



The River of the Mother of God: and Other Essays

Aldo Leopold, J. Baird Callicott (Editor), Susan L. Flader (Editor)

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His name is inextricably linked with a single work, *A Sand County Almanac*, a classic of natural history literature and the conservationist's bible. This book brings together the best of Leopold's essays.

The River of the Mother of God: and Other Essays Details

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Kat Karney says

These essays (written between 1904-1947) show how Leopold's concept of soil conservation, game management, forestry, wildlife conservation, and land health changed over the years. I enjoyed that the essays show the growth of his concept of an ecological conscience; taking personal responsibility to understand the complex ecosystems we live in, and striving to "preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community".

Ecological education and personal integrity should guide farmers, industries, and the common citizen to use the land and natural resources in a way that is minimally destructive. We should focus on preserving overall health and stability of natural resources for future enjoyment and advocate for preservation of wildlife and true wilderness areas. Leopold also implores conservationists to work together to prioritize the intertwined health of soil, flora, and fauna, rather than focusing on one area or species.

Leopold's warnings against viewing the land as an object from which to gain profit are still relevant in the 21st century. It is easier to conserve than to attempt rebuilding an ecosystem that we have destroyed.

Kathryn says

Starts off slow, but the later essays are incredible.
