



The Biophilia Hypothesis (Shearwater Book)

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"Biophilia" is the term coined by Edward O. Wilson, author of *The Diversity of Life* and winner of two Pulitzer prizes, to describe what he believes is our innate affinity for the natural world. In his landmark book *Biophilia*, he examined how our tendency to focus on life and lifelike processes might be a biologically based need, integral to our development as individuals and as a species. The idea has caught the imagination of diverse thinkers. The Biophilia Hypothesis brings together the views of some of the most creative scientists of our time, each attempting to amplify and refine the concept of biophilia. The various perspectives - psychological, biological, cultural, symbolic, and aesthetic - frame the theoretical issues by presenting empirical evidence that supports or refutes the hypothesis. Numerous examples illustrate the idea that biophilia and its converse, biophobia, have a genetic component: people develop fear and even full-blown phobias of snakes and spiders with very little negative reinforcement, while more threatening modern artifacts - knives, guns, automobiles - rarely elicit such a response; people would rather look at water, green vegetation, or flowers than built structures of glass and concrete; and the development of language, myth, and thought appears to be greatly dependent on the use of natural symbols, particularly animals. The biophilia hypothesis, if substantiated, provides a powerful argument for the conservation of biological diversity. More important, it implies serious consequences for our well-being as society becomes further estranged from the natural world. Relentless environmental destruction could have a significant impact on our quality of life, not just materially but psychologically and even spiritually.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Why is it that most of us find baby animals irresistibly cute? Why do so many people fear even the sight of snakes? What prompts us to feed birds, to allow cats to roam around the house at will, to admire the lines of dogs and horses? Stephen Kellert and Edward Wilson, the prolific Harvard biologist, gather essays by various hands on these and other questions, and the result is a fascinating glimpse into our relations with other animals. Humans, Wilson writes, have an innate (or at least extremely ancient) connection to the natural world, and our continued divorce from it has led to the loss of not only "a vast intellectual legacy born of intimacy" with nature but also our very sanity. There is much to ponder in this timely book.

From Publishers Weekly

The editors draw together a collection of scholarly essays both supporting and refuting the biophilia concept, a term coined by Pulitzer Prize winner Wilson to describe humankind's innate affiliation with nature. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

This timely collection of essays represents a first attempt to substantiate the biophilia hypothesis--the theory that humans have an innate affiliation with other living organisms--introduced by Wilson in his earlier book *Biophilia* (Harvard Univ. Pr., 1984) and further considered in his recent *The Diversity of Life* (LJ 3/1/93). In the opening section, the editors categorize the different aspects of human behavior through which biophilia may be expressed. In the following chapters scientists from various disciplines review the relevant research, including scenic preference studies, evidence of therapeutic benefits from contact with animals and natural settings, and studies of cognitive functioning and language development in children and in hunter-gatherer cultures. Most of the contributors are committed conservationists concerned that our species will in its headlong rush for technological affluence discover too late how dependent the human personality is on biodiversity for emotional and spiritual health. Recommended for academic science collections and public libraries with a high interest in environmental studies.

- Joan S. Elbers, formerly with Montgomery Coll., Rockville, Md.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carrie Rivas:

This book untitled *The Biophilia Hypothesis* (Shearwater Book) to be one of several books that best seller in this year, this is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to you to past this book from your list.

Bill Flores:

The book *The Biophilia Hypothesis* (Shearwater Book) has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you check out

this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was authored by the very famous author. The writer makes some research previous to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can find the point easily after looking over this book.

Jenny Davis:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to you is The Biophilia Hypothesis (Shearwater Book) this publication consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This book was represented how can the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some research when he makes this book. That's why this book suitable all of you.

James Harris:

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