

2001

Passage

It was not from want of perceiving the beauty of external nature - but from the different way of perceiving it, that the early Greeks did not turn their genius to portray, either in colour or in poetry, the outlines, the hues, and contrasts of all fair valley, and bold cliffs, and golden moors, and roses, and lawns which their beautiful country affords in lavish abundance. Primitive

people never so far as I know, enjoy what is called the picturesque in nature, wild forests, beetling cliffs, reaches of Alpine snow are with them great hindrances to human intercourse, and difficulties in the way of agriculture. They are furthermore the homes of the enemies of mankind, of the eagle, the wolf, or the tiger, and are most dangerous in times of earthquake or tempest. Hence the grand and striking features of nature are at its first looked upon with fear and dislike. I do not suppose that Greeks

different in their respect from other people, except that frequent occurrence of mountains and forests made agriculture peculiarly difficult and intercourse scanty, thus increasing their dislike for the apparently reckless waste in nature. We have even in Homer a similar feeling as regards the sea, -- the sea that proved the source of all their wealth and the condition of most of their greatness. Before they had learned all this, they called it; "the unwintagable sea" and looked upon its shore as merely so much waste land. We can, therefore, easily understand, how in the first beginning of Greek art, the representation of wild landscape would find no place, whereas, fruitful fields did not suggest themselves as more than the ordinary background. But in those days - was struggling with material nature to which it felt a

certain antagonism. There was nothing in the social circumstances of the Greeks to produce any revolution in this attitude during their greatest days. The Greek republics were small towns where the pressure of the city life was not felt. But as soon as the days of the Greek republics were over, the men began to congregate for imperial purposes into Antioch, or Alexandria, or lastly into Rome; then, we seek of the effect of noise and dust and smoke and turmoil breaking out into the natural longing for moral rest and retirements so that from Alexander's day --- we find all kinds of authors --- epic poets lyricist, moralist and preachers --- agreeing in the praise of nature, its rich colours, and its varied sounds.

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Precis

In earlier times, the ancient Greeks viewed natural beauty as an obstacle to human interaction and agriculture, but later they began to appreciate it.

They believed that these places served as habitats for wild animals and were sources of devastating natural disasters. They disliked the sea and did not include these sceneries in their art. Additionally, their communities were like small towns, isolated from bustling city life. However, after the era of the Greek republics, people began to migrate to large imperial cities. In these crowded centers, the chaos and dirt of urban life made them desire for peace. Therefore, they later recognized nature's importance and started appreciating its vibrant colors.

Title: The Greeks Transformation Towards Nature

Number of words in Passage: 398

Number of words in Preci: 111