Essential John Muir- Quotes

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(flora)
= plants + trees
= sky/clouds
= mountains
= water-related
= animals (fauna)

Essential John Muir-...

- "his favoring first-hand experience in the world over vicarious experience derived from books" (WHITE xiii)
- "the only writing he truly enjoyed was journal writing— field notes and drawings" (xiii)
- "Writing for publication, however, required confining himself indoors; it required transmuting his fragmentary, spontaneously generated journal entries into fully developed, coherent discourse" (xiii).
- "Muir wrote as naturally as he walked and rejoiced in nature— but it was spontaneous writing" (xiii).
- "He wanted his writing to capture that simplicity and harmony" (xiii).
- "Muir possessed a profoundly poetic sensibility" (xiv).
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- "The stout leaves are very rigid, sharp-pointed and bayonet-like. By one of these leaves a man might be as seriously stabbed as by an army bayonet, and woe to the luckless wanderer to urge his way through these armed gardens after dark" (33).
- "It is delightful to observe the assembling of these feathered people from the woods and reedy isles; herons white as wave-tops or blue as the sky, winnowing the warm air on wide, quiet wing" (34). Birds -> human
- "down through the forests that clothe the slopes of Cloud's Rest" (39).
- "Storms might come breaking down through the fine weather at any time, burying the colors in snow and cutting off the artist's retreat" (39).
- "Long, blue, spiky shadows crept out across the snowfields, while a rosy flow at first scarce discernible, gradually deepened and suffused every mountain top, flushing the glaciers and harsh crag above them" (43). shadow movement
- "a waterfall chanted solemnly across the lake on its way down from the foot of a glacier" (43). singing waterfalls - movement + sound
- "But the darkest scriptures of the mountains are illuminated with bright passages of love that never fail to make themselves felt when one is alone" (43). comforting mountains
- "The waterfall sang in chorus, filling the old ice fountains with its solemn roar, and seeming to increase in power as the night advances— fit voice for such a landscape" (44). sing waterfall
- "I met *Cassiope*, growing in fringes among the battered rocks. Her blossoms had faded long ago, but they were still clinging with happy memories to the evergreen sprays, and still so beautiful as to thrill every fiber of one's being. " (44). plants are people
  - "Winer and summer, you may hear her voice, the low, sweet melody of her purple bells. No evangel among all the mountain plants speaks to Nature's love more plainly than Cassiope" (44).
- "With a glacier swooping down at its face nearly to my feet, then curving westward and pouring its frozen flood into a dark blue lake, whose shores were bound with precipices of crystalline snow" (46). glacier movement
- "There were no meadows now to cheer with their brave colors, nor could I hear the dun-head sparrows, whose cheery notes often relieve the silence of our highest mountains" (46). encouraging meadows
- "Filling every valley and canyon with only the tops of the fountain peaks rising darkly above the rock-encumbered ice waves like islets in s stormy sea—those islets the only hints of the glorious landscapes now smiling in the sun" (47).

smiling islets

- "Small rills were gliding and swirling over the melting surface with a smooth, oily appearance, in channels of pure ice—their quick, compliant movements contrasting most impressively with the rigid, invisible flow of the glacier itself, on whose back they all were riding" (52). rill movement - water movement
- "Companies of small, luminous clouds hovered above them like very angels of light" (52). cloud placement
- "Here I discovered a group of beautiful glacier lakes, nestled in a grand amphitheater" (53). closely grouped glaciers
- "Colossal spires 200 feet in height waved like supple goldenrods, chanting and bowing low as if in worship, while the whole mass of their long, tremulous foliage was kindles into one continuous blaze of white sun-fire" (58) tree movement + sound
- "though comparatively young, there were about 100 feet high, and their lithe, brushy tops were rocking and swirling in wild ecstasy" (59). tree moment
- "Oftentimes these waves of reflected light would break up suddenly into a kind of beaten foam, and again, after chasing one another in regular order, they would seem to bend forward in concentric curves, and disappear on some hillside, like sea waves on a selving shore" (61). light movement
- "Smooth, deep currents, cascades, falls, and swirling eddies sing around every tree and leaf" (62). water movement
- "While swinging in the wind, that trees are travelers in the ordinary sense. They make many journeys, not extensive ones it is true; but our own little journeys away and back again are only little more than tree waving's" (63). traveling trees - movement
- "The King tree and I have sworn eternal love— sworn it without swearing and I've taken the sacrament with Douglas squirrel, drunk Sequoia wine, Sequoia blood, and with its rosy purple drops I am writing this woody gospel letter" (69).
- "Only two species of sequoia are known to exist in the world. Both belong to California" (114).
- "Species develop and die like individuals, animals as well as plants. Man himself will surely become extinct as Sequoia or mastodon, and be at length known only as a fossil" (115).
- "the sturdy cacti that defend themselves with bayonets and spears" (122). thorns as defensive tools
- "Blossoming clouds that shed white flowers over all the land, covering every scar and making the saddest landscape divine at least once a year" (122). cloud movement
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