



The Rocking Chair and the Almanac

Aldo Leopold became a great environmental thinker,
But as a game manager he was hired to tinker
With managing nature for better hunting,
But he realized that nature he was affronting.

By killing the wolves, he was not increasing
The number of deer his hunters were seeking,
But instead, simply increased the feeding pressure,
And he created the concept of ecological oppressor.

And then he looked into a dying wolf's eyes,
And saw its spirit of life deep inside,
And he began to see and think differently,
Creating in his almanac a land ethic coherently.

From the chair on his porch, a work for the ages,
A Sand County Almanac emerged on his pages,
A written philosophy of ecological ethics,
The words so beautiful versed in poetics.

He wrote of the relationship of nature and humans,
Of how there was rhythm to the year and seasons,
Of how the woodcock was his joyful neighbor,
Of the dead tree becoming his warmth-giving savior.

He wrote eloquently of an ecological necessity,
An ethical base as an evolutionary possibility,
A thing that was needed for the Earth's future,
Our mother needing help or else we would lose her.

It's spiritual to pursue an evolutionary possibility,
To take on the mantle of human responsibility,
To chart a path where none existed,
To evolve a vision from one so gifted.

His rocking chair insights made us all aware,
Of a future for the ages beyond compare,
Embracing ecology and all that it means,
From the porch with Aldo, I rock in my dreams.

So welcome to Earth Church,
Find a rocking chair pew,
Here an evolutionary possibility
Will become real to you.