

Aharon David Gordon (1856-1922)

1. "Man and Nature", *Man and Nature*, pp. 42 (1910)

The human being, as human being, must always be within nature: for nature is to the feeling thinking human being what water is to the fish. The human being does not only require a reflected silhouette of nature within his soul. He requires the sphere of nature, the pressing and unifying contact that nature, that infinite being, presses upon his body and soul forcing him to live and to be human as a living individual.

2. "Man and Nature", *Man and Nature*, pp. 50-51

... On that day, O Man, you shall be given a new spirit. New, too, will be your emotions and your hunger—not for bread, nor for wealth, but for work. You shall joy in all the work that you perform, in all that you do... and you shall do it in nature, sharing the world's exertion, its life, and its expanse. Thus, shall you work in the field, and thus shall you work in your home, and thus shall you build your home. And as you work you shall think of the world as your workshop and of nature and you as its workmen. On that day you shall say: "Beautiful is nature in its form, but more beautiful yet in the spirit of its striving."

When you pause to stretch your limbs and take a deep breath, you will be breathing more than air... You will breathe something hidden, that you would not know what it is, but that would add life and light to your spirit. And you will have moments, which will melt all of you in the infinity. Then will be silence. And you will find the secret of silence and its holiness.

3. "Our Work from Now on", *Nation and Labor*, pp. 243–244 (1918)

We have become familiar with the statement that rights to the land are acquired through blood and fire [but this is] an agreed upon falsehood. In blood and fire, one steals the freedom of the people [living] on the land and temporarily enslaves the people, as well as the land, until [the act of enslavement] makes the one [perpetuating it] weak. In practice the land remains with those who work it and live it. This is the criterion for our relation to the Arabs. The Arabs live on the Land, and we may not diminish their rights nor reject them. But they also may not diminish our rights to the land that we live and work on with our self-labor.