I enjoy my home;
and little by little, they become its visible soul.
(Jean Cocteau)
Cats always know whether people like or dislike them. They do not always care enough to do anything about it.
(Winifred Carriere)

With their qualities of cleanliness, discretion, affection, patience, dignity, and courage, how many of us, I ask you, would be capable of becoming cats?
(Fernand Mery)
If a dog jumps in your lap, it is because he is fond of you; but if a cat does the same thing, it is because your lap is warmer.  
(Alfred North Whitehead)

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him.  
(Dereke Bruce)
A horse loves freedom, and the weariest old work horse will roll on the ground or break into a lumbering gallop when he is turned loose into the open.

(Gerald Raferty)

The essential joy of being with horses is that it brings us in contact with the rare elements of grace, beauty, spirit, and fire.

(Sharon Ralls Lemon)
A fine horse or a beautiful woman, I cannot look at them unmoved, even now when seventy winters have chilled my blood.
(Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)

Horses - if God made anything more beautiful, he kept it for himself.
(Author Unknown)
And Allah took a handful of southerly wind, blew His breath over it, 
and created the horse. Thou shall fly without wings, 
and conquer without any sword Oh, horse. 
(Bedouin Legend)

A thousand horse and none to ride! -
With flowing tail, and flying mane,
Wide nostrils never stretched by pain,
Mouths bloodless to the bit or rein,
And feet that iron never shod,
And flanks unscarred by spur or rod,
A thousand horse, the wild, the free,
Like waves that follow o'er the sea,
Came thickly thundering on,...
(Lord Byron)
A horse is the projection of peoples' dreams about themselves – strong, powerful, beautiful - and it has the capability of giving us escape from our mundane existence. (Pam Brown)

A lovely horse is always an experience. It is an emotional experience of the kind that is spoiled by words. (Beryl Markham)
Ah, women.  
They make the highs higher and the lows more frequent.  
(Friedrich Nietzsche)

Taking joy in life is a woman’s best cosmetic.  
(Rosalind Russell)
This is the female form,
A divine nimbus exhales from it from head to foot,
It attracts with fierce undeniable attraction,
I am drawn by its breath as if I were no more than a helpless vapor,
All falls aside but myself and it…
(Walt Whitman)

The female contains all qualities and tempers them,
She is in her place and moves with perfect balance,
She is all things duly veil’d, she is both passive and active,
She is to conceive daughters as well as sons,
and sons as well as daughters.
(Walt Whitman)
I have perceiv’d that to be with those I like is enough,
To stop in company with the rest at evening is enough,
To be surrounded by beautiful, curious, breathing, laughing flesh is enough,
To pass among them or touch any one, or rest my arm ever so lightly round his
or her neck for a moment, what is this then?
I do not ask any more delight, I swim in it as in a sea.

There is something in staying close to men and women and looking on them,
and in the contact and odor of them, that pleases the soul well,
all things please the soul, but these please the soul well.
(Walt Whitman)
This life is yours. Take the power to choose what you want to do and do it well. Take the power to love what you want in life and love it honestly. Take the power to walk in the forest and be a part of nature. Take the power to control your own life. No one else can do it for you. Take the power to make your life happy.

(Susan Polis Schutz)

One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today.

(Dale Carnegie)
The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.

(Anne Frank)

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.

(Rachel Carson)
Climb up on some hill at sunrise. Everyboby needs perspective once in a while, and you'll find it there. (Robb Sagendorph)

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)
I thank you God for this most amazing day, for the leaping greenly spirits of trees, and for the blue dream of sky and for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes. 
(e.e. cummings)

For everything that lives is holy.
(William Blake)
The whole creation is the temple of God. There is no place where He is not. In minerals life is sleeping; in plants life is dreaming; in birds and animals life is awakening; and in man life is awake. As such we are brothers of all creatures, of plants, of birds and animals. So the flowers and trees, sparrows and doves are as members of our own order. How simple, pure, loving and beautiful they are! We should love all. We should live in fellowship with all creatures, with all life. One must not interfere with the life of any animal in God's creation.

(Sant Kirpal Singh)

Whenever I injure any kind of life, I must be quite certain that it is necessary. I must never go beyond the unavoidable, not even in apparently insignificant things. That man is truly ethical who shatters no ice crystal as it sparkles in the sun, tears no leaf from a tree.

(Dr. Albert Schweitzer)
I still get wildly enthusiastic about little things. I play with leaves.
I skip down the street and run against the wind.
(Leo Buscaglia)

For every person who has ever lived there has come, at last,
a spring he will never see. Glory then in the springs that are yours.
(Pam Brown)

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