NATURE

April 6, 2003

My Brethren,

This being April and Springtime, I have two minute's of thought to share

with you. We learn in the lecture of the 1st Degree that the great Book of Revelation and Nature is God’s inestimable gift to man. This gift is a two-part thing; the first is the great Book of Revelation which is the rule and guide of our faith. The second part of this inestimable gift is Nature, upon which we are to ponder and consider God's grand design. We have just passed into Spring and what better way is there to mark its arrival than to ponder on Nature, as good men and philosophers have considered it.

Alexander Pope, considered one of the foremost English philosophers of the early 1700s said in his "Essay On Man", that the good man, "Is slave to no sect, who takes no private road, But looks through Nature up to Nature's God."

The Declaration of Independence, largely written by Thomas Jefferson with help from the Mason Benjamin Franklin, echoes Alexander Pope, “When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of Nature and Nature’s God entitle them…"

Some of our finest poets and philosophers have pondered Nature: Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Nature and books belong to the eyes that see them." He also said, "Everything in Nature contains all the powers of Nature; Everything is made of one hidden stuff." John Greenleaf Whittier said, “Nature speaks in symbols and signs.” And William Wordsworth said, "Come forth into the light of things, Let Nature be your teacher."

So, as we mark the arrival of Spring, let us look upon the blue sky, the budding trees and the brightly colored flowers, let us listen to the song of the birds and buzz of bees, let us breathe deep of the rich aromas of the Earth at Spring - and ponder on the symbols and signs in the grand design of Nature’s rebirth.

"Come forth into the light of things, Let Nature be your teacher."!!

Br. Stephen C. Harrington