



# Reflections on *A Common Rule for Monastics*: - Creation

(Chapter 11)

**If we lose our connection with nature, we lose our connection with God.**

Paragraph 6, Lines 1 & 2

A part of a Bahamian song says, ***“If the Good Lord never went on holiday, then why, o why, did He make The Bahamas?”*** The artist wanted to extol the wonder of God’s handiwork by suggesting that this part of His creation is such a beautiful place, that this is where the Lord vacations. The beauty of these 700 island, and even more rocks and cays, inclusive of their surrounding waters are absolutely gorgeous! Sadly, human intrusion has the more populated islands far removed from its former pristine state. The waters are still beautiful though. 😊

When we think of nature, we think of the unspoiled beauty of land, sea and sky that is in the same condition when creation birthed them. We think of wooded areas filled with splendor, not plastic bags and bottles. When we think of turquoise seas, we think of waters teeming with fish not garbage. When we think of the white (and pink) sands of our beaches we do not picture human waste and evidence of their indiscriminate, immoral, unethical and illegal practices.

When we choose to decimate the gift (creation/nature) of God by doing all manner of things to it, we are showing God that we are most unappreciative, and that He has so little preeminence in our hearts, to the point that we blatantly and vulgarly say to Him, “(nice people don’t say bad words).” But to trash the beauty of God’s creation is to have no regard for the Creator; because connection with Him has been lost. As a matter of fact, it was severed.

My view, for a long time, has always been that everyone and everything is an expression of God. God is in our DNA. God is present in all there is. Everything in all creation was made by Him <sup>(Acts 17:24)</sup>. To disrespect His creation is to distance oneself from Him: to sever the connection. Love for God is love for all that He wills, all that He says, and all that He created. When we choose to disconnect from these things we are operating outside of love. When we operate outside of Love we operate outside of God. Therefore, we have become disconnected from Him. Although nothing can separate us from the God’s love <sup>(Romans 8:39)</sup>, we can choose, by our free will, to disconnect. I am reminded of the scripture, “none can snatch them out of My Hand <sup>(John 10:29)</sup>”. I have always maintained that even though none can snatch us away from Christ, we have the free will to leave on our own.

As co-creators of God <sup>(Paragraph 6, Line 3)</sup>, we are responsible for doing our part in replenishing what we have used so that others can also benefit from God’s creation. This section of the text admonished us to express God’s love in creative ways. We do this by ensuring that we produce beauty, love and joy in all that we do, so that the splendor of God’s Creation is as it was from the beginning. Just as we were given much, we must also give much. This may seem like a huge challenge, but if all of us, who name

the Name of Christ, do our small part, then we will be well on the way to creating and maintaining a beautiful world. Forgive me for being too optimistic.

What is necessary for loving God's creation, is knowing the Creator, and the created things; taking time to savor all that is in front of us at the current moment. To know is to be intimate. To be intimate is to be connected. Therefore, our connection to God and His creation is dependent on how intensely we know. We get to know by communication: prayer, study, meditation, and contemplation.

In order to sustain our connection to creation, and not lose our lifeline to the Creator, we must communicate to enrich our love and intimacy on a profound level.



“Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God,  
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;  
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.”

– Elizabeth Barrett Browning

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