

OUR ENGLISH PAGE

Why I Love The Stars.

Perhaps there is not an English-speaking child in all the world who has not learned the words,

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are,
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky."

As a child I remember looking with awe and wonder at the beautiful stars, asking the names of Sirius or Orion or the Pleiades, and wondering how far away from us they were and how large they were and what kept them from falling. When I was nine years old there appeared a wonderful comet, and one morning I was waked at four o'clock to see it. It was indeed a wonderful sight, extending from the horizon half-way across the eastern sky. Not long after this I was given a child's book on astronomy called "Sun, Moon and Stars", which I thought the most interesting book I had ever read. The pictures of the sun with its corona and sun-spots, the pitted surface of the moon, the rings and satellites of the various planets were a constant delight. I think my highest ambition at that time was to be the proud owner of a telescope that would show the stars as they appeared in my book.

It was not till many years later that I really had a telescope of my own, and the dreams of my childhood were fulfilled. I can see farther now, and I know a little more about the stars than I did; but the same awe and wonder fills my heart, and I love them more than ever.

I believe that the study of the stars has a real influence on the mind and character. If our minds are occupied with thoughts of the beauty and sublimity of the heavens above us, surely we will be lifted above the petty meanness, the selfishness and the strife of the world about us. We read in the Psalms that "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth His handiwork." The study of the stars points us to the God who made them, and leads us to reverence and worship.

In the constellation of Andromeda there is a nebula easily visible to the naked eye on a clear night. Through my three-inch telescope it looks like an oval spot. By taking a photograph of this nebula through a large reflecting telescope it has been found that it is made up of 180,000 stars, each of them perhaps as large as our own sun, and as far separated from one another as our sun and the other stars. They may have planets circling about them and living beings in these planets. In that one tiny blurred star there is a whole universe. What must we not think of the God who made and rules the stars?

There is a beautiful passage from Thomas Moore that I want to quote:

"Go, wing thy flight from star to star,
From world to luminous world as far
As the universe spreads its flaming wall:
Take all the pleasures of all the spheres,
And multiply each through endless years.

One minute of heaven is worth them all."

I love the stars because they remind me that there are glories and joys beyond this world which we may some day hope to enjoy.

H. W. Myers.

英文欄

私の星好きの理由

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