

full of suffering enough. We have ceased to perpetuate the vision of childhood.

"Shades of the prison house begin to close
Upon the growing boy."

Or, to change the figure: a wrench has been given to the building of life and the superstructure has become discontinuous with the base.

Now the message of spiritual vision is this: "Ye must be born again," born into the large visioned, all beauteous life of childhood. Ye must actually become as little children in order to fulfil the purpose of your creation. A building must be firmly fixed on its foundation. The superstructure must grow up continuous with its base or it is no building. And that is no building of manhood, such as was intended of it, whose superstructure is not close knit into the basic world, the basic principles of childhood.

"The child is father of the man
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety ;

That is the only true estimate of the purpose of human life. Imagine a tree striking out on a side growth of its own and disavowing connection with the seed. Imagine our physical body being something else than a development of the body of the child. And then you can imagine what has become of our spiritual vision. As we have grown out of the realm of childhood we have disannulled our primal faith, which was intended to have reached a fair blossoming as we became matured. Our bodies have grown but our faith has waned. And we have frustrated our predestination. For it is the purpose of our creation that the vague, shadowy, sub-conscious, romantic, untranslatable vision of the child should develop in the man into a conscious faith and the clear perception of the reality of the spiritual and should take upon it therefore the nature of religion. It is indeed true what one of the old time has said :

"When I was a child I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child. But when I became a man I put away childish things."