No Matter What, We Will Always Need Nature

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It may not be the same for everyone, but for me, knowing that wilderness does exist offers a sort of security or insurance. Some people prefer the big city, tiny apartments, bustling streets, and bright lights at night. Being rushed through life without stopping to smell the roses (literally and figuratively) these city people do not focus on how beautiful the world really is and how much better it could be. Many people, in fact, have forgotten what it may be like to live surrounded by flowers, trees, birds, fish, plants, and other animals because we have chosen to surrounded ourselves with modern commodities that work for us such as electricity, cars, computers, and iPhones. If and when someone feels too distant from the wilderness, they can ease this by watching a nature documentary online or by looking up photoshopped images to click through without even getting up out of a chair. Their thirst for nature can be quenched as easily as they can cure a craving to watch a romantic movie.

In his 1949 book *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold says, "civilization has so cluttered this elemental man-earth relationship with gadgets and middlemen that awareness of it is growing dim. We fancy that industry supports us, forgetting what supports industry." The entire world cannot become so focused on this new technology that we do not acknowledge what we had before our current society. Without nature, these material gadgets would never have even been created in the first place. While, on the surface, it may seem that we could easily be sustained by these modern conveniences that have become necessary components of our daily lives, but we can never overpower the need for nature. Being the base of all life, we simply cannot go on if we choose machinery over the wilderness.

All materials to produce electronics, clothes, medicine, food, and any other thing that we may use, originally came from plants or animals that were grown in nature. Many people are becoming obsessed with whether their food is organic or not. To these people, buying an organic apple at the supermarket helps them to feel healthier and "greener" to clean their conscience. Food can still be considered organic simply because it has not been grown with chemicals or drugs but does included the physical treatment of the animals or plants. With farms being located so far from cities, the harm done to the earth in transporting goods in large quantities all over the world is almost worse than whether it is organic or not. Buying organically is a step in the right direction but it is not the only solution.

No matter what, we need a sun to nurture the world; no matter what, we need clean air to breathe; no matter what, we need clean water to drink; no matter what, we need fresh food to eat; and no matter what, we need nutritious land to live on. These things cannot be man made. In destroying nature, we are destroying ourselves.