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A Reflection on *the Voice of the Silence*, No. 17

“Help nature and work on with her; and nature will regard thee as one
of her creators and make obeisance.”

—*The Voice of the Silence*

What does it mean to help nature, to collaborate with her? This verse calls for careful consideration. Western science speaks of “conquering” the forces of nature. In actual fact, nobody conquers (i.e., defeats) the forces of nature, but one natural law can be used to neutralize the effects of another. Jet planes overcome the force of gravity through the power of jet propulsion, but the law of gravity remains as unapologetic and operational as ever.

The Russian novelist Ivan Turgenev observed that “nature is not a temple, but a workshop, and man’s the workman in it.” Two notable examples of working with the physical side of nature come to mind. Luther Burbank created over 800 strains and varieties of plants by working *with*, not *against*, nature. John Roebling designed and oversaw the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge—then the world’s longest suspension bridge—not by *defeating* the laws of nature, but by *working with* them. Turgenev’s view seems to comport well with HPB’s statement in *The Secret Doctrine* that humanity cannot “get rid of the burden of its co-operative work with nature.” But was the Russian occultist Helena Petrovna Blavatsky referring to the material side of nature, the life behind the outer forms, or both?

The above citation from *The Voice* is followed by another, which says when we become co-creators with nature, she will open “the portals of her secret chambers [and] lay bare . . . the treasures hidden in the very depths of her pure virgin bosom.” So where exactly are those secret chambers? Do they even exist? Aren’t they nothing more than figurative language and poetic fancy? In his commentary, N. Sri Ram suggests that the secret chambers “are not something mysterious in some far-away heaven; they are everywhere—in every tree and rock, in the sky and in the earth, in all the creatures that inhabit them.” If we want to find out the truth for ourselves, we might follow the advice of the mystic Flower Newhouse:

Prepare yourself for encounters with nature by being quiet and listening with keen perceptiveness. You need to walk alone to behold, to think, to feel, to be instructed. Be reverent, be appreciative, be perceptive. Watch the horizons. All of a sudden, everything will change, and you will find yourself stilled in wonder. You will be so at one with the intelligence of nature that from your encounter will come a shower of inflowing power, the like of which you have never before received.

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