

INHERITANCE

I leave to you a certainty
 that boundary lines mark ill from good
 and flags reveal a right from wrong;
 I send to you assuring sense
 of life secure from poverty
 and aching pleas of sorrow's song;
 Bequeath to you becalming boon
 of saving freedom to renounce
 sun-searching thoughts that all defame;
 And more the sanction to insure
 protection on what paths you choose
 for winning all which is your claim:
 And also yours the right to live
 in chosen order undefiled
 by cries of men clothed in despair;
 As final gift I leave you ease—
 a world where mournful winds are stilled
 storm-freeing you in deadened air.

These all I leave to you, my son—

Forgive me

—KARL GWIASDA

What is Beauty?

Paul K. Davis

BEAUTY is the goal of man's creativity. There are many kinds of beauty; each artist creates in his own style. There is the beauty of an elegant explanation of observations, the beauty of an efficient government improving the life of its subjects; there is beauty in a religion which removes the uncertainty and fear from life and in a philosophy which breaks the bonds of narrow prejudices; there is also the beauty of music, painting, and architecture.

Most people would admit that there is beauty in painting, poetry, music, architecture, drama and dance and that their pursuit is specifically for the sake of beauty, but few recognize that in most of man's activities there is an element, large or small, of the desire to create beauty.

Religion is devised to lead men to a more beautiful life. This has been true throughout history and is true throughout the world. A witch-doctor chants his spells to drive away sickness or to bring rain for crops to grow. Elijah, seeing Israel in ugly subservience to Baal, demonstrated the folly of worshipping that idol by calling down fire from him of whom it was written, "How beautiful are thy dwelling places, O Lord of hosts!" Jesus advised his followers to love one another as part of his leading them to a more beautiful life;