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Yosemite, California

By Joey Meldrum

You are going on a strange journey this time, my friend. I don't envy you. You'll have a hard time keeping your heart light and simple in the midst of this crowd of madmen. Instead of the music of the wind among the spruce-tops and the tinkling of the waterfalls, your ears will be filled with the oaths and groans of these poor, deluded, self-burdened people. Keep close to Nature's heart, yourself; and break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean from the earth-stains of this sordid, gold-seeking crowd in God's pure air. It will help you in your efforts to bring to these people something better than gold. Don't lose your freedom and your love of the Earth as God made it.

~ *John Muir**

* JOHN MUIR, *ALASKA DAYS WITH JOHN MUIR* (Samuel Hall Young, ed., Fleming H. Revell Co., New York, 1915), available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/30697/30697-h/30697-h.htm>.