

NovaVerie

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### Without Beige-Colored Glasses

The water sparkled as it tripped over the large rocks on the bed of the creek. I stared down at it with newfound awe. I looked at the grass around me, watching the worms wriggling around small rocks. I watched as a bird flew across the vast blue sky and landed in the bright green leaves of an oak tree that towered over me. The world felt so full. I had "seen" these things every day for years, yet I had never truly *seen* them. For my first time since childhood, I was seeing the world unobscured by mundanity, seeing it without *beige*-colored glasses. I was seeing the world for what it really was. Viewing the world as something foreign will give you a worldview full of wonder. To find this breathtaking wonder, you must *truly* connect with nature.

Connecting with nature is essential to finding the wonder in the world. People often stare up at the night sky, in awe of the vastness of the universe. To *truly* connect with nature, you must look down at the soil and grass with the same awe, awe at the vastness of the life here on Earth. You must see the ways in which all this life connects with and affects each other, admire the intricacies of it all. Think about the history of each little thing, both as an individual and as a group in the history of the planet. Look at the grass and think about each blade; think about all the grass that has ever been. Think about all the things that live in the grass, in fact, *see* them. Try and fail to fully grasp how many things rely on this grass for food, for a habitat, and for the creatures that it benefits. Try and fail to grasp the size and complexity of the web of life. When I looked at the grass, I saw the worms living in it. I thought about their lives and the

way they benefit their habitats. I thought about their deaths and the way their nutrients and energy will continue moving through their ecosystem. I thought about all the creatures that benefit from this cycle and the ones that benefit from them. I looked at my surroundings and saw all the connections. I saw the intricacy of our vast biosphere. I felt it. You must *feel* the vastness and intricacy of the life on Earth. *Feel* the way that our planet is a microcosm of our universe and stare at it in awe. By doing this, you are seeing the world in a way that you likely have not seen it since you were a small child, when the world was still foreign to you. By truly feeling how vast our biosphere is, you are letting *it* connect with *you*. You are letting the soul of the planet embrace yours, letting it envelope you. You, much like the Earth, are complex and intricate. You, much like the Earth, are filled with comparatively tiny living and dying things. You are a microcosm of this planet, which is a microcosm of the universe, and that is amazing. All the things around us and the ways we are intertwined with them are amazing. Ever since I first looked at the world this way, I constantly find myself noticing the how awe-inspiring it all is.

Taking off my beige-colored glasses and viewing the world as something foreign changed something deep in me forever. After all this seeing, feeling, and thinking, I had found the breathtaking wonder in all that surrounds us. Now, I see the world around me and am utterly amazed by it. If you want to share this feeling of overwhelming awe with me then you should try taking off your beige-colored glasses too. The world is an amazing place, and by some unimaginable luck, we get to exist as a part of it.