

From Ego to Eco: John Muir's Legacy

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Abstract

The essay examines the life and work of the leading figure of the American environmental movement as well as environmental literature, John Muir. It traces the remarkable evolution of Muir's personality, which was largely driven by his encounter with the wilderness. The mechanic mind that won him respect in his early life gradually turned into one that was more preoccupied with the natural world. His largely anthropocentric worldview was transforming into an ecocentric one as he was familiarizing himself with natural sciences, especially Darwin's evolutionary theory. Consequently, Muir became a preeminent personage of American environmentalism both on the practical and philosophical level.

Key words: John Muir, environmentalism, conservation, anthropocentrism, ecocentrism, nature, evolution