

I paused to listen to the silence...The day was dying, the night was being born—but with great peace. Here were the imponderable processes and forces of the cosmos, harmonious and soundless. Harmony, that was it! That was what came out of the silence—a gentle rhythm, the strain of a perfect chord, the music of the spheres, perhaps.

It was enough to catch that rhythm, momentarily to be myself part of it. In that instant I could feel no doubt of man's oneness with the Universe. The conviction came that that rhythm was too orderly, too harmonious, too perfect to be the product of blind chance—that, therefore, there must be a purpose in the whole and that man was part of that whole and not an accidental offshoot. It was a feeling that transcended reason; that went to the heart of man's despair and found it groundless. The Universe was a cosmos, not a chaos; man was as rightly a part of that cosmos as were the day and night.

ADMIRAL RICHARD E. BYRD
Polar explorer (1888-1957)

Peace...comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness, with the Universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the Universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.

BLACK ELK, visionary and healer
Lakota (Oglala) Sioux Nation (1863-1950)

