

Nature's Call

When we love nature, we love ourselves.

When we love nature, we follow the spirit of Maitreya.

When we love nature, we honor Laomu.

In August 2001, Maitreya Great Tao Organization held a three days, nature-loving camping retreat for youths. During the retreat, we explored the role of nature and its relationship to us. Through our short discussion and exploration, many of our young friends now look at nature with a different perspective. They felt closer and more enthusiastic toward nature. Their feedback gave me the inspiration to write *Nature's Call* and the encouragement to promote its cause.

Currently, in the Eastern and Western worlds, many of our young friends are obsessed by the wonders of electronic technology. Many spend long hours on computers and in Internet cafés, which have greatly influenced their lifestyle. As they live in the fantasy of the cyber world, they no longer have time to interact with people, resulting in poor relationships with others.

Today, many of our young friends seldom think about giving or sacrificing for others. They are becoming less concerned about the peace of society or the affairs of the nation. Sadly, family happiness is no longer an important agenda. The present youth generation is living an unhealthy lifestyle. This is a crisis that we need to be concerned with.

For this reason, I present here, *Nature's Call*, and hope that my humble concern for humanity can serve as a reminder to our young friend and to all people, that life has a more meaningful pursuit - the love for nature.

Since we live on this planet, we play an important role with nature. If we do not keep peace with the natural world, life would be as shallow as the rootless duckweeds floating on the pond. To understand nature and to mutually exist with it, we need to merge with it, not away from it. This is the principle of

survival and the essence and true dignity of life. Our dependence on science and technology, material abundance, power and wealth, electronics and cyberspace are merely aspects that enhance our lifestyle, but they are not the goal of life!

One of the major goals of the Maitreya Great Tao Organization is to guide the youth and all people to understand, know, respect, protect and love nature. To avoid any future crisis arising from prolonged and continued destruction of our most valuable natural inheritances, we would gladly welcome suggestions and advices to enhance our efforts to achieve this aim.

Wong Ci Guang,

Director

Providence Maitreya Buddha

Missionary Institute

Oct. 10, 2001

Loving nature, loves our own life.

Heaven, earth, human, and all the myriad of things are critical compositions of the natural world. Together, these four great members form the wonderful phenomena of nature.² The sky we see above, the earth on which we dwell, our fellow human beings, and the myriad of things are essential integrals of nature. Nature would not be complete if any of these were lacking. If there were only heaven, earth, and human, and no other life forms, it would be impossible for humans to survive. Thus, our world would be lifeless.

All things in the world, including humans, are equally important components of nature. It is incorrect to picture ourselves superior to other life forms. But technological advancements and materialism have given us the false notion that we are far superior, and thus nature can be conquered by our superiority. Should we relentlessly choose to believe this and oppose nature and its ways, our fate will only result in self-destruction.

Let us examine the different compositions of nature, which are very similar to different makeup of a person. Heaven is like the head, earth resembles the blood vessels and bones, humans are like the body, and all the myriad things in nature are like the hair, eyes, ears, nose, mouth and limbs. These different parts form the physique of humans. On a similar principle, nature is comprised of heaven, earth, humans, and numerous things. They combine to form the remarkable animations of nature. We need to see and understand that mankind is unquestionably a part of nature. When we live in harmony with it and co-exist with it, we live in accordance with the principles of life.

When we see the beauty of nature, and witness its justness, harmony, amicability, and equality, we just gloriously exclaim with excitement and joy: how profound and magnificent Laomu, the Almighty Creator is!³ The brilliant sun, calm moon, gentle night stars, aquatic life, creatures of the plains, birds of the sky, lush green mountains, perfectly shaped snowflakes, traceless wind, refreshing rain, mystical dew, vibrant rainbows, ravishing sunrise and rosy sunset: these are the fascinations of nature presented before our eyes. Unfortunately, many of these beautiful wonders are greatly affected when the natural environment is destroyed by human activities.

By the influences of arrogance and pride, ignorance and lack of wisdom, we have blindly become uncompromising and have authoritatively assumed the role of the conqueror, and claim mastery over all existences. Mankind has become disrespectful towards nature, discarding the value of all other life forms. This leads us to take resources without thinking about the damage caused to the environment. Our ungratefulness and fearlessness have become destructive and unprincipled toward the natural world. As the environment becomes further damaged, are we not at the same time jeopardizing our own life? When we unwisely devour the natural resources, we endanger the source of our own survival.

We need to realize that we are a part of nature and must not separate ourselves from it. The birds of the sky, the animals of the land, and the fish of the ocean are living, breathing beings. The evergreen forests, the clear blue sky, the mirrored lakes, and the countless stars reflect the quiescent beauty of nature in stillness. The splashing waves, the calling winds, the roaring thunder, the raindrops, the chirping birds, the crowing roosters, and the barks of dogs, are all wonders of nature in action.

The great heaven, the humble earth, and all the myriad things do not speak for themselves. It is upon the human to express its elegance and beauty. This however does not imply that humans have control and authority to determine their fate. We are merely the voice for nature. As a member of nature, we should not destroy or harm the lives that dwell on it. After all, we are of the same component, coming from the same element as all the other creatures and things. What reasons do we have for harming those who are different from us? It is unwholesome to believe that we have the right to ravage or possess them in any way. As we consider humans as the intelligent beings, one must remember that being intelligent does not necessitate lording over all things, but instead, having the capacity to reason and love. Being an intelligent being, we have the responsibility to render and advocate our sympathy, affection, and love towards all things.

All things have dignity and value. When we truly concede this truth and practice divine love towards all things, we can then call ourselves the intelligent one. Heaven's embracement and earth's nourishment is like that of our father and mother, who provide for us unconditionally. All creatures and the myriad things are like our brothers and sisters. Their companionship makes life more exciting and zestful. When we love and treat nature as our parents and siblings, and when we care for their welfare as we do for our own families, we are in fact, loving our own lives.

Loving nature, loves Maitreya.

Due to ignorance, arrogance, and wrong doings, along with malicious impacts and lack of understanding, we have caused nature to lose some of its spontaneity. The ongoing impairments of our planet affect the atmosphere and caused severe and drastic climate changes worldwide.

Nature confers a wonderful way of totality and correlation among all things so that they can co-exist in harmony. It calls on the wind when it is necessary and summons the rain at the right moment. It spreads the mist at the needed time and arranges the snow to drizzle in the right season; all facets of nature have their particular moment and place. Each year, we have the changing seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter, and there are assurances of day and night and the ebb and flow of the tides. These unchanged cyclic rhythms are the life-line of nature, which has sustained such pattern since the beginning of life.

When all things quietly rest, the stillness helps it replenish from the day's activities. Rest nurtures all life in readiness for the activities of the next day. Nature's quiescence in the night allows all creatures to rest. When all creatures including humans rest peacefully during this moment, this is the gentle embracement of Laomu.

But human interventions disturbed the meaningful harmony that nature provides. For instance, when light was invented, it became a necessity in every household. Nights can now mimic daytime. This has allowed us to stay up during the night, a time intended for rest. This has a great impact on our natural rhythm with nature. When we live unaligned with the way of nature, our physique will gradually lose its natural way of functioning. If we do not rest according to the natural order of time, we will slowly lose our livelihood and spirit. Materialism and technology are distorting our need for natural balance. As we continuously lose our harmony with the environment, we reject the great love that Laomu is giving us.

This wonderful planet has been an inhabited home for many lives. Underneath them, fosters a greater potential for much more wonders and miracle but we do not respect this and continue to abuse

the environment. In the name of development, land is robbed of its resources and beauty; and without any appreciation for the trees, grass, and the life that resides in it, the landscape continues to change and become depleted. The fruits of misusing industrialization, technology, and materialism are more of a disaster. As we pollute the air, contaminate the ocean, lakes, rivers and water system, we disturb the lives of all creatures, including our own. With such merciless and selfish deeds, can we still declare ourselves as an intelligent being?

The energy of such violence and the vibrations of immorality, the lack of righteousness and ill virtue creates forces of evil, thus contaminating the world and causing needless disasters worldwide.

Heaven, earth, humans and all things were originally one harmonious family. But the human violence and negative energy deprive nature's stability and equilibrium to nurture life. Nature is thus losing the ability to restore its harmonious order. When disorder reaches a climax, nature will counteract. Under such conditions, we and other living beings may not survive when nature unleashes its opposing forces. Witnessing such ruinous behavior, Laomu is tormented by the destructions that we are imparting upon ourselves and onto nature. My beloved friend, I ask you in sincerity to show concern for the fate of mankind and all living beings, and clearly see what we are imposing onto our one and only earth.

The natural environment is altered because of our inconsideration. The climate is drastically changing, causing unforeseeable weather changes. There are unpredictable typhoons, excessive rains, and extreme droughts, creating needless crisis everywhere. The destructions caused by violent winds, menacing floods, fierce fires, and harsh famines lead to a sorrowful fate for all life on earth. The misuse of industrialization, technology, and materialism worsen the quality of air and water. When clean air, uncontaminated water, and non-toxic food supplies are lost, where can we go? Under the irresponsible hands of mankind, our planet is now greatly scarred and wounded.

Who can deliver us from the devastations that we have evoked upon ourselves? Only He, who is all divine and wise, can rescue us and all other living beings from this danger and despair. He is the all compassionate and all loving, Maitreya!

Maitreya, the Savior has an intensely deep love for all of nature and nature itself. He is the originator for the love of the natural world and the forefather of spiritual unison. He loves heaven and earth as His father and mother. He respects all things as His brothers and sisters. He loves all lives, whether animal or plant. He cares for a flower, a blade of grass, a tree, a pebble, and even a grain of sand. Because of His divine love and affection for all things, including humans, Maitreya can guide us towards a closer relationship with nature, and subsequently makes us recognize our divine correlation with Laomu, the Almighty Creator. Through our kinship with nature and Laomu, we are one with nature. Thus, I am nature and nature is I? Realizing this sacred bond, we can then see the grace of nature and that the great love of Laomu is present and apparent. Laomu is with us by our side. When all people are in this state of awareness, the Pure Land will become a reality.

Maitreya can turn our world into a paradise which is carefree, and of the utmost purity, sanctity, abundance, harmony, tranquility, peace and bliss. This inconceivable paradise is the Pure Land, the Heavenly Kingdom that Maitreya vows to manifest! At the very beginning, our natural world was genuinely beautiful and sovereignly perfect. However, elicited indulgences and misdeeds, turned our world into confusion and darkness.

Now, by the Grace of Laomu, people who receive the divine initiation of the Light of Maitreya, will have their conscience alighted. When people smile from the depths of their conscience, and fill their hearts with love and compassion in every corner of the world, ferocity and disorder will perish. Universal peace will then be realized. Our polluted land will thus become the Pure Land. All sufferings will then vanish and the world will become the serene Heavenly Kingdom of Maitreya.

This is the true restoration of nature's beauty, the true rediscovery of serenity, and the true balance of harmony. Hence, loving nature is following and practicing the spirit of Maitreya, which is the spirit of great compassion and love. Let us pray together for the dawn of a brilliant century where people will act according to their conscience. Let us welcome serenity, happiness, righteousness, peace, harmony, and compassion into our world, and let these vibrate endlessly. Let the paradise of nature ring soundly across the globe. Our world will thus be a Heavenly Kingdom.

Loving nature, loves Laomu.

Nature is another expression of the Creator, Laomu. For Laomu immerse Her sublime essence in the creation of heaven, earth, human, and all the myriad of things. Unconditionally and selflessly, in silence and with traceless deeds, Laomu regulates and tends the creation without us ever realizing Her presence. Even though Laomu is the true master of all things, She never claims mastery over them. Laomu allows for all things to take their natural course and permits all things to go about their own way. Therefore, everything in the world works naturally and amicably.

The eye can see, the ear can hear, the nose can smell, the tongue can taste, the limbs can move, the body can feel hot and cold, the brain can think, the heart can beat, the lung can breath, the stomach can digest, blood can circulate in the veins and vessels, and the liver can detoxify: all of these processes seem to function instinctively well.

Apparently, Laomu is making these processes occur. We can see Laomu's infinite grace and immense love in these conspicuous miracles. Laomu gently gives perfection to nature in the formation of heaven and earth. Laomu confers affection in nature by the creation of mankind. Laomu exposes divine beauty to nature through composing the millions of creatures and the myriad things. The creation of nature is Laomu's most profound manifestations of wonder and miracle. From the fascinations in nature we witness that the Creator dismisses nothing in the creation. Laomu's brilliant grace and boundless love can be seen even in the tiniest matter.

Laomu is formless. Her imperceptible presence cannot be seen with the naked eye, or touched by the bare hand, or heard with the perceptive ear. Laomu can neither be scented with the nose, nor tasted with the tongue. But Laomu is always present and around us. Laomu displaces different essence of Her sublimity through the sun, the moon, and the stars, the rolling green hills, the clear water, the vast oceans, the great lakes; and brilliant flowers, the swaying grass, the silent trees, the sturdy stones, and the grained sands. No matter where we are, be it on the mountains ranges, in the great deserts, by the

endless oceans, or on the vast plains, and whether we are on earth or out in space, we are in the embrace of Laomu.

While we are touched by the sunray and gently stroked by the moon light, when we see the puffy white clouds over our head, when we get showered by the rain and braced by the wind, when we consume the grains, the green vegetables, the juicy fruits, and the chunky nuts, when we breath in the fresh air, when we take a cup of water, coffee, or juice, have we ever asked who is the giver? As we feel a sudden delight from the ecstasy of nature or when we enjoy the food that earth provides, all these seem so pleasantly natural. Behind all these, immerses the spirit of love and care of Laomu.

Laomu is the giver, the provider, the nurturer, and the embracer. Laomu's omnipotence is present in everything and everywhere. We have a sphere of blue sky and the changing white clouds, welcoming daybreaks, radiant rainbows, exquisite sunsets, and shimmering stars; they are the revelations of Laomu's love for all live. When we hear the streaming creeks, the dripping raindrops, the whirling wind, the chattering birds, the crowing roosters, and the buzzing insects, they are the soft and tender expressions of nature.

When we truly see and hear all the voices of nature, when we realize its sacredness and sublimity, we will feel the omnipresence of Laomu. Laomu is always by our side and in our surroundings, we are not alone at all. The joys of the gentle breeze, the sweet fragrance in the air, the clear spring water, the tasty fresh fruits and crispy vegetable, the cooling clean brooks and the refreshing mountains are just some of the most pleasant gifts of tender love from Laomu.

When we see the birds of the sky, the creatures of the earth, and the fishes of the ocean, we see the most excellent annotation of dignity, equality, and uniqueness expressed by Laomu in all lives. All these creatures are in essence our brothers and sisters. In the course of our life, we do not walk alone. As we stand on the grass plains or sit under the shaded trees, when we break up with joy as we cross the lofty mountains, when we play in the cool streams, or swim in the beaches; no matter where we stand on earth, we are embraced by Laomu. We are the beloved children of the Almighty Creator. And when we hear the roaring thunders, the howling winds, and the pounding waves, Laomu is in effect calling to

awaken us and remind us to live by our conscience.

We need to intuitively hear what nature is revealing to us. Through our love and appreciation for nature, we love and honor Laomu. From the revelations of nature, we can see Laomu's inconceivable grace and comprehensive love. As the resonant of nature touches every pulse of our heart, we can feel the presence of Laomu. At the same time, we have our beloved brothers, sisters, and all the creatures of nature accompanying us in harmony and peace in the journey of life. We are really not alone.

We can understand our true essence by knowing nature. We can learn about Maitreya and His great spirit of love, and through Him, we will know the all-loving and all-merciful Laomu. Laomu, Maitreya, nature, and humans are truly a single spirit. As we love nature, we unfold our respect and appreciation to heaven, earth, humans, and all things. Similarly, as we amplify our gratitude and honor for Maitreya, we also amplify our gratefulness and love to Laomu, the Creator.

Note 1: Laomu

Laomu is an ancient Chinese character pronounced Mu, meaning mother. It was found in the oracle-bone scriptures of Shang Dynasty in China. During the Chin Dynasty, the word was changed to 母 (mu-mother). When we say Laomu, this refers to the Mother of heaven and earth, the Mother of all Buddhas and Saints, the Mother of our spirit, our conscience and the Mother of all creations.

Note 2: Nature's Four Great Members

1. Heaven: This includes the sky we see, the sun, the moon, the stars, and the endless space of the universe, including everything there is. Because of Heaven's phenomena, it provides a niche on the earth for all plants and animals to dwell and survive. The assuring shift of day and night, sunrise and sunset, and full moon and half moon, allows all living beings a chance to rest and rejuvenate. For no life can ever survive in a world of permanent sunlight, or in total darkness. This is nature's complementing match and harmony, which are the wonderful manifestations of Laomu. The powerful sunlight, the soft bright moon,

and the twinkling stars are Laomu 撮 clear expressions of strength, beauty, and quietness in nature. Nature's spirit of equilibrium and stability allows the wind, the cloud, the rain, the mist, the snow, and the forces of yin and yang to formulate, all under which life can only exist. The greatness of Laomu and Her endless love for all creatures are therefore apparent to us all.

2. Earth: On earth, there are deep oceans and seas, great lakes and rivers, and natural springs to satisfy our thirst and allow the terrestrial and aquatic lives to survive. We have lofty mountains, lush green forests, vast grasslands, and fields of grains and crops, and orchards of beautiful blossoms and fruits. Whether it is on the mountain peaks, at the valley basins, or by the river, plants can grow, creatures can live, and birds can spread their wings to fly without restriction. Laomu allows all life forms to have their place, freedom, and right to exist.

All creatures including humans depend on the earth. Our environment consists of many elements and resources. It contains gold, silver, bronze, metals, coal, petroleum, and many minerals that can be used. From the earth, we have grain, vegetables and fruits to enjoy. We can see the essence of Laomu's love in everything and everywhere. Laomu is omnipresent.

3. Humans: No matter what nationality or ethnic background we come from, humans are considered the intelligent being. Heaven, earth, and all things cannot speak. It is up to man to speak for them. There is an ancient saying that the virtuous one can comprehend, complement and beautify God's creation. Therefore, when people have a clear conscience and live with virtuous and moral conducts, our world will be a more beautiful and harmonious place.

4. All things: They are the mountains and hills, the blue sky and the white clouds, the great oceans and seas, the big lakes and rivers, the sand and pebbles, all trees and bushes, flowers and grass, grain, vegetables and fruit, as well as the wind, rain, dew, and snow. They are the minerals and the natural resources. They are also the birds of the sky, the animals that roam the land, and the aquatic creatures. The absence of any of these components will render nature inadequate and incomplete. This will cause nature to lose its vividness and tranquility.

Note 3: Laomu's Sublimity

1. The birds, the aquatics species, the animals and the plants together form the beautiful patterns of nature, depicting the orderly and colorful life in motion. Without any of these, nature will lose its beauty and the motions of life will lose its brilliance. The complementary order of existences among the myriad of things unravel the perfect and exquisite arrangement of Laomu, the Creator.

2. The gift of air reveals the unconditional love Laomu has for all life forms. Oxygen is the prime necessity for all life. It is the most essential element for survival. From the omnipresence of oxygen, we witness the equality of Laomu's enormous love for all.

3. The profound beauty of nature is shown through its perfect blends and arrangements. The white clouds in the blue sky, the evergreen mountains, the crystal clear water, the grassland, the deep forest, the colorful flowers, the birds and fishes, dawn and dusk, night and day, the rainbows, the glistening moon light, and the twinkling night stars; these are the beautiful spectrum of nature enhancing and enlightening our world, making it appear more lively and full of energy. From these mystical but perfect creations we can see that Laomu, the Almighty Creator, is the greatest artist, the grandest engineer, and the most wonderful and talented musician of the universe. Every stroke that Laomu creates is an extraordinary wonder. And everything that Laomu creates is perfect and exquisite.

4. The co-existence of the positive and negative forces, and the male and female energy reflects the conformity, the amity, and the fellowship in nature. Such complement continues the progeny, and sets forth a balanced system for the regeneration process. From the unison conformity of the energies, we see the extraordinary wonders in Laomu's creations.

5. Nature maintains equilibrium in a remarkable way. Birth, adulthood, old age, and finally death are the processes we see in nature. The growth, changes, and extinction of all things maintain a fair equilibrium in the natural world. No one can live forever. Birth and death are the laws of nature. This is the principle governing the regeneration of life to ensure continuity. They are the flux and harmony of nature. All these unfathomable wonders are Laomu's divine compassion and concern for all life on earth.

Author: Wang Tzu Kuang

Publisher: Tzu Kuang Publishers

Address: 12/F, 31 Minsheng East Road, Sect. 3, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC

Telephone: (02) 2503 2081

Facsimile: (02) 2503 8238

Editorial: English Editorial Division, Culture Department, World Maitreya Great Tao Organization

Address: No.1, 14th Liao, 8th Lin, Hu-Kuang Village, O-Mei, Hsin-Chu 315, Taiwan, ROC

Telephone: (03) 580 6396x326

Facsimile: (03) 580 6257

Email: mgvoice@tpts6.seed.net.tw

ISBN: 986-7935-85-3

Copyright © 2002, Tzu Kuang Publishesrs

All rights reserved. (r)No.2576, Dept. of Publication and Distribution, ROC