

## Nature and Self-Sacrifice

service unto death the perfect form of the self-sacrifice which runs all through Nature ---Nature which has decreed that the predominantly selfish type of life must perish from the earth, and which has ingrained in the very constitution of living things the principle of self-sacrifice. Jesus Christ on the occasion when the Greeks sought him at the feast linked together the life of the wheat of which he said: "Except a corn of wheat fall to the ground and die it abideth alone," but if it beareth much fruit," with our own lives, when He says that the selfish life in its very worthlessness and in its lack of fruitfulness is the lost life, "He that saveth his life loseth it, and he that loseth his life for My sake, finds it," and also with His own, when he says: "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me." Sometimes when I have stood beside a field of wheat which had been growing all the summer long with rich and luscious green in every part of the plants, as they struggled each for nourishment in the soil and for sunlight and more nourishment from the air, it seemed to be but a self regarding life in each, but one day over the whole field a strange change of color spreads, and every part of each plant loaded with rich supplies of nourishment begins to pay it out and to push it upwards and pack it away in the kernels of the head, till at last the whole plant is blanched white in death. It has died that the wheat race may live still upon the earth and the nations be fed. Then have I seen the giant reapers marching merrily up and down the fields for in this act of