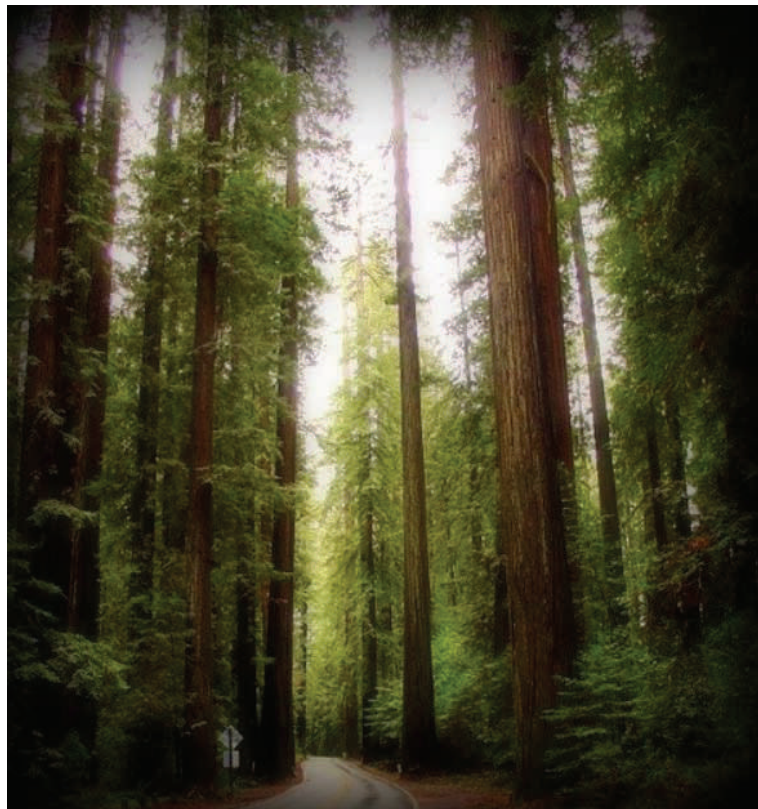


We are asked to do our part as 'a part'
In doing so never feel apart from the whole
But we want to write the book—play God
So God lets us play but the stakes are high



*...We are all very much a part of nature's fabric
But we somehow stand outside and visit...*

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A PART OR APART

Swami Suryadevananda

See how well all in nature live life
Without self-importance, possessiveness—therefore fear
We are all very much a part of nature's fabric
But we somehow stand outside and visit

Why feel more important than our brethren?
Every blade of grass, insect and person
The mechanisms we've made to try to promote unity
Each further divide by unique insistence

We are already a part of something very grand
Why not feel being 'a part' and never apart?
Starting apart, we drift further apart only
Feel the vital connection that already exists

So much to learn from our real kith and kin
 Relatives and friends are a small part of all
 You are vitally related to all and every thing
 All that you see is verily your own self only

Can a wave stand apart from the ocean?
 Can wind ever stand apart from space?
 The sun never stands apart from you
 The rains quench the thirst of one and all

Creation is not exhausted by humanity
 You are brother and sister to all you see
 This real organic connection already is
 Great is the gain in making this real within

We worry about all that must be tended to
 But we worry unnecessarily, says Krishna
 The heavy burden we carry is by our own choice
 This choice makes you a visitor in your own home

Once again the flute bearer whispers to us
 "I do everything but please do something too
 And, kindly take all the glory of deeds well done
 Though I am doer, deed and done to as well"

How wonderful to know what is needed
 To do what needs to be done but wisely
 Not in lieu of our self-created responsibility
 But as one responsible in the widest sense

Act as a good steward of all and everything
 Doing what needs to be done for the best of all

Embrace nature fully and feel embraced too
 Break down all walls that 'I-so-late'

Feeling abandoned is self-generated
 It does not take time to get over this
 The seed is thought—resolve anew now
 With firm determination discard all limitation

Why will nature not heal you nicely?
 If you only accept you are a part of her
 In healing you she takes care of her self
 If only you feel 'a part' and not apart

Self-created and self-sustained are all walls
 Divisions are the mind's creation only
 The mind that is divided—sees division
 The mind sees and experiences itself only

Every moment is a golden opportunity
 To accept unity as the truth of things
 Then, each action must be holy testimony
 And the heart feels nature's embrace in return

What glory it is to feel one with all
 Not just in theory or empty words
 But when the whole being acts naturally
 As 'a part' of all—we never feel apart at all

Just this much we are asked to do
 Our little part in things but as part of all
 This simple request is the master key
 Wonderful is the experience that awaits