that we don't really mean what we say. That if we really did, we would be overwhelmed: we would not be able to live as we are living.

Then I say to myself that it is too early — that we grew up within the speciesist paradigm, and it is normal that we haven't yet totally freed ourselves from it. Or else I think of the long and winding path of the idea of human equality, and I say to myself that the idea of animal equality is so recent that it is something incredible: it spread so much in such a short time. There is, however, another answer which, I believe, goes more deeply into the problem. And it is that if we did always mean what we say, not only wouldn't we be able to live anymore as we are living, but we would also give up fighting. The extent and the pervasiveness of animal exploitation are such that only by closing our eyes a little can we keep the hope of affecting reality, and the grit to try to do it. To abstract is not only a form of "shallowness": it is also, and perhaps above all, a form of self-defense. Then, I resign myself — and accept it. It is one of the prices we must pay in order to have an animal liberation movement.

FOR LOVE OF THIS EARTH:

Grief is so near the surface
That often I dare not speak
For fear
The words would come
In great shuddering sobs
And they would call me
Madwoman
And not listen
To what I have to say.

**For I would shout it from the mountaintop
Behold: A Mystery.
Earth is so fair.
There is more beauty
Than your heart can ever hold
In a swan's neck, a racoon's hand
In the song of a thrush
In sunlight through leaves in thick,
 green forests
In the wind on the water's skin
In the agony of birth.
Cherish it
For you are part of it
This fragile blue-green planet
It flows through you
The living blood of Earth.**

And for love of this Earth
I will hide
My passion of rage and tears.
I will woo you
With the selfish voice of reason
And you will also
Begin to know that Mystery.

Mary de La Valette

I AM LIFE-THAT-WILLS-TO-LIVE IN THE MIDST OF LIFE-THAT-WILLS-TO-LIVE.

Albert Schweitzer

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