



Call To Earth

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From Henry David Thoreau's *Walking*:

I wish to speak a word for Nature, for absolute freedom and wilderness, as contrasted with a freedom and culture merely civil, —to regard man as an inhabitant, or a part and parcel of Nature, rather than a member of society. I wish to make an extreme statement, if so I may make an emphatic one, for there are enough champions of civilization: the minister and the school committee and every one of you will take care of that. . . .

Life consists with wildness. The most alive is the wildest. Not yet subdued to man, its presence refreshes him. One who pressed forward incessantly and never rested his labors, who grew fast and made infinite demands of life, would always find himself in a new country of wilderness, and surrounded by the raw material of life. . . .

Hope and the future for me are not in lawns and cultivated fields, not in towns and cities, but in the impervious and quaking swamps. . . .

In short all good things are wild and free. . . .

Give me for my friends and neighbors wild men, not tame ones. The wildness of the savage is but a faint symbol of the awful ferity with which good men and lovers meet. . . .

The seeds of instinct are preserved under the thick hides of [domestic] cattle and horses, like seeds in the bowels of the earth, an indefinite period. . . .

I rejoice that horses and steers have to be broken before they can be made the slaves of men, and that men themselves have some wild oats still left to sow before they become submissive members of society.

The drawing is by Kirk Messer; the photograph on page 5 by John Marshall, the others by Wade Britzius.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Dolores LaChapelle</i>	Profound Ecology.....	2
<i>Michael Egan</i>	Off the Trail: Wilderness Cognition and Arcadian Landscapes.....	6
<i>Steven Simpson</i>	In Nature We See Ourselves: A Lesson From the Tao.....	12
	Report on Books.....	16
	Invited Book Reviews.....	18