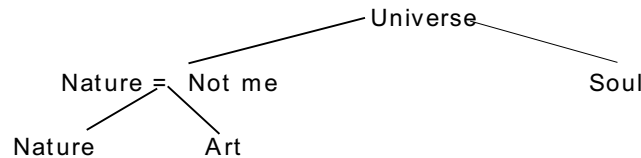


NATURE (1836)

Introduction



- 1: Nature Boundaries between Nature and Soul blur.

- 2: Commodity Parts of nature working “ for the profit of man” and his senses (as opposed to nature’ s service to the soul) (1110)

- 3: Beauty Nature’ s service to a man’ s nobler love of beauty:
 1. Simple perception of natural forms
 2. virtue: high and divine beauty, in combination with human will
 3. beauty as an object of the intellect leading to Art

- 4: Language “ Nature is the vehicle of thought” (1114).
 1. “ Words are signs of natural facts” (1114).
 2. “ Particular natural facts are symbols of particular spiritual facts” (1114).
 - a. Reason: “ a universal soul within or behind his individual life, wherein, as in a firmament, the natures of Justice, Truth, Love, Freedom, arise and shine.” (1115)
 - b. Spirit: “ Spirit is the Creator. Spirit hath life in itself. And man in all ages and countries, embodies it in his language, as the FATHER.” (1115)
 - c. “ Hence, good writing and brilliant discourse are perpetual allegories. . . . It is proper creation.” (1116)
 - d. But much human language is FALLEN.
 3. “ Nature is the symbol of spirit” (1114).
 - a. Spirit manifests itself in visible creation (1118)
 - b. “ By degrees we may come to know the primitive sense of the permanent objects of nature, so that the world shall be to us an open book, and every form significant of its hidden life and final cause.” (1118)

- 5: Discipline Nature teaches us how to use it.
 1. “ Nature is a discipline of the understanding in natural truths” (1119), including the “ exercise of the Will or the lesson of power” (1120)
 2. “ Sensible objects conform to the premonitions of Reason and reflect the conscience,” so nature teaches us moral truths as well (1120).
 - a. doctrine of Use: “ a thing is good only so far as it serves” (1120)
 - b. Unity of Nature (1121)

- 6: Idealism Does nature outwardly exist at all? It doesn’ t matter: “ Whether nature enjoy a substantial existence without, or is only in the apocalypse of the mind, it is alike useful and alike venerable to me” (1123)

- 7: Spirit Ineffable--God, Creator, Supreme Being. Man “ has access to the entire mind of the Creator, is himself the creator in the finite” (1129) But we have fallen into lack of awareness, so that “ We are as much strangers in nature, as we are aliens from God” (1130).

- 8: Prospects Fables of the fall to explain the gap between human potential and the state of humanity:
 1. Shrinkage: “ Man is the dwarf of himself” (1132)
 2. Loss of focus: “ The axis of vision is not coincident with the axis of thing” (1133) “ Build, therefore, your own world. As fast as you can conform your life to the pure idea in your mind, that will unfold its great proportions” (1134)