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Givers and Takers

Though there are only two weeks until June, the start of summer break, it seems that spring isn't over yet. The fuchsia and magenta mix of the plentiful geraniums in our little 50-square-foot patio hasn't left us. The crows cawing and the parrots squawking fill the sky with a cacophony for a minute. A cottontail rabbit races over to our jasmine plant, takes a flower in its gentle mouth and sprints off. A black and yellow striped paper wasp blows into our patio, shoved by the wind, and continues to sway like a ballet dancer to music. The coleus plant remains a fast-access food source for ruby-throated hummingbirds. Lately, I have been fascinated by the rapid flapping of these birds and their attraction to the tiny lavender flowers blooming in my patio. Then, a thought sparks in my mind. What will happen to the hummingbirds if nature disappears? Will Earth become a barren and vacant land as it used to be some 4.5 billion years ago? These questions swirl in my mind like a Ferris wheel.

And I notice this all, sitting on the turquoise Adirondack in my patio. Even though it's just a 50-square-foot area, it is teeming with activity; it is teeming with life. Taking in the beauty of nature provides a sense of euphoria for me. But how long will this euphoria last? The leviathan of climate change continues to obliterate the fragile balance of this ecosystem. Once this nature disappears, thanks to us, I will regret it, you will regret it, and the whole world will regret it.

As I write, I wonder how to get 8.4 billion people to work together to restore our nature. It would require a Herculean effort, and though there are fervent crusaders, the efforts they put into preserving nature are not enough.

My culture has taught me that everything stems from one creator: God. He created the junipers, pines, and chestnuts along with the hydrangeas, echinacea, and ranunculus flowers. But only after that did he create us: humans. And then we became greedy, invoking nature's fury: hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and so on. And as we progressed further in time, we started to distance ourselves from nature due to technology. And we forgot about the healing power nature can provide for us. Humans are a microcosm within the ever-expanding macrocosm. Within the massiveness of nature are me and you, having a role to play. And no matter how small our part is in nature, it's vital. I view nature in a speck of dirt but also as the essence of our soul. I view nature as ordinary but also as God. But I don't view myself in nature; instead, I view nature in me, in every one of us. This relationship between us and nature demands reciprocity. What nature gave to us, we must return. Our time has come; it is now.