

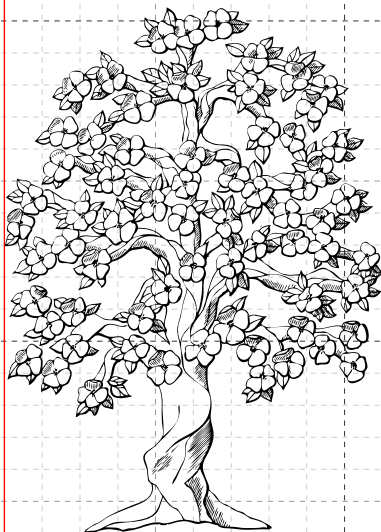
Introduction

A wonderful serenity has taken possession of my entire soul, like these sweet mornings of spring which I enjoy with my whole heart. I am alone, and feel the charm of existence in this spot, which was created for the bliss of souls like mine. I am so happy, my dear friend, so absorbed in the exquisite sense of mere tranquil existence, that I neglect my talents. I should be incapable of drawing a single stroke at the present moment; and yet I feel that I never was a greater artist than now. When, while the lovely valley teems with vapour around me, and the meridian sun strikes the upper surface of the impenetrable foliage of my trees,

Possession

And but a few stray gleams steal into the inner sanctuary, I throw myself down among the tall grass by the trickling stream; and, as I lie close to the earth, a thousand unknown plants are noticed by me. When I hear the buzz of the little

world among the stalks, and grow familiar with the countless indescribable forms of the insects and flies, then I feel the presence of the Almighty, who formed us in his own image, and the breath of that universal love which bears and sustains us.



Darkness

When darkness overspreads my eyes, and heaven and earth seem

to dwell in my soul and absorb
its power, like the form of a be-
loved mistress, then I often think
with longing, Oh, would I could
describe these conceptions, could
impress upon paper all that is liv-
ing so full and warm within me,
that it might be the mirror of my
soul, as my soul is the mirror of the
infinite God!