

# The Figurative Language of Nature

## How to Represent Natural Beauty as Meaningful?

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### Abstract:

What is it that we encountered with in our aesthetic experience of natural beauty, which leads us to the judgment: "X is beautiful"? What enables us to represent for ourselves beautiful forms in nature in a way that can be meaningful to us? And what is the meaning *de facto* of this judgment? The paper seeks to examine these questions through the prism of Kantian aesthetics. Particularly, it dwells into the expressive nature of beauty and its *moral* significance which Kant describes as 'hints' and 'signs' given to us by nature itself. The aim of this paper is to point out the intimate connection between the *meaning* of aesthetic experience in beauty in nature and human morality.

To clarify what exactly the moral significance of beauty stands for and how we derive it *directly* from natural beautiful objects, we need an account of how natural beauty can be an *expression* of moral ideas without identifying the one with the other. To do this, one must delve into the *expressive* nature of beauty itself and to understand, on the one hand, how nature “figuratively *speaks* to us in its beautiful forms”, to use Kant’s phrasing, when we experience it aesthetically. And on the other hand, what is “really *asserted a priori* of an object” in a judgment of beauty.