

Michel de Montaigne (1533–1592)

“The pleasantest things in the world are pleasant thoughts; and the art of life is to have as many of them as possible.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)

“Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful; for beauty is God’s handwriting — a wayside sacrament.”

Swift Things Are Beautiful

Swift things are beautiful:

Swallows and deer,
And lightning that falls
Bright-veined and clear,
Rivers and meteors,
Wind in the wheat,
The strong-withered horse,
The runner’s sure feet.

And slow things are beautiful:

The closing of day,
The pause of the wave
That curves downward to spray
The ember that crumbles,
The opening flower,
And the ox that moves on
In the quiet of power.

Elizabeth Coatsworth (1893–1986)