

## What is Beauty?

- I. Spiritual Reality Expressed in a way that can be Perceived by Our Senses
  - a. Distinct from Abstract Ideas
  - b. Can Inflamm our Passions/Emotions
    - i. With Beauty, we can actually “feel” delight in spiritual realities
  
- II. What makes something Beautiful?
  - a. **Order**
    - i. *Regularity, stable patterns*
      - 1. Express the nature of things
  - b. **Surprise**
    - i. The response of the mind to what it does not find obvious
      - 1. This is where the delight of beauty comes from
      - 2. Surprise captivates the mind – you are astonished and fascinated by the goodness and inner structures of things
  
- III. The Beauty of the Natural World – the default standard of beauty
  - a. The material universe is the self-expression of God in physical form for His own delight
  - b. It is orderly and surprising
    - i. Order = the regularity of natural laws
      - 1. Expresses God’s *intelligence*
    - ii. Surprise = the non-obviousness of nature
      - 1. Expresses God’s *freedom*
  - c. God’s existence clarifies nature’s beauty, and nature’s beauty clarifies God’s existence

## **When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer**

By Walt Whitman

When I heard the learn'd astronomer,  
When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns before me,  
When I was shown the charts and diagrams, to add, divide, and measure them,  
When I sitting heard the astronomer where he lectured with much applause in the lecture-room,  
How soon unaccountable I became tired and sick,  
Till rising and gliding out I wander'd off by myself,  
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,  
Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars.