

As a collective species, the human being is at the apex of natural order. Over millennia, we've conquered land, sea, sky, and space. We're the dominant force, the only such to have a brain so algorithmic. We're tethered merely by what can be envisioned. But it is a folly to disregard what we deem lesser powers, as we are often incorrect. We must remind ourselves that nature, which looms above our earthly collective, is the *true* dominant force.

First, it is paramount to realize the influence of nature. Where would music come from, if not from the singing of birds? Where would art come from, if not from the vivid pigments and coloration of fauna from distant lands? Where would poetry arise from, if not from a secluded place in the woods, where one can sit quietly and compose? What would be left is a barren and craggy rock, against which there is nothing to observe other than the dulled gray surfaces.

Second, it is paramount to realize that nature has predated us for a time we cannot compute. From boiling hydrothermal vents eons upon eons passed, life first emerged. It did not hurry to create and catalog the world around; it lived simply on the vents. Over millions of years, it moved upward and flowered throughout the Cambrian earth, making things lush and green. When humanity first materialized, life existed for generations of generations, encompassing the terrain from Variscan peaks, to coniferous forests, to epeiric seas.

Third, it is paramount to realize the longevity and ability of nature to preserve. When Chicxulub stabbed into the earth 66 million years ago, nature did not cease to exist. Hurt, but not killed, it regenerated to its former manner, without sign of the cataclysm so long passed. Likewise, the trees around Tunguska are once again ironclad, saluting strong and defiant of disaster. When we were formed, nature had already stood for a very long time. When we are finally gone, nature will remain for longer to care for grandmother earth in her dying days.

As our world becomes more and more desecrated, we become liable for what harm we will wreak on her. She nurtures and feeds and cares for us, and we must display our respect for her in return; this is the least we must do. From cavernous oceans, to simple fields, to great oaks, and to mountain crests, we must also humble ourselves in the presence of her majesty. Nature is more akin to a ruler of our celestial home than we will ever be, and when she is shown the utmost compassion by her vassals, we will be shown compassion in return.