

Either these religious ideas must have a substantial realization—that is, there must be something to correspond to these heaving and swelling tides of the human soul, or else human nature is, throughout, a stupendous and disastrous falsehood, all existences are phantasms, and to the four winds should be flung every form of modern philosophy.”

Are we prepared to adopt the true but melancholy conclusion embodied in the closing words of the statement just quoted? I think not; the mind shrinks from believing that its highest operation, stretching through all generations, is a lie, and that what has proved to be the mightiest force on earth is based upon deceptions which have prolonged themselves to this very hour. Authorities in the scientific world teach emphatically that there is “no vice in the nature and constitution of things,” and that Nature has no “half hinges,” and always keeps her word. Is it true, then, that man, in the “higher zones of thought,” in the “uplands of the spirit,” has been pursuing ghosts, which have no actual existence, except in his own imagination and feverish and troubled dreams?

Reasoning from the whole structure and conditions of the natural world around us, where the law and principle of adaptation prevail throughout its vast domains, we may certainly infer that man, in all the great necessities of his being, is no exception to the universal correspondences which obtain in all the lower orders of existence, by which he is surrounded.

The environments all through the various grades and classifications of nature are adapted to meet the requirements of those organisms which those regions contain, and there is marvellous harmony in this respect, wherever we may look. “So far as human observation extends, we know inductively that there are no exceptions to the law that every constitutional instinct has its correlate to match it. Wherever we find a wing we find air to match it; a fin, water to match it; an eye, light to match it; an ear, sound to match it, and so through all the myriads of known cases.” (Joseph Cook). And not only do we find this universal adaptation to the organic instincts of the animal creation, but up to a certain stage in the nature of man the same principle of correspondence is found and the same