

a place on earth wendell berry

****A Place on Earth Wendell Berry: Exploring the Heart of Belonging and Stewardship****

a place on earth wendell berry is more than just a phrase; it is a profound concept that captures the deep connection between humans and the land they inhabit. Wendell Berry, a celebrated American writer, farmer, and environmentalist, has dedicated much of his work to exploring this intimate relationship. His essays, poems, and novels invite readers to reflect on what it truly means to belong to a place, to nurture it, and to live in harmony with the natural world.

If you've ever wondered how literature can inspire environmental stewardship or how a sense of place can shape community and identity, delving into Wendell Berry's idea of "a place on earth" offers rich insights. Let's explore what this concept entails, why it remains relevant today, and how it might influence the way we live.

Understanding Wendell Berry's Vision of "A Place on Earth"

Wendell Berry's notion of "a place on earth" is rooted in a philosophy of groundedness. Unlike the transient lifestyle many lead today, Berry emphasizes the importance of establishing deep roots in a particular locale. This isn't simply about physical residence; it's about cultivating a reciprocal relationship with the land, its ecosystems, and the community that shares it.

The Importance of Belonging

At the heart of Berry's writing is the idea that belonging to a place nurtures responsibility. When people feel connected to their environment, they are more likely to care for it thoughtfully. Berry argues that modern disconnection—from nature, from community, and from tradition—leads to environmental degradation and social fragmentation.

His works encourage readers to:

- Recognize the land as a living entity with its own needs
- Develop long-term commitments to local ecosystems
- Foster relationships with neighbors and community members

This perspective challenges the fast-paced, disposable mindset prevalent in consumer culture, calling for a slower, more intentional way of life.

Stewardship and Sustainability

Berry's concept of stewardship goes beyond conservation. It's about actively participating in the health and vitality of the land. He advocates for sustainable agriculture, local economies, and

practices that maintain soil fertility and biodiversity. His own life as a farmer in Kentucky exemplifies his commitment to these principles.

He writes passionately about:

- The significance of small-scale farming as a means to sustainable living
- The dangers of industrial agriculture and its impact on communities
- How thoughtful land management can preserve future generations' ability to thrive

Through this lens, "a place on earth" becomes a site of ethical engagement, where humans act as caretakers rather than exploiters.

Wendell Berry's Literary Landscape: The Role of Place in His Writing

Berry's writing is deeply embedded in the geography of his native Kentucky. His fictional town of Port William serves as a microcosm for exploring themes of land, community, and change. This fictional setting allows readers to immerse themselves in the rhythms of rural life and consider the broader implications of disconnection from place.

The Symbolism of Port William

Port William is not just a backdrop; it is a character in its own right. Through detailed descriptions of the land, seasons, and local customs, Berry evokes a sense of continuity and belonging. The town represents a world where people are intertwined with the environment and with each other.

Berry's portrayal of Port William provides:

- A narrative space to explore the consequences of neglecting "a place on earth"
- Examples of how community members support one another through shared stewardship
- Stories that reveal the tensions between progress and preservation

This emphasis on place serves as a gentle reminder of what can be lost when modern life neglects its roots.

Poetry and Place

Berry's poetry further captures the emotional resonance of place. His verses often celebrate the natural world's beauty while lamenting its destruction. Poems like "The Peace of Wild Things" express a profound yearning for solace in nature, highlighting how deeply intertwined human well-being is with the health of the earth.

By reading Berry's poetry, we gain:

- A heightened awareness of the sensory experiences tied to specific places
- Insights into the spiritual dimension of land and belonging
- A call to mindfulness and presence in everyday life

His poetic work complements his prose by offering a more intimate, reflective approach to “a place on earth.”

Practical Lessons from Wendell Berry's Philosophy

While Berry's ideas may seem idealistic, they offer practical guidance for anyone seeking to live more sustainably and meaningfully. Whether you live in a city, suburb, or rural area, the principles behind “a place on earth” can be adapted to suit your context.

Building Connection in Urban and Suburban Settings

You don't have to own a farm to develop a sense of belonging to your environment. Simple actions can foster a deeper connection, such as:

- Participating in community gardens or local farming initiatives
- Supporting farmers' markets and local food systems
- Engaging with neighborhood groups focused on environmental conservation

These activities build social bonds and promote stewardship even in densely populated areas.

Adopting Sustainable Practices

Inspired by Berry's advocacy for sustainability, individuals and families can take steps to reduce their ecological footprint:

- Composting organic waste to enrich local soil
- Choosing seasonal, locally grown produce
- Minimizing reliance on single-use plastics and energy-intensive products

These choices reflect an ethic of care that aligns with Berry's vision of living responsibly within “a place on earth.”

Encouraging Intergenerational Stewardship

Berry stresses the importance of thinking about future generations. Teaching children and young people about the value of place and the environment is crucial for sustaining stewardship over time. This can be done through:

- Outdoor education and experiential learning

- Storytelling that connects history, culture, and land
- Involvement in community service and conservation projects

By instilling respect for place early on, communities can nurture ongoing relationships with the earth.

The Enduring Relevance of Wendell Berry's "A Place on Earth"

In an era marked by climate change, urban sprawl, and social fragmentation, Wendell Berry's reflections on "a place on earth" offer a timely perspective. His work challenges us to reconsider our relationship with the land—not as a commodity to be exploited but as a home to be cherished.

Whether through literature, farming, or community activism, Berry's legacy invites each of us to find our own place on earth. It's a call to slow down, observe, and engage with the world around us in ways that honor both nature and human connection.

By embracing this philosophy, we not only improve our own sense of well-being but also contribute to a more sustainable and compassionate future. Wendell Berry's vision reminds us that the health of the planet and the health of its people are deeply intertwined, and that belonging to a place is both a gift and a responsibility.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Wendell Berry, the author of 'A Place on Earth'?

Wendell Berry is an American novelist, poet, environmental activist, cultural critic, and farmer known for his advocacy of sustainable agriculture and rural communities.

What is the central theme of Wendell Berry's 'A Place on Earth'?

'A Place on Earth' explores themes of community, environmental stewardship, the connection between people and land, and the challenges of modern life in rural America.

Is 'A Place on Earth' a novel or a collection of essays by Wendell Berry?

'A Place on Earth' is a novel by Wendell Berry that weaves together narratives about family, land, and rural life.

How does Wendell Berry depict rural life in 'A Place on Earth'?

Berry depicts rural life with a deep sense of respect and realism, highlighting both its beauty and hardships, while emphasizing the importance of sustainable living and community bonds.

What role does environmental conservation play in 'A Place on Earth'?

Environmental conservation is a key element in the novel, reflecting Berry's philosophy that caring for the land is essential to preserving culture, community, and future generations.

Can 'A Place on Earth' be considered a critique of modern industrial society?

Yes, the novel critiques modern industrial society by contrasting it with traditional, sustainable ways of living that are more harmonious with nature and community.

How does Wendell Berry's background influence 'A Place on Earth'?

Berry's experience as a farmer and environmental activist deeply informs the novel's authentic portrayal of rural life and its emphasis on ecological responsibility.

Has 'A Place on Earth' received any notable literary recognition?

'A Place on Earth' has been praised for its lyrical prose and profound insights into human and environmental relationships, earning Wendell Berry acclaim as a leading voice in American literature.

What lessons can readers learn from 'A Place on Earth' by Wendell Berry?

Readers can learn the importance of living in harmony with the land, valuing community connections, and recognizing the impact of individual choices on the environment and society.

Additional Resources

A Place on Earth Wendell Berry: Exploring the Intersection of Land, Literature, and Legacy

a place on earth wendell berry serves as more than just a phrase; it encapsulates a profound philosophy embedded within the works of Wendell Berry, an American novelist, poet, essayist, and environmental activist. His vision of "a place on earth" transcends geographic boundaries, inviting readers and scholars alike to contemplate the intricate relationship between humans and their natural surroundings. Through his literary oeuvre and agrarian principles, Berry challenges modern society's detachment from place, urging a reconnection with the land as a source of identity, sustainability, and community.

This article delves into the concept of "a place on earth" as envisioned by Wendell Berry, exploring its thematic significance, cultural context, and environmental implications. By examining Berry's reflections on land stewardship, localism, and the ethical responsibilities tied to place, we aim to illuminate why his ideas remain relevant in contemporary debates on ecology, rural life, and cultural

heritage.

Wendell Berry's Philosophy of Place

At the heart of Wendell Berry's writings lies an unwavering commitment to place—a deep attachment to the land that shapes human experience and defines community. Unlike abstract notions of nature, Berry's "place" is tangible and intimate, comprising the soil, water, flora, fauna, and human relationships that coexist in a specific locale. This rootedness contrasts sharply with modern tendencies toward globalization and mobility, which can dilute the sense of belonging and stewardship.

Berry's conception of place is inseparable from his agrarian worldview. By living and farming in Kentucky, he embodies a lifestyle that prioritizes local economies, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture. His advocacy for small-scale farming and land conservation reflects a critique of industrial agriculture's environmental degradation and social dislocation. In his essays and poetry, Berry often emphasizes that caring for "a place on earth" demands responsibility, patience, and respect for natural cycles.

The Literary Manifestation of Place

Berry's novels and poetry serve as literary testaments to his philosophy. Works such as *The Unsettling of America* and *Jayber Crow* vividly portray characters deeply intertwined with their surroundings, illustrating how place shapes identity and moral choices. Through detailed descriptions of the Appalachian landscape and rural community life, Berry crafts a narrative where land is both a setting and a character, influencing the trajectory of human lives.

His poetic approach further accentuates the sensory and spiritual dimensions of place. Berry's poems frequently meditate on the changing seasons, the work of farming, and the enduring presence of family and tradition. This literary approach fosters an immersive experience, encouraging readers to consider the implications of disconnection from place in a world increasingly dominated by urbanization and technology.

Environmental and Cultural Implications

Berry's emphasis on place has profound environmental and cultural implications. His critique of industrialization highlights the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and loss of biodiversity. By advocating for localism—the support of local economies, foodsheds, and cultural practices—Berry proposes a framework for ecological resilience and social cohesion.

Localism and Sustainable Agriculture

Central to Berry's vision is the promotion of local agriculture and food systems. He argues that consuming locally grown food reduces carbon footprints, preserves farmland, and reinforces

community ties. This stance aligns with contemporary movements such as farm-to-table and slow food, which value quality, sustainability, and cultural heritage.

Berry also warns against the homogenization of landscapes and cultures brought on by global agribusiness. The replacement of diverse ecosystems with monocultures not only threatens environmental health but erodes the unique character of places. His advocacy for biodiversity underscores the importance of preserving native species and traditional farming methods.

Ethics and Responsibility Toward Land

A cornerstone of Berry's thought is the ethical responsibility humans have toward the land they inhabit. He posits that land is not merely a resource to be exploited but a community of life deserving respect and care. This ethic challenges anthropocentric views and calls for a reciprocal relationship with nature.

Berry's essays often highlight the moral consequences of neglecting this responsibility, including environmental degradation, loss of community, and spiritual impoverishment. He suggests that true well-being arises from recognizing humans as part of a larger ecological and cultural network anchored in place.

Comparative Perspectives: Wendell Berry and Other Environmental Thinkers

To better appreciate Berry's unique contribution, it is useful to compare his ideas with those of other environmental philosophers. Unlike deep ecology proponents who emphasize wilderness preservation often detached from human presence, Berry integrates human culture and agriculture into his vision of ecological harmony.

Similarly, while transcendentalists like Henry David Thoreau celebrated nature's spiritual dimensions, Berry grounds his spirituality in the practical realities of farming and living within a community. This pragmatic approach distinguishes his work as a call to action rather than mere contemplation.

Pros and Cons of Berry's Agrarian Ideal

- **Pros:**

- Encourages sustainable land use and environmental stewardship.
- Strengthens local economies and cultural identities.
- Promotes a holistic view of human-nature relationships.

- **Cons:**

- May be challenging to implement in highly urbanized or industrialized contexts.
- Potentially romanticizes rural life, overlooking socioeconomic complexities.
- Limited scalability in addressing global environmental crises.

The Legacy of “A Place on Earth Wendell Berry” in Contemporary Discourse

In today's rapidly changing world, where climate change, urban sprawl, and cultural homogenization pose significant threats, Berry's focus on place offers a timely and necessary perspective. His work continues to inspire environmental activists, writers, farmers, and policymakers striving to balance progress with preservation.

Berry's integration of literature, ethics, and ecology fosters a multidimensional understanding of environmental issues. By grounding abstract concerns in the lived experience of place, he bridges the gap between knowledge and practice, urging a return to attentiveness, care, and humility in our interactions with the earth.

As discussions around sustainability evolve, Berry's insistence on the importance of “a place on earth” reminds us that true environmental stewardship is not only about protecting nature but about nurturing the communities and cultures that define our shared existence.

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a place on earth wendell berry: [A Place on Earth](#) Mark Tredinnick, 2003 This anthology brings together leading Australian and North American nature writers. Responding to places that sustain, inspire and sometimes sadden, the pieces are propelled by passion, anger and history.

a place on earth wendell berry: [The Achievement of Wendell Berry](#) Fritz Oehlschlaeger,

2011-05-23 Arguably one of the most important American writers working today, Wendell Berry is the author of more than fifty books, including novels and collections of poems, short stories, and essays. A prominent spokesman for agrarian values, Berry frequently defends such practices and ideas as sustainable agriculture, healthy rural communities, connection to place, the pleasures of work, and the interconnectedness of life. In *The Achievement of Wendell Berry: The Hard History of Love*, Fritz Oehlschlaeger provides a sweeping engagement with Berry's entire corpus. The book introduces the reader to Berry's general philosophy and aesthetic through careful consideration of his essays. Oehlschlaeger pays particular attention to Berry as an agrarian, citizen, and patriot, and also examines the influence of Christianity on Berry's writings. Much of the book is devoted to lively close readings of Berry's short stories, novels, and poetry. *The Achievement of Wendell Berry* is a comprehensive introduction to the philosophical and creative world of Wendell Berry, one that offers new critical insights into the writing of this celebrated Kentucky author.

a place on earth wendell berry: Heaven is a Place on Earth Adrian Shirk, 2023-12-05 An exploration of American ideas of utopia through the lens of one millennial's quest to live a more communal life under late-stage capitalism Told in a series of essays that balance memoir with fieldwork, *Heaven Is a Place on Earth* is an idiosyncratic study of American utopian experiments—from the Shakers to the radical faerie communes of Short Mountain to the Bronx rebuilding movement—through the lens of one woman's quest to create a more communal life in a time of unending economic and social precarity. When Adrian Shirk's father-in-law has a stroke and loses his ability to speak and walk, she and her husband—both adjuncts in their midtwenties—become his primary caretakers. The stress of these new responsibilities, coupled with navigating America's broken health-care system and ordinary twenty-first-century financial insecurity, propels Shirk into an odyssey through the history and present of American utopian experiments in the hope that they might offer a way forward. Along the way, Shirk seeks solace in her own community of friends, artists, and theologians. They try to imagine a different kind of life, examining what might be replicable within the histories of utopia-making, and what might be doomed. Rather than “no place,” Shirk reframes utopia as something that, according to the laws of capital and conquest, shouldn't be able to exist—but does anyway, if only for a moment.

a place on earth wendell berry: The New Agrarian Mind Allan C. Carlson, 2017-07-05 The self-sufficiency and regional outlook of farm life characterized the United States until the Civil War period. With the triumph of the industrial North over the rural South, the expansion of urbanism, and the closing of the frontier, the agrarian sector became an economic and cultural minority. The social benefits of rural life - a sense of independence, commitment to democracy, an abundance of children, stable community life - were threatened. This volume examines the rise of a distinctive agrarian intellectual movement to combat these trends. *The New Agrarian Mind*, now in paperback, synthesizes the thought of twentieth-century agrarian writers. It weaves together discussions of major representative figures, such as Liberty Hyde Bailey, Carle Zimmerman, and Wendell Berry, with myth-shattering analyses of the movement's cultural diversity, intellectual influence, and ideological complexity. Collectively labeled the New Agrarians to distinguish them from the simpler Jeffersonianism of the nineteenth century, they shared a coherent set of goals that were at once socially conservative and economically radical.

a place on earth wendell berry: Wendell Berry: Port William Novels & Stories: The Civil War to World War II (LOA #302) Wendell Berry, 2018-01-30 Library of America inaugurates its edition of the complete fiction of one of America's most beloved living writers For more than fifty years, in eight novels and fortytwo short stories, Wendell Berry (b. 1934) has created an indelible portrait of rural America through the lens of Port William, Kentucky, one of the most fully imagined places in American literature. Taken together, these novels and stories form a masterwork of American prose: straightforward, spare, and lyrical. Now, for the first time, in an edition prepared in consultation with the author, Library of America is presenting the complete story of Port William in the order of narrative chronology. This first volume, which spans from the Civil War to World War II, gathers the novels *Nathan Coulter* (1960, revised 1985), *A Place on Earth* (1967, revised 1983), *A*

World Lost (1996), and Andy Catlett: *Early Travels* (2006), along with twenty-three short stories, among them such favorites as "Watch With Me," "Thicker than Liquor," and "A Desirable Woman." It also features a newly researched chronology of Berry's life and career, a map and a Port William Membership family tree, and helpful notes. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

a place on earth wendell berry: Standing on Earth Wendell Berry, 1991

a place on earth wendell berry: Virtues of Renewal Jeffrey Bilbro, 2018-12-14 For over fifty years, Wendell Berry has argued that our most pressing ecological and cultural need is a renewed formal intelligence—a mode of thinking and acting that fosters the health of the earth and its beings. Yet the present industrial economy prioritizes a technical, self-centered way of relating to the world that often demands and rewards busyness over thoughtful observation, independence over relationships, and replacing over repairing. Such a system is both unsustainable and results in destructive, far-reaching consequences for our society and land. In *Virtues of Renewal: Wendell Berry's Sustainable Forms*, Jeffrey Bilbro combines textual analysis and cultural criticism to explain how Berry's literary forms encourage readers to practice virtues of renewal. While the written word alone cannot enact change, Bilbro asserts that Berry's poetry, essays, and fiction can inspire people to, as Berry writes, practice resurrection. Bilbro examines the distinct, yet symbiotic, features of these three genres, demonstrating the importance of the humanities in supporting tenable economies. He uses Berry's pieces to suggest the need for more robust language for discussing conservation, ecology, and the natural—and regenerative—process of death. Bilbro additionally translates Berry's literature to a wider audience, putting him in conversation with philosophers and theologians such as Ivan Illich, Willie Jennings, Charles Taylor, and Augustine. The lessons that Berry and his work have to offer are not only for those interested in cultivating the land, but also for those who cultivate their communities and live mindfully. In short, these lessons are pertinent to all who are willing to make an effort to live the examined life. Such formative work is not dramatic or quick, but it can foster the deep and lasting transformation necessary to develop a more sustainable culture and economy.

a place on earth wendell berry: A Web of Words Richard J. Gray, 2007 Helps readers understand how any literary tradition involves an open conversation between its texts - a web of words that stretches from the local to the transnational. This book charts 3 different intertextual practices involving writings both within and outside the South.

a place on earth wendell berry: Conversations with Wendell Berry Wendell Berry, 2007 Whether we know it or not, whether we want to be or not, we are members of one another. Since 1960, Wendell Berry (b. 1934) has produced one of the most substantial and consistently thematic bodies of work of any modern American writer. In more than fifty books in various genres—novels, short stories, poems, and essays—he has celebrated a life lived in close communion with neighbors and the earth and has addressed many of our most urgent cultural maladies. His collections of essays urge us to think and act responsibly as members of a community—both human and natural. Volumes of his poems seek to wed us to nature and realign our vision with its mysteries. His growing Port William cycle of novels offers us a fictional model for understanding, for compassion, and for living in constant regard for others. *Conversations with Wendell Berry* gathers for the first time interviews with the writer, ranging from 1973 to 2006, including one never before published. For readers acquainted with Berry's work, this volume offers insights available nowhere else. It reveals succinctly the main currents of his life's work. What emerges is a citizen-writer profoundly affected by cultural crises at home and in the world. Morris Allen Grubbs directs the Preparing Future Faculty Program in the graduate school at University of Kentucky, where he was a student of Berry's. He is editor of *Home and Beyond: An Anthology of Kentucky Short Stories*.

Photograph-Wendell Berry by Pam Spaulding, courtesy CJF

a place on earth wendell berry: Wendell Berry Andrew J. Angyal, 1995 Twayne's United States Authors, English Authors, and World Authors Series present concise critical introductions to great writers and their works. Devoted to critical interpretation and discussion of an author's work, each study takes account of major literary trends and important scholarly contributions and provides new critical insights with an original point of view. An Authors Series volume addresses readers ranging from advanced high school students to university professors. The book suggests to the informed reader new ways of considering a writer's work. Each volume features: -- A critical, interpretive study and explication of the author's works -- A brief biography of the author -- An accessible chronology outlining the life, the work, and relevant historical context -- Aids for further study: complete notes and references, a selected annotated bibliography and an index -- A readable style presented in a manageable length

a place on earth wendell berry: *The Life of the Mind* James V. Schall, 2014-05-06 In *The Life of the Mind*, Georgetown University's James V. Schall takes up the task of reminding us that, as human beings, we naturally take a special delight and pleasure in simply knowing. Because we have not only bodies but also minds, we are built to know what is. In this volume, Schall, author of *On the Unseriousness of Human Affairs* (ISI Books), among many other volumes of philosophical and political reflection, discusses the various ways of approaching the delight of thinking and the way that this delight begins in seeing and hearing and even in making and walking. We must be attentive to and cultivate the needs of the mind, argues Schall, for it is through our intellect that all that is not ourselves is finally returned to us, allowing us to live in the light of truth.

a place on earth wendell berry: *Milton and Ecology* Ken Hiltner, 2003-11-20 In *Milton and Ecology*, Ken Hiltner engages with literary, theoretical, and historic approaches to explore the ideological underpinnings of our current environmental crisis. Focusing on Milton's rejection of dualistic theology, metaphysical philosophy, and early-modern subjectivism, Hiltner argues that Milton anticipates certain essential modern ecological arguments. Even more remarkable is that Milton was able to integrate these arguments with biblical sources so seamlessly that his interpretative 'Green' reading of scripture has for over three centuries been entirely plausible. This study considers how Milton, from the earliest edition of the *Poems*, not only sought to tell the story of how through humanity's folly Paradise on earth was lost, but also sought to tell how it might be regained. This intriguing study will be of interest to eco-critics and Milton specialists alike.

a place on earth wendell berry: *Wendell Berry* Wendell Berry, 1991 For the past quarter-century on his Kentucky farm Wendell Berry has lived out in practice the beliefs that have informed his writing, both as a polemical ecologist and an admired stylist in prose and poetry. His writings (over twenty-five titles currently in print) include powerful and influential essays, poem-meditations, and the sequence of four novels and a collection of short stories set in the fictional Kentucky community of Port William. This volume, the fourth in the Confluence American Authors Series, and the first full-length study of Wendell Berry, addresses both the diversity and unusual coherence of this classic body of work--Back cover.

a place on earth wendell berry: *Imagining Wild America* John R. Knott, 2009-04-03 Sheds light on notions of wilderness as reflected in the works of American authors from Audubon to Mary Oliver

a place on earth wendell berry: *The Ecocriticism Reader* Cheryll Glotfelty, Harold Fromm, 1996 This book is the first collection of its kind, an anthology of classic and cutting-edge writings in the rapidly emerging field of literary ecology. Exploring the relationship between literature and the physical environment, literary ecology is the study of the ways that writing - from novels and folktales to U.S. government reports and corporate advertisements - both reflects and influences our interactions with the natural world.

a place on earth wendell berry: *The Order of Things* James V. Schall, 2009-09-03 Father James Schall, the well-known author and professor of philosophy at Georgetown University, inquires about the various orders found in the cosmos, the human mind, the human body, the city, and he

seeks to reflect upon the unity of these orders. In a world in which the presence of reason and order are denied presumably in the name of science in favor of chance explanations of why things are as they are, it is surprising to find that, in the various realms open to the human intellect, we find a persistent order revealed. At first sight, it may seem that this reality can be explained by chance occurrence, but after a point, there is a growing sense that behind things there is, in fact, an order. This order can be traced in the many areas that are open to the human mind. As Aquinas has noted, the order within the cosmos points to an order outside of it, since the cosmos cannot be the cause of its own internal order. Philosophers have long inquired about the curious fact that the order of things implies not a mere relationship of one thing to another, but a hint that the universe is created with a certain superabundance. Why is the universe, and the things within it, not only ordered but, ordered with a sense of beauty? Not only is there an order in things, but also the human mind seems attuned to this order as something it delights in discovering. This relationship implies that there is some correspondence between mind and reality. What is the relationship between the mind and reality? The Order of Things explores this question. Relying on common sense and the experience available to everyone, Schall concludes that it requires more credulity to disbelieve in order than to experience it. Finally, Schall explores the fundamental cause of order, what it is like? Having looked at the order of the created universe, it is not surprising that the revelation of the Godhead is itself ordered in terms of an inner relationship of Persons.

a place on earth wendell berry: Conversations with Kentucky Writers Linda Elisabeth LaPinta, 2021-11-21 Kentucky and Kentuckians are full of stories, which may be why so many present-day writers have Kentucky roots. Whether they left and returned, like Wendell Berry and Bobbie Ann Mason, or adopted Kentucky as home, like James Still and Jim Wayne Miller, or grew up and left for good, like Michael Dorris and Barbara Kingsolver, they have one connection: Kentucky has influenced their writing and their lives. L. Elisabeth Beattie explores this influence in twenty intimate interviews. *Conversations with Kentucky Writers* was more than three years in the making, as Beattie traveled across the state and beyond to capture oral histories on tape. Her exhaustive knowledge of these authors helped her draw out personal revelations about their work, their lives, and the nature of writing. When Still concludes his interview with I believe I've told you more than anybody, he could be speaking for any of Beattie's subjects. Aspiring writers will learn that Mason submitted twenty stories to the *New Yorker* before one was accepted, and that Still wrote articles for Sunday school magazines. There's plenty of advice: Dorris tells budding authors to get real jobs, keep journals, and read everything, even cereal boxes, and Marsha Norman reminds playwrights that it is not the business of the theater to provide writers with a living. Kingsolver advises, Read good stuff and write bad stuff until eventually what you're writing begins to approximate what you're reading. Beattie's collection includes striking self-portraits of such writers as Sue Grafton, Leon Driskell, James Baker Hall, Fenton Johnson, George Ella Lyon, Taylor McCafferty, Ed McClanahan, Sena Naslund, Chris Offutt, Lee Pennington, and Betty Layman Receveur. What most distinguishes these moving conversations from other author interviews is their focus on creativity, on the teaching of writing, and on the authors' strong sense of place. As Wade Hall writes in his foreword, all twenty writers recognize that their works have been significantly influenced by their Kentucky experience. This collection offers insights into Kentucky's rich and flowering literary heritage.

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