



NATURE, MY TEACHER

JAMES THORNTON

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Essay Collection, Nature Writing

Also available in eBook format

***"Powerful and moving.
Make this book your friend."***

Ariana Huffington

This is a fierce and tender study of how to be alive in a world that is under threat.

James Thornton is a lawyer whose client is the Earth. He visits his client. It speaks to him. In *Nature, My Teacher* he passes on some of those teachings.

Presented in twelve 'books', each a sequence of intimate essays, James investigates the nature of human consciousness: What is memory? How do you summon compassion? How do we care for ourselves? Answers reveal themselves all around us.

As a Zen priest, James knows that people are part of the natural world. It impacts us with its beauty, and we quake when it is hurt. This book ripples with that beauty, and also gazes steadily at climate anxiety. James is clear-sighted. We are right to be troubled by ecological collapse, but there are ways to save ourselves and save the world.

Some Early Reaction

"James Thornton is an environmental hero of the highest order. *Nature, My Teacher* is captivating, mesmerising, and manages to capture so beautifully our true relationship with the natural world. This is a hugely important book."

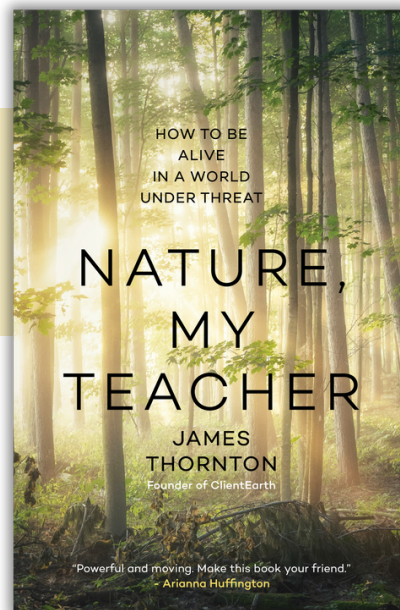
- Ben Goldsmith, (God is an Octopus)

"James Thornton lays out his love for the planet in a way that is thought-provoking and lyrical, a spacious blend of prose and poetry flavoured with the subtleties of the author's Zen training."

- Antony Osler, (Stoep Zen)

Key Points

- James's Zen master told him "Nature is your Teacher". What does that mean? James is a Zen priest, and explores the question with the openness of Zen.
- In twelve 'books', this themed collection leads to understanding of such elements as mind, memories, self, anxiety and rest.
- In clear language, short essays slow you down so you can find beauty where you once passed it by. With concluding poems and photographs that help you stay in a place of contemplation.
- A natural choice for readers of Ross Gay.



About the Author

The New Statesman named James Thornton as one of ten people who could change the world, and he has won the *Financial Times Lifetime Achievement Award*. In 2021, he was a judge of the *Laurel Prize* for the world's best collection of ecopoetry. Irish-American, James is also the author of *Client Earth* (Scribe, 2018) which won a *Business Book of the Year Award*. James is founder and president of *ClientEarth*, the leading global not-for-profit law group. This is his first essay collection.

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