

Editorial

SPRING

Nature is a parable of human life. Think of the parable of springtime.

What do we love about the spring? It means the end of winter. New warmth comes from the sun. Life stirs in nature. Trees, shrubs, and flowers bud and blossom. We see a soft beauty in the various shades of emerging foliage. The atmosphere is moist and full of the promise of new life. Surely, there is something special about spring for each one of us.

Here is the parable: Springtime in nature is a season brought about by the temperate balancing of the sun's elements of heat and light. When there is a balance of love with our wisdom in life, it will result in a new fruitfulness, a human springtime.

It is always springtime in the heavens because the angels constantly receive the love and wisdom of the Lord in equal measure, particularly as angelic couples. The Lord constantly desires to provide this state of spring. Therefore, He appears constantly in heaven's sun at a middle altitude.

The most exciting states of our life are initiated by a marriage of our loves with wisdom, a marriage of our ideas with purpose. When we have a plan and the means to carry it out, we sense a delight that is exhibited in the blossoming of trees and flowers. On a deeper level, our life becomes fruitful through the process of regeneration. The blossoming of all things in spring and the gradual development of the blossoms even to the fruit, from the first warm month to the last, represent the progress of human regeneration. Springtime heralds and portrays the promise of our new spiritual life.

The most delightful flowering of potential human uses is in that marriage love between a man and a woman which we call love truly conjugal. This is one of the reasons there is a delight

in springtime on earth—it is a parable of a beautiful marriage relationship as well as a parable of our individual regeneration.

Spring also represents heavenly peace. "Peace in heaven is like spring on earth," we read (*Arcana Coelestia* 5662). Surely, as we bask in the warm atmosphere of earth in the springtime and contemplate the Lord's creative forces at work, we can be led to feel a sense of peace. Winter's hardships have ended; the spring brings new promise. It is a time of hope and beauty.

In our life of regeneration, we pass through the winter of temptation, coming at last to a spring state—a state of true peace: not an idle peace or inactivity. Nature bears testimony that spring is a busy time. Peace is not a state of nothing happening. Peace comes to us in that rare happy state when we know what is right and love to do it. We are busy and content in heavenly uses.

Spring is a favorite time because it carries hidden forces into the world from the Lord. The Lord's love, a love that looks to human salvation, peace, and conjugal contentment, is active in creating human delights. It also clothes these delights in nature's springtime mantle.

"For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations" (Isa. 61:11)

Peace

Peace may be likened to morning or dawn in spring time, when, the night being passed, with the rising of the sun all things of the earth begin to live anew, the fragrance of growing vegetation is spread abroad with the dew that descends from heaven, and the mild vernal temperature gives fertility to the ground and imparts pleasure to the minds of men, and this because morning or dawn in the time of spring corresponds to the state of peace of angels in heaven. (*Heaven and Hell* 289)