

NOTICE

It is often unmistakable that the song of animals is sufficient unto itself, that it is not intended to serve any purpose or produce any sort of effect. Such songs have aptly been characterized as self-expressions.

They arise from an intrinsic need of the creature to give expression to its being. But self-expression demands a presence, for which it occurs. This presence is the environing world. No creature exists for itself alone; all are in the world, and this means: each one in its own world. Thus the singing creature expresses itself in and for its world.

In expressing itself it becomes happily aware of the world, it cries out and joyfully lays claim to the world. The lark rises to dizzy heights in the column of air that is its world; without other purpose, it sings the song of itself and its world. The language of its own being is at the same time the language of the world's reality. A living knowledge rings in the song.

— 'EASTERN CROW'

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