



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1874-01-13

1874 Jan 13 JM to unknown p1

John Muir

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Answered
Mar 22nd
1844

Oakland Jan 13th 1844

My dear friend, I am very sorry to hear that your uncle is dead, he was a father to you & the loss is terrible & I sympathize with you in your great affliction all the more because he was a friend of mine of that kind that one depends on instinctively.

These trials are among the very worst that our common Father lays upon us, acting as they always do, with crushing grief for a time yet resulting in the case of all good & pure souls, in a production of greater faith & power to accomplish the true end of our existences, because however dark & mysterious some of our experiences may be, this truth yet remains universal & eternal "God is Love" & the upshot of all our griefs as well as joys will be our greatest good.

Death is a necessary result of life; we grow & decay like plants. Yet death does not mean half so much as we are taught to believe.

Your uncle yet lives & is not further from you than before. Be cheerful than & trustful the sun will warm you & cheer you.

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A thousand friends visible & invisible are
ready to comfort & sustain you, every
existence in nature is in league with every
pure soul, the greatest misfortune that
can possibly follow your affliction
is your being driven in upon yourself
separated from the rest of the universe of God
You need the human & terrestrial love wh
is but a form of the divine love, & you
will find it in all forms & in all places
throughout the dominions of God

May our Father cheer & uphold you
I hope that you will feel assured of my
liberal sympathy, because I am every
Your friend

John Muir

Remember me to Mrs Knox. Mrs Carr sends
love to you both & will be very happy
to see you here