

# 1EXPRECIATING NATURE..

## A Ballad.

Wide-eyed and bushy-tailed, I begin each day,  
Wonderlust fills my heart every new dawn.  
The night's sleep having tuned up my senses,  
Acutely aware I'm of nature's new presents.

The wandering ghosts of terrible lizards,  
In deep respect I hold these old lords.  
The apparitions and sounds on TVs and radios,  
Make me so believe in nature's sleight.

The innocence of infant sun of the morn,  
Or crimson rampage of the setting sun,  
Every sight of sun leaves me lost for words,  
But you won't find me short on wonder.

Simplest of sights we dismiss as norm,  
Like confetti showers of winter snow,  
Like rain drops shedding tears of joy,  
Water falls, rivers, lakes and ponds,  
Bodies of water large and small,  
I ne'er cease to marvel at them all.

The insistent ballet of rollicking waves,  
And sight, sound and smell seascapes flaunt,  
These evoke deep deference for this blue planet,  
Draped around its midriff, as it were,  
Is life-giving water, the planet's name-sake.

A journey within its darkest depths,  
Or exploring close to its surface vast,  
One appreciates soon the oceans' gifts,  
Of the myriad life forms within its gut.

The numerous special ocean sights,  
From colorful necklace corals make,  
To lowly planktons and algae slime,  
Inspirational are all, nonetheless.

Fascinating are the marine mammals,  
From blue whales, beluga, gray and humpback,  
To frolicking dolphins of ocean fronds;  
Special indeed are these our cousins.

The parade of colors and shapes of fish,  
Reminds me of artist's rendition;  
This canvas boasts a true kaleidoscope,  
That if you imagine, nature will conjure.

Their share of terrors oceans have,  
Mantas, groupers and sharks of all flavors,  
To spineless menace of octopi and squids,  
Danger lurks at corners and nooks,  
Of ocean depths of icy dark.

Mountains are kings here on land,  
Thundering volcanoes, and quakes to match,  
To lightning display of instant clout,  
And all-engulfing fury of floods,  
Mighty indeed is irate nature.

The breeze that whistles sweet nothings,  
Or rustle of leaves that remind us of living;  
To terrors of tornadoes and hurricanes,  
I dismiss not, these timeless wonders.

Rainbows amaze young and old,  
It'd be a sad day if they appear not;  
Auroras of poles are ever more,  
Fantastic sights any time to behold.

I look at flora all in wonderment,  
For the veritable factories they represent.  
Without them our world be a sad place,  
If not for starving, at least for want of panache.

Unfurling leaves and bursting flowers,  
The sheer variety and pomp they bring,  
With colors, shapes and fragrances sublime;  
How do you pass them and not admire,  
The enormous beauty to nature they lend?

The stunning attire of tigers and leopards,  
To dignified demeanor elephants display,  
Chattering, bickering chimps and monkeys,  
Quacking ducks, slithering snakes,  
Creepy crawlies, flashing fireflies,  
Is there a sight that nature offers,  
That fails to lift your heart and spirit?

The flying artistry that birds display,  
Along with gleaming colors and plumes,  
I'm oft lost for words to describe,  
Birds like peacocks all aplomb.

The flying acrobats and athletes,  
That seagulls and hawks clearly are;  
From the flying fireballs of humming birds,  
To show-boating denizens of forest trees,  
There's not a bird I admire not.

The sheer sight of sequoia's majesty,  
To the simplest algae's food factory,  
And the wonder of lowly viruses,  
Such are the simplest specks of life.

I find deep mystery in just the fact,  
Chemistry on grand scale bacteria pack,  
With the smarts to outwit and win,  
All the threats that humans bring.

The deepest respect in my heart I hold,  
Is for the marvel of humankind;  
From the variety in form and grace,  
To pinnacle of development they've scaled,  
In terms of language, art, science and beliefs,  
To abstract knowledge in so many fields.

Each subtle taste my palate enjoys,  
And every fragrance that tickles my nose,  
To exquisite sights that nature abounds,  
Not to mention the creation's best,  
That surely is the opposite sex.

Below I list some special creations,  
Beyond belief are these, nature's marvels;  
Before the jury, you the reader, I submit:

Mammals with beaks and sport pouches,  
Fathers who deliver babies;  
Flowers that devour flies;  
Eight arms stacked full of suckers;  
Overgrown nose used to multitask;  
Electrically charged fish;  
Mammals that fly and see with ears!!

When you venture out to nature raw,  
Bring your whole heart and senses all,  
So sights, smells and sounds that await,  
Then surround you and bathe,  
All the nature's exquisites,  
You may yet begin to appreciate!