

The Disconnect of Modern Man and Nature

Modern man has been moving further and further away from feeling connected to mother nature. Perhaps our modern lifestyles have something to do with it. Modern buildings protect us from the elements. We create controlled artificial environments to live and work comfortably in through the use of heat and air conditioning. We can avoid the elements by driving to work in our cars, working from home, and shopping at the local shopping malls. When we really have to go outside, we can choose the clothing that makes us most comfortable.

Modern conveniences have made life easier for us. We can eat what we want when we want. We can eat breakfast for lunch, dinner or as a midnight snack. We can eat fresh fruit that is out of season. We are so used to eating processed foods that we expect all fish to be breaded and filet, beef to come in patties, chickens in selections of breasts, thighs or wings, and lobsters with only its tail. It has reached the point where children now prefer processed food to eating the real thing.

Modern conveniences are suppose to make life easier, but one of the consequences is that we are losing touch with nature. We would rather spend time in the house playing video games, surfing the Internet or watching TV, than going outside and being with nature. After all these years of self-imposed isolation, we have forgotten that we are a part of nature and our planet. We have come to believe that we are an independent force outside the laws of nature. We believe that we can transform and bend nature to our will. Our accomplishments suggest this may be true. We have created machines that can move faster, fly higher, and dive deeper than nature's creatures. We have leveled mountains, changed the course of rivers and built great cities. We feel we are invincible. Unfortunately, this feeling is only an illusion. When natural disasters happen, i.e., volcanos erupting, floods, fires, landslides, we flee or we die.

Natural disasters reminds us of how fragile humans are. It reminds us that no matter what we believe to be our power, mother nature is more powerful by far. It also reminds us that our planet has been changing constantly since the very beginning, and that change has been accelerating due to human activity over the past few hundred years. Global warming is just one of the more obvious consequences of our past and current actions. It is human nature to believe that everything will remain the same. We believe that we can remain fixed in the present. Unfortunately, our world is changing. If we wish to survive, we should change too.

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