# Nature’s Majesty

**Voltaire believed that animals have certain advantages over man:**

They never hear the clock strike. They do without any idea of death. They have no theologians to instruct them. Their last movements are not disturbed by unwelcome and unpleasant ceremonies. Their funerals cost them nothing. And no one starts lawsuits over their wills. *(Reader’s Digest)*

In India, when the ants move their eggs to higher ground, the watchful locals likewise go for altitude, knowing from the ants a flood is imminent. But how do the ants know? *(L. M. Boyd)*

The latest studies of bee colonies shed new light on what some scientists believe is the most elaborate social structure next to that of humans. Individual bees assume different tasks: water collector, who brings in water to achieve proper humidity levels in the hive; undertaker, who removes bee cadavers; plasterer, who fathers resinous substances to repair hive damage; scent fanner, whose pheromones guide lost bees. Jobs seem to increase in sophistication as the bees get older. A young bee cleaning out brood cells might next go on to feed young larvae, and then graduate to attending the queen. The most dangerous job is that of the forager, who encounters the perils of the outside world as she travels long distances to obtain food. *(Bayard Webster, in New York Times)*

**Birds “hear faster” than you and I. A bird expert says a buzzing to us might be heard by a bird as s series of staccato pops, like a card in a bike’s spokes. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Nature always wears the colors of the spirit. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**You will find something far greater in the woods than you will find in books. Stones and trees will teach you that which you will never learn from masters. *(St. Bernard of Clairvaux)***

**About the Great Barrier Reef:**

**Reef’s expanse – area equal to the size of Poland**

**Age of coral – 20 million years**

**The Great Barrier Reef – is actually 2,800 reefs**

**Some reef fish species – change sex with age**

**Visibility – may be seen from the moon (reef was not completely mapped until seen by astronauts; located off east coast of Australia). *(World Features Syndicate)***

**I can enjoy society in a room; but out of doors, nature is company enough for me. *(William Hazlitt)***

**Inspiration from Nature: Let my thoughts, O God, be as tranquil as the blue waters of a mountain lake; serene in the knowledge that Thy presence is in, around, and all about me, protecting, healing, and unfolding me in Thy love. Let my words be as soft as the snow in winter and as gentle as the rains in summers, bringing fresh hope and inspiration to all they may fall upon. Let my faith be as strong as the mighty pines and as solid as the majestic mountains ever reaching heavenward. Let my whole life be a portrayal of beauty, expressing Thee, O God, in all that I think, say, and do. Amen. *(Annabelle Gibbs, in Weekly Unity, July 26, 1959)***

**I think that I shall never see, a poem as lovely as a tree. A tree who may in summer wear, a nest of robins in her hair! A tree who looks at God all day, and always lifts her arms to pray. *(Joyce Kilmer, in Trees)***

**It’s been said any land area is labeled civilized or uncivilized, either belonging to nature or to humans. Wilderness experts say this is a test: If you still see bears, the land belongs to nature. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Come and listen to my story of Mother Nature in all her glory, of gardens, filled with precious flowers, in which I love to walk for hours. And sometimes just like in a dream, I sit beside a crystal stream, or maybe in the water wade, or lay contented in a shade. Come and hear of scenes so grand, like oceans blue with golden sand, and mountains leaping t’ward the sky, where gay and cheerful birds go by. And how at dusk the sun do set, and all my care I soon forget, as twinkling stars and moon shine bright, and in my heart is sweet delight. Come and listen! *(I. Dalrymple)***

**Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountain is going home; that wildness is necessity; that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life. *(John Muir, American naturalist and writer)***

**I’ve made an odd discovery. Every time I talk to a savant I feel quite sure that happiness is no longer a possibility. Yet when I talk with my gardener, I’m convinced of the opposite. *(Bertrand Russell)***

**And this our life … finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything. *(William Shakespeare)***

**The whistling thorn tree gets its name from the strange music it makes. Some of the balls on the tree have holes made by ants. When the wind blows across the holes, the tree “whistles.” *(The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 50)***

If the trunk of a coconut palm tree has no rings, how can you tell its age? By a spiraling row of scars left from the leaves that fall away. One scar a month. *(L. M. Boyd)*

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