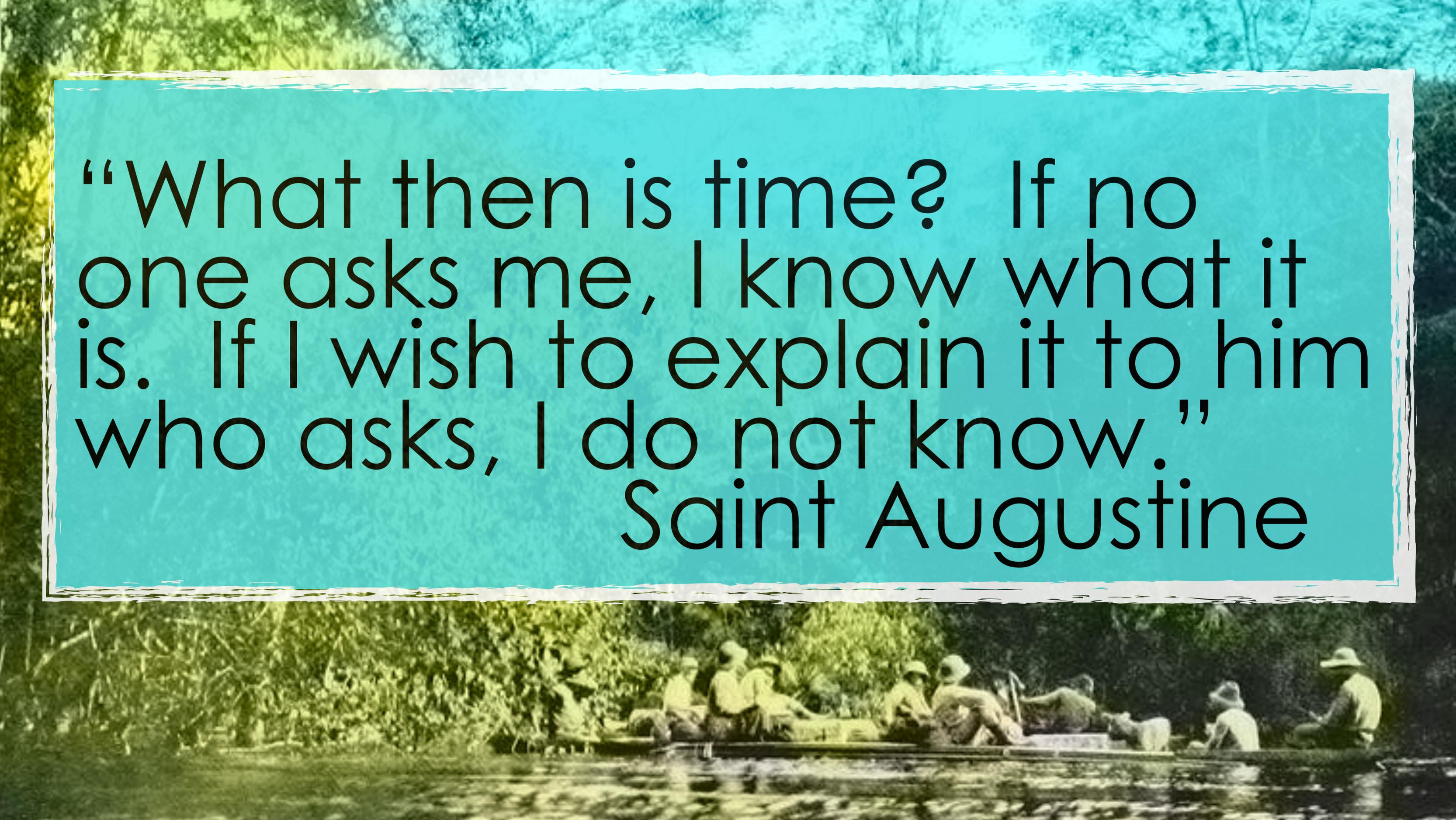


# Outfitting the Chief Explorer

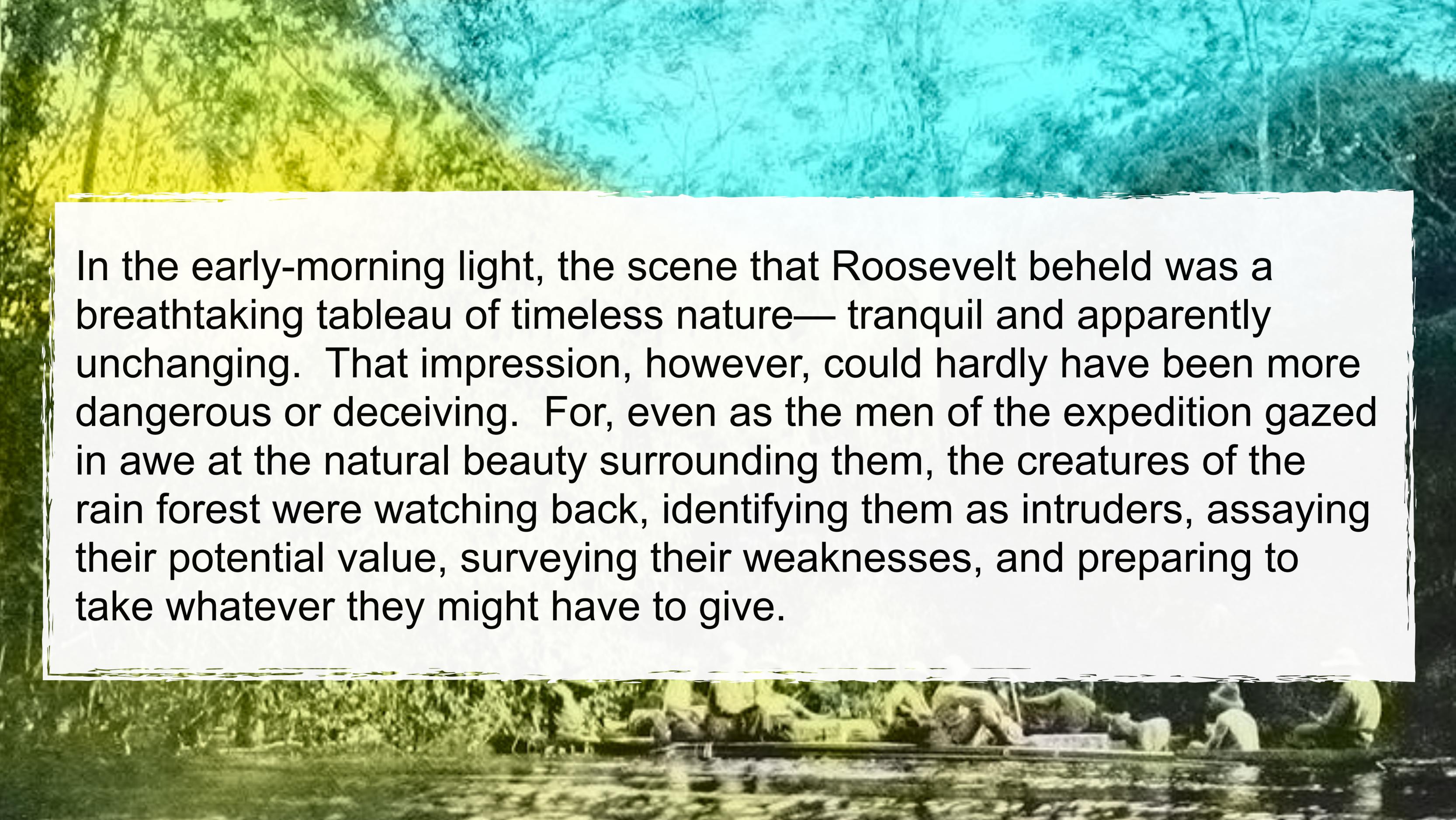


A group of people in a boat on a river. The background is a lush green forest. The text is overlaid on a light blue rectangular area with a white border.

“What then is time? If no one asks me, I know what it is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks, I do not know.”  
Saint Augustine

When Roosevelt emerged from his thin balloon-silk tent on the morning of February 28, 1914, he stepped into the narrow clearing that his men had carved between water and forest. Before him rushed **the River of Doubt**, dark, swollen, and littered with debris from fallen trees. Having overflowed its banks, it coursed through the forest on either side in wayward streams and rivulets, picking up clots of leaves and displaced birds' nests, and filling the jungle with a glasslike floor of water that mirrored the canopy above. The expedition's dugouts rocked uneasily at their moorings, looking as unreliable at dawn as they had the afternoon before.

Although Roosevelt had hunted and camped in forests throughout the United States, marveling at California's enormous redwoods, he had never seen anything like the prodigy of nature that surrounded him now...



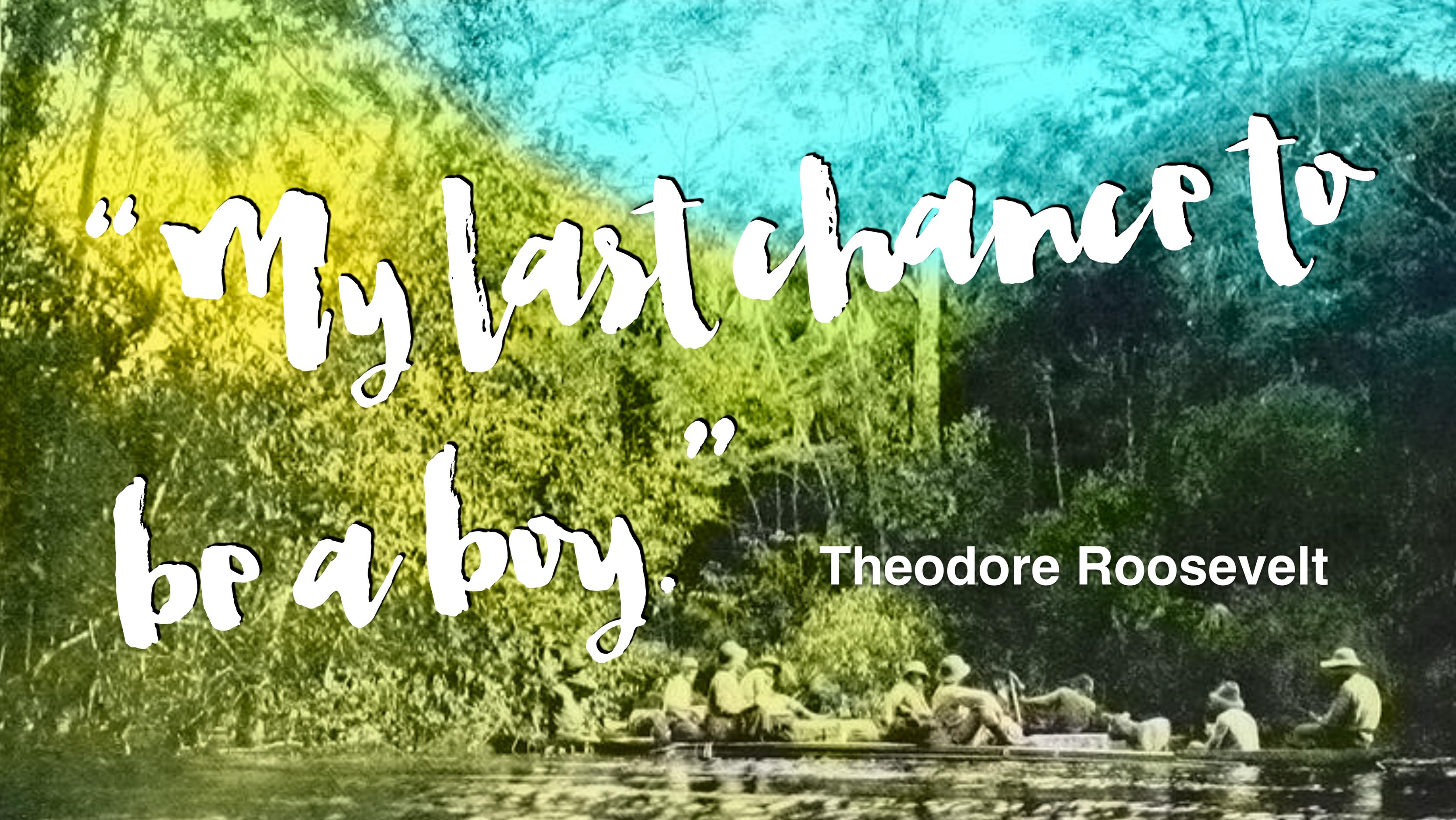
In the early-morning light, the scene that Roosevelt beheld was a breathtaking tableau of timeless nature—tranquil and apparently unchanging. That impression, however, could hardly have been more dangerous or deceiving. For, even as the men of the expedition gazed in awe at the natural beauty surrounding them, the creatures of the rain forest were watching back, identifying them as intruders, assaying their potential value, surveying their weaknesses, and preparing to take whatever they might have to give.

Far from its outward appearance, the rain forest was not a garden of easy abundance, but precisely the opposite. Its quiet, shaded halls of leafy opulence were not a sanctuary but, rather, the greatest natural battlefield anywhere on the planet, hosting an unremitting and remorseless fight for survival that occupied every single one of its inhabitants, every minute of every day. Though frequently impossible for a casual observer to discern, every inch of space was alive—from the black, teeming soil under Roosevelt's boots to the top of the canopy far above his head—and everything was connected. A long, linked mat of fungi under the soil consumed the dead and fed the living, completing an ever-changing cycle of remarkable life and commonplace death which had throbbed without pause for millions of years—and of which Roosevelt and his men, knowingly or not, had now become a part.

Candice Millard, *The River of Doubt* (p. 147-148)

*“My last chance to  
be a boy.”*

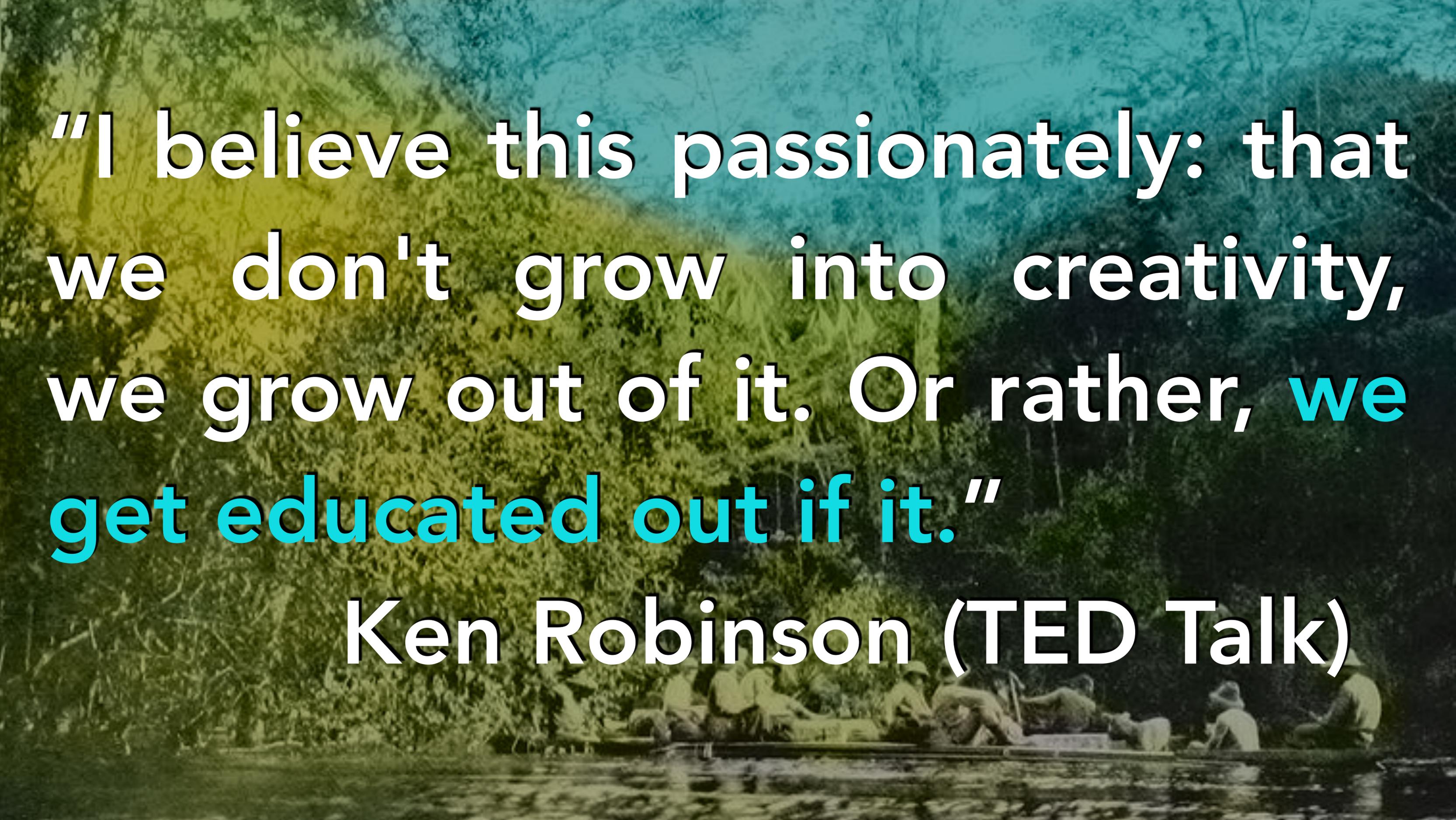
Theodore Roosevelt



“My Lord Chief Explorer, Imagination, deserves a more complete introduction than the by-the-way mention he has had as a colleague of Intellect. He is an amazing personage, with the power to produce, as we have seen, a procession of living pictures in every region open to Intellect. Great artists, whether they be poets or painters, builders or musicians, have the power of expressing and showing to the rest of us some part, anyway, of the wonderful visions Imagination has revealed to them. But the reason why we enjoy their pictures, their poems, or their tales, is because Imagination does the same sort of thing for all of us, if in a less degree. We all have pictures and poems made for us on the inner curtains of our minds.”

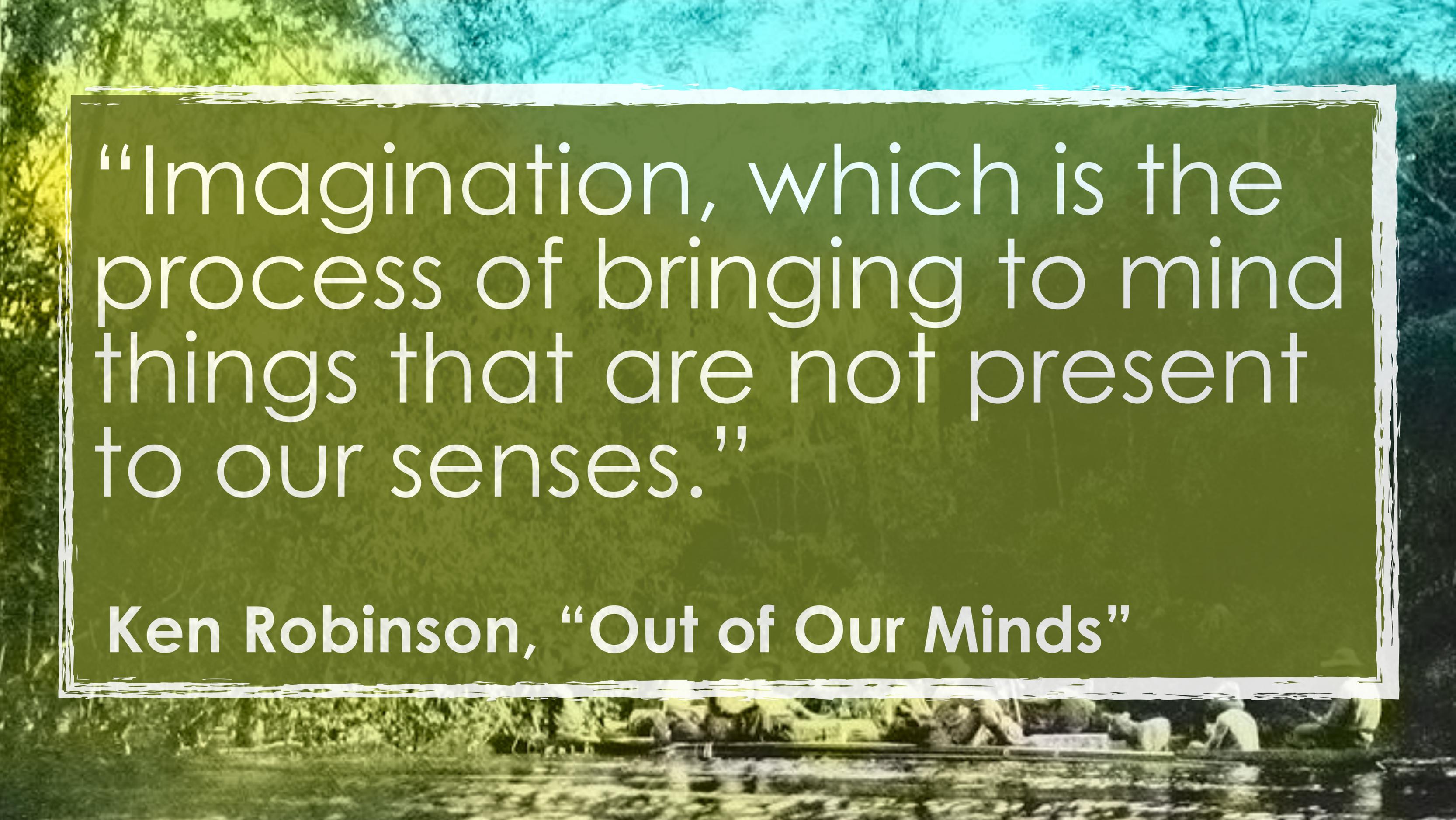
Charlotte Mason Vol. 4, p. 48



A group of people are sitting on a boat on a river, with a dense forest in the background. The scene is captured in a slightly desaturated, greenish-blue color palette. The text is overlaid on the image, with the main quote in white and the attribution in white. The quote itself has some words in a light blue color.

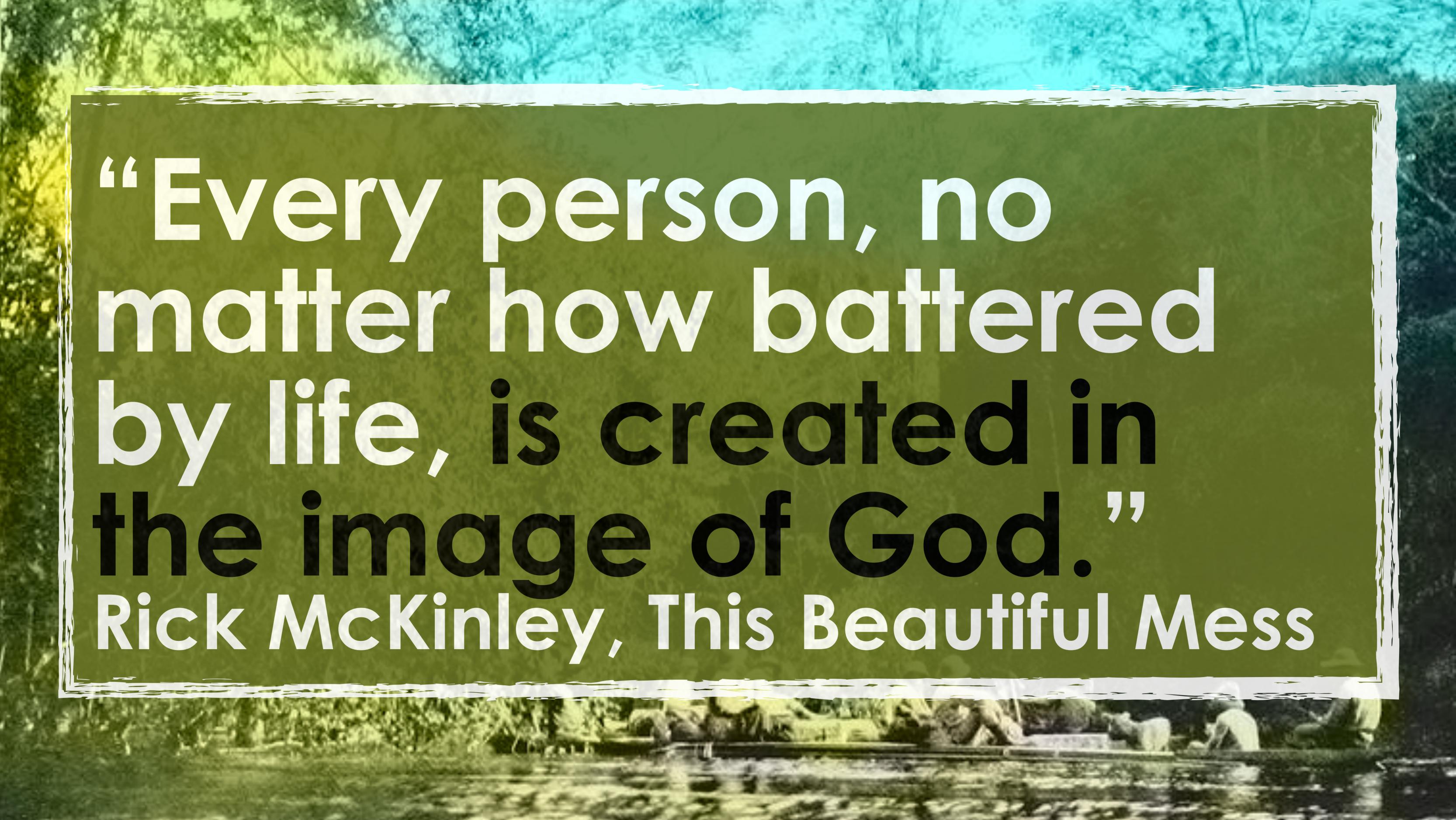
"I believe this passionately: that we don't grow into creativity, we grow out of it. Or rather, **we get educated out of it.**"

Ken Robinson (TED Talk)



“Imagination, which is the process of bringing to mind things that are not present to our senses.”

**Ken Robinson, “Out of Our Minds”**

The background of the image shows a river with people sitting on the banks, possibly in a park or natural setting. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent green rectangular box with a white border.

**“Every person, no matter how battered by life, is created in the image of God.”**

**Rick McKinley, This Beautiful Mess**

“The source material for  
the entire physical  
universe is the  
imagination of God.”

Erwin McManus, *The Artisan Soul*, p. 94

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

Hebrews 11:1 - 3

“The life of faith is less about gathering information than it is about expanding the imagination. The movement Jesus started was a movement of dreamers and visionaries, not a movement of academics and theologians.”

Erwin McManus, The Artisan Soul p.101

“The word imagination means ‘to face’—to visualize an image, to almost make the thought concrete from within. The power of reasoning and the power of imagining go hand in hand. The power of reason without imagination tends to make us materialists and unable to understand faith.”

E.A. Parish, 1914 Parent's Review article

“Now imagination does not descend, full-grown, to take possession of an empty house; like every other power of the mind, it is the merest germ of a power to begin with, and grows by what it gets; and childhood, the age of faith, is the time for its nourishing. The children should have the joy of living in far lands, in other persons, in other times - a delightful double existence; and this joy they will find, for the most part in their story-books. Their lessons, too, history and geography, should cultivate their conceptive powers. If the child do not live in the times of his history lesson, be not at home in the climes his geography book describes, why, these lessons will fail of their purpose. But let lessons do their best, and the picture-gallery of the imagination is poorly hung if the child have not found his way into realms of fancy.”

Charlotte Mason, vol 1, p 153

The background of the image shows a river with a rocky bank. Several people are visible on the bank, some sitting and some standing. The scene is outdoors with trees and foliage in the background. The lighting is natural, suggesting daylight.

*Cultivation*

not

**AMPUTATION**

“Although Roosevelt remained mildly interested in his pending South American journey during the months before his departure, he viewed the expedition as little more than a ‘delightful holiday’ that would provide ‘just the right amount of adventure.’”

Candice Millard, *River of Doubt*, p. 30

ANTHONY FIALA.  
SONS.  
REID. + ANTHONY



“As convenient as it may have seemed to Zahm, however, the selection of Fiala as the expedition’s quartermaster was less than auspicious for the expedition as a whole. For while the forty-four-year-old clerk did indeed have a background in exploration, the details of that experience arguably made him the last person on earth to be entrusted with the planning or provisioning of a scientific expedition.”

ANTHONY FIALA.  
SONS.  
REID. + ANTHONY



We are outfitting for a life of  
whatever comes rather than  
the perfectly safe life we all  
imagine our kids living.



“The food of mind, a daily bread as necessary as that of body, is precisely those "mental pictures or ideas" which imagination produces; and for this reason, children must have the mind-stuff which they can transmute into such pictures or ideas; nothing external serves the purpose. I am not bold enough to say with Mr. Chesterton, "Hans Anderson or Hell," but I do venture to say that the mind which does not feed on poetry, history, fiction, travel, all the treasures that are bound up in books, on pictures, on the beauty of a sunset or a flower, such a mind may be acute and alert, but it does not dwell in heavenly places.”

Charlotte Mason, “The Imagination in Childhood”

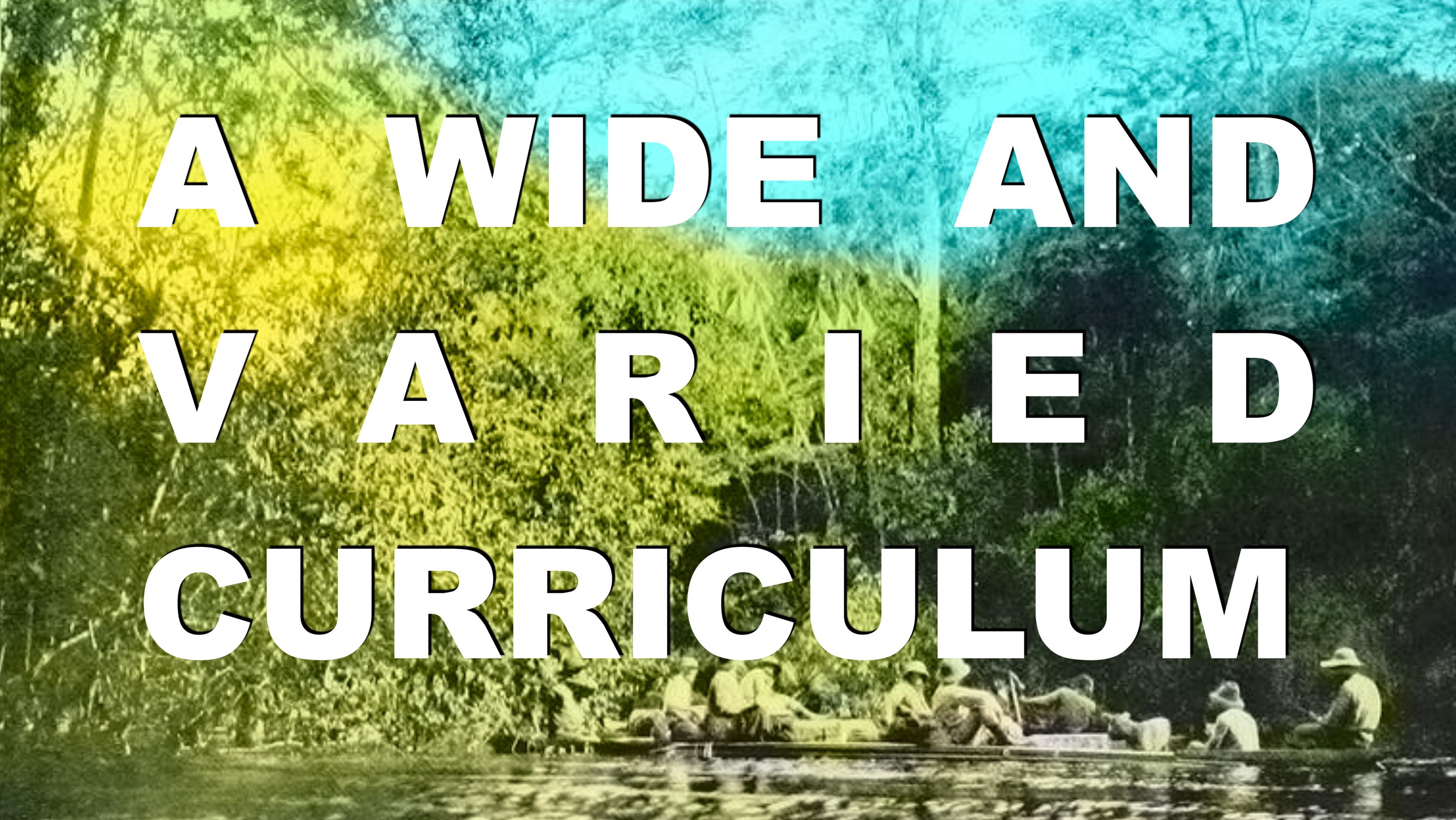
“Education is the Science of Relations; that is , that a child has natural relations with a vast number of things and thoughts: so we must train him upon physical exercises, nature, handicrafts, science and art, and upon many living books; for we know that our business is, not to teach him all about anything, but to help him to make valid as many as may be of -

‘Those first-born affinities

That fir our new existence to existing things.’”

Charlotte Mason, principle 13

**A WIDE AND  
VARIETED  
CURRICULUM**

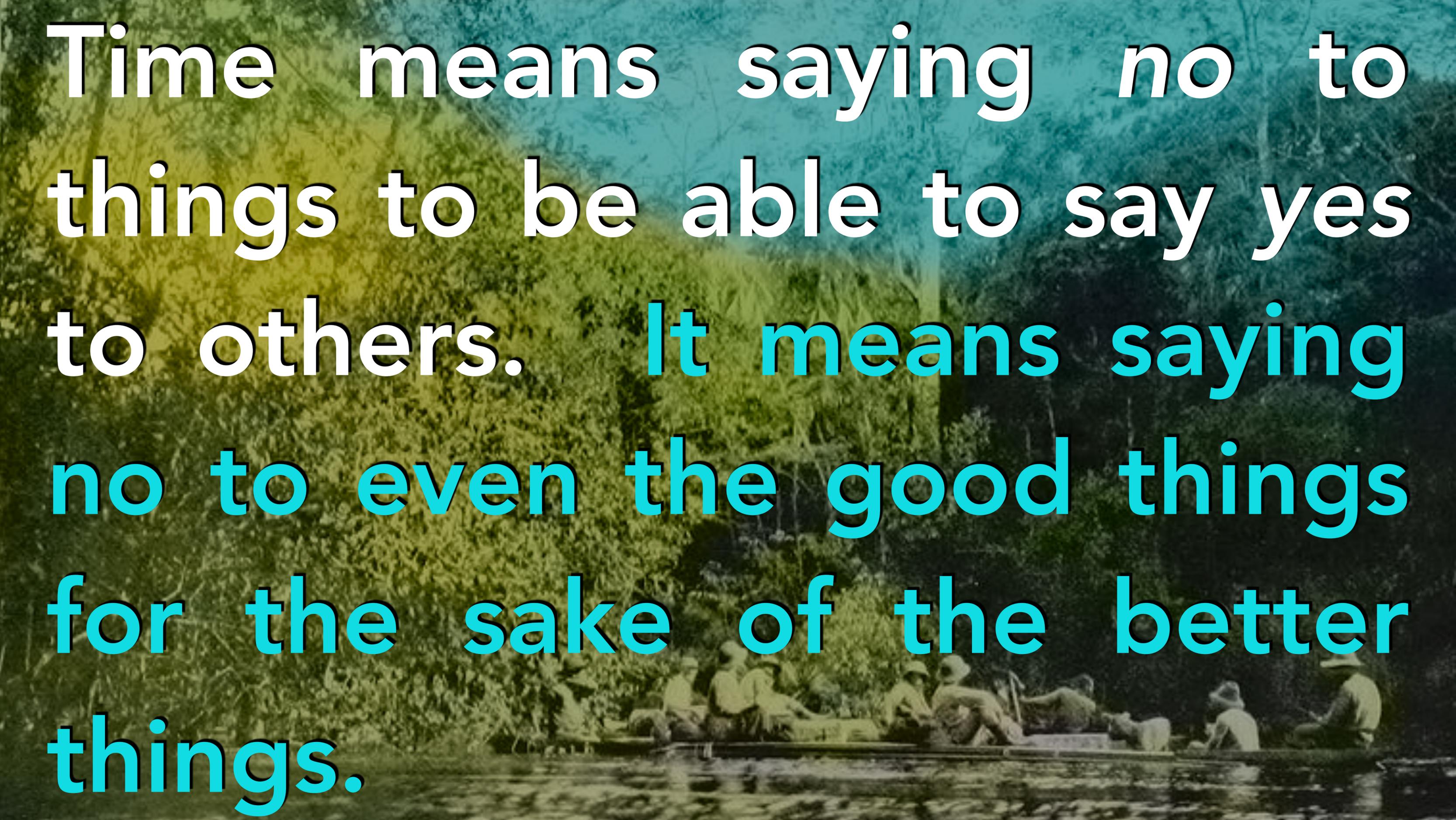


# NARRATION



**TIME**



A group of people are sitting on a boat on a river, with a dense forest in the background. The scene is captured in a slightly desaturated, vintage style. The text is overlaid on the image, with the first part in white and the second part in cyan.

Time means saying *no* to things to be able to say *yes* to others. It means saying *no* to even the good things for the sake of the better things.

“We need not say one word about about the necessity for living thought in the teacher; it is only so far as he is intellectually alive that he can be effective in the wonderful process with we glibly call “education.”

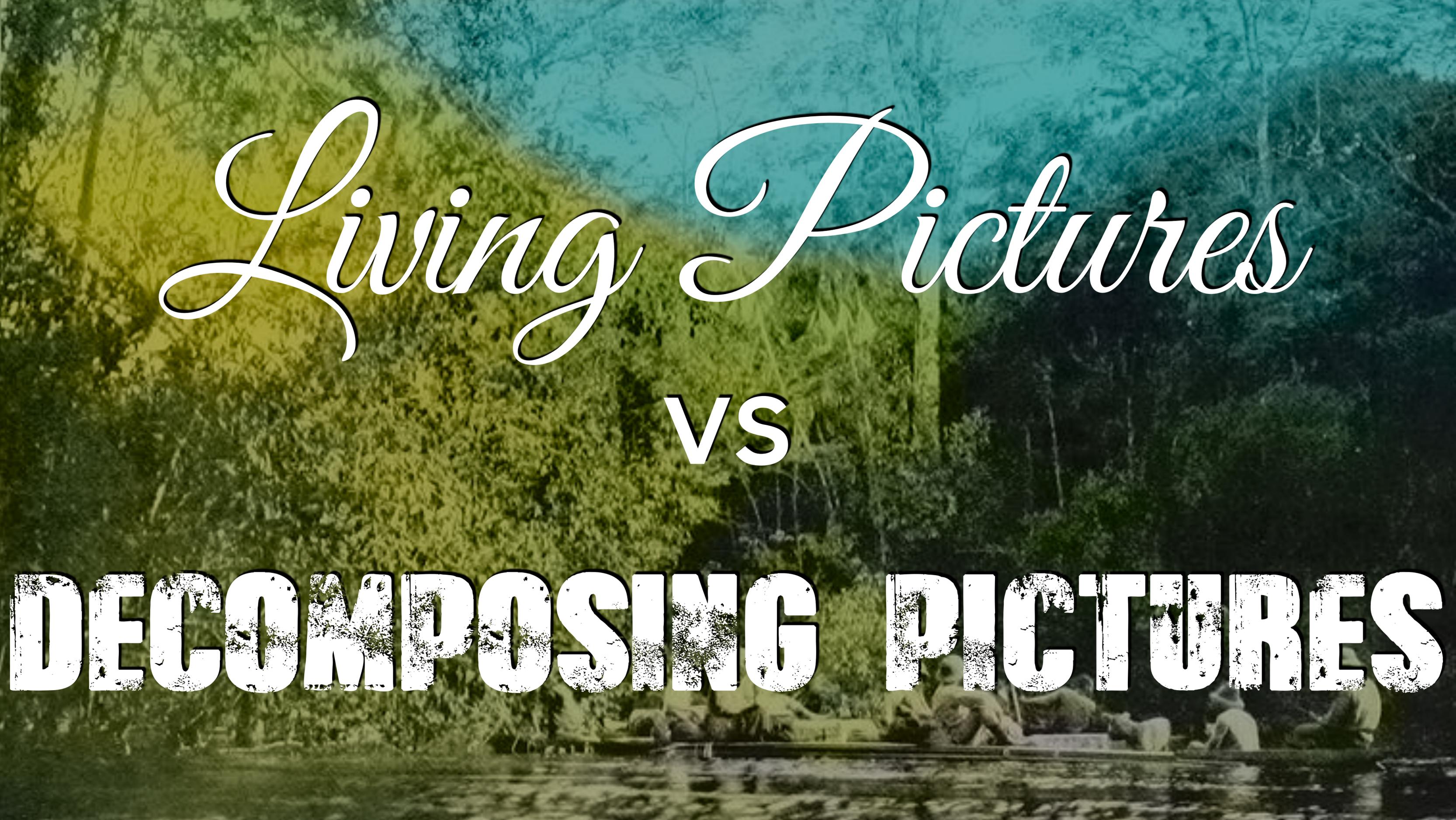
Charlotte Mason

“These are pretty dreams, and there is not much harm in them, except that, while one dreams, one forgets to do, and life is made up altogether of doing and not at all of dreaming. It is very nice to dream, when people have been finding fault with us, that we shall do wonderful and beautiful things - nurse the sick and build wonderful palaces for the poor and make gardens of delight for the mother or father who finds fault with us - and to think how everybody will admire us for all our beauty and goodness and cleverness, especially those people who have laughed at us; to think, too, how kind we shall be to them and what presents we shall make them, and how sorry they will be that they have not always been polite and kind!”

Charlotte Mason, Vol 4, p 49 - 50

**Lose our little  
stories that we  
might find our place  
in the true grand  
Story.**

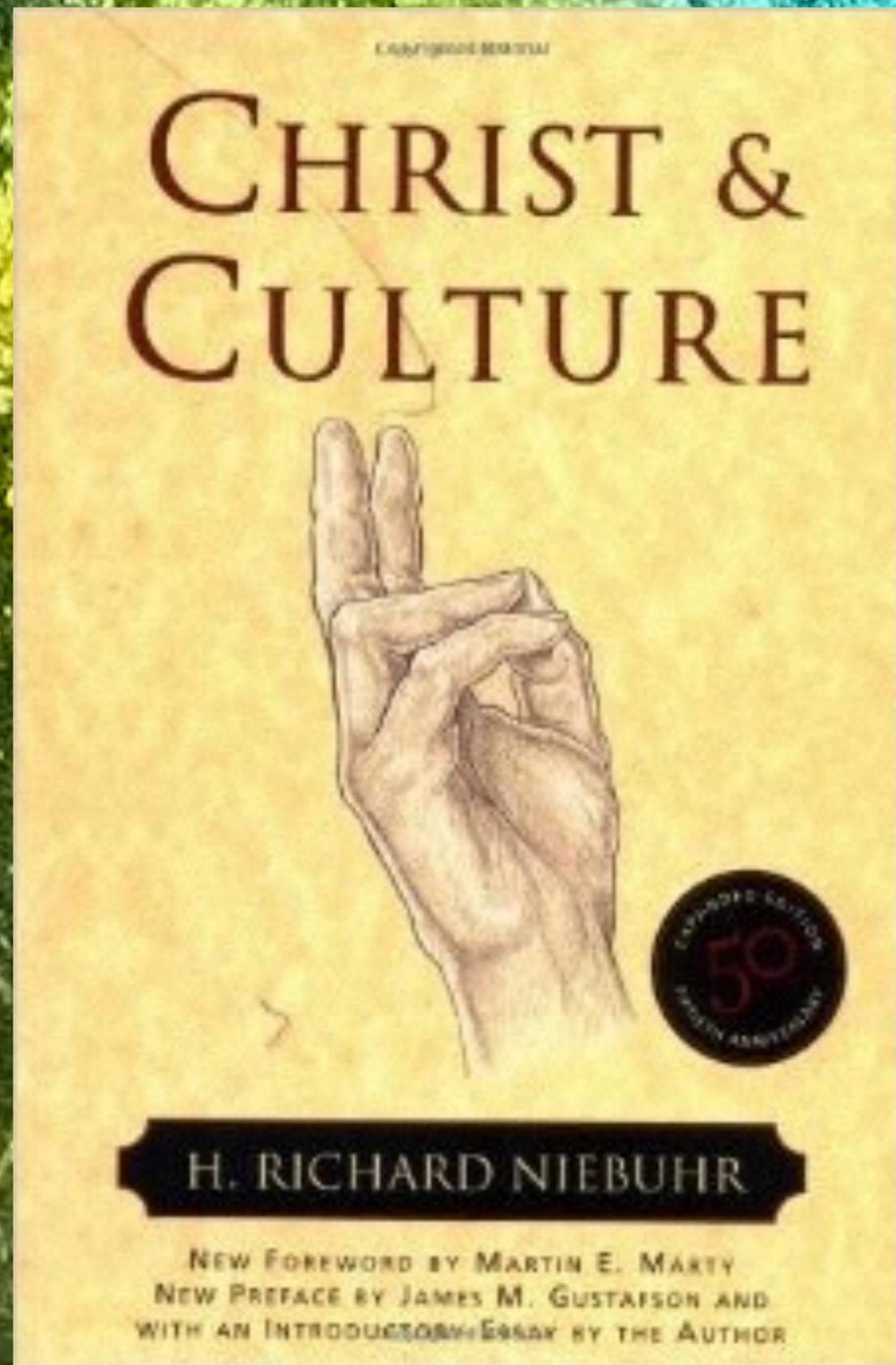




*Living Pictures*

VS

**DECOMPOSING PICTURES**



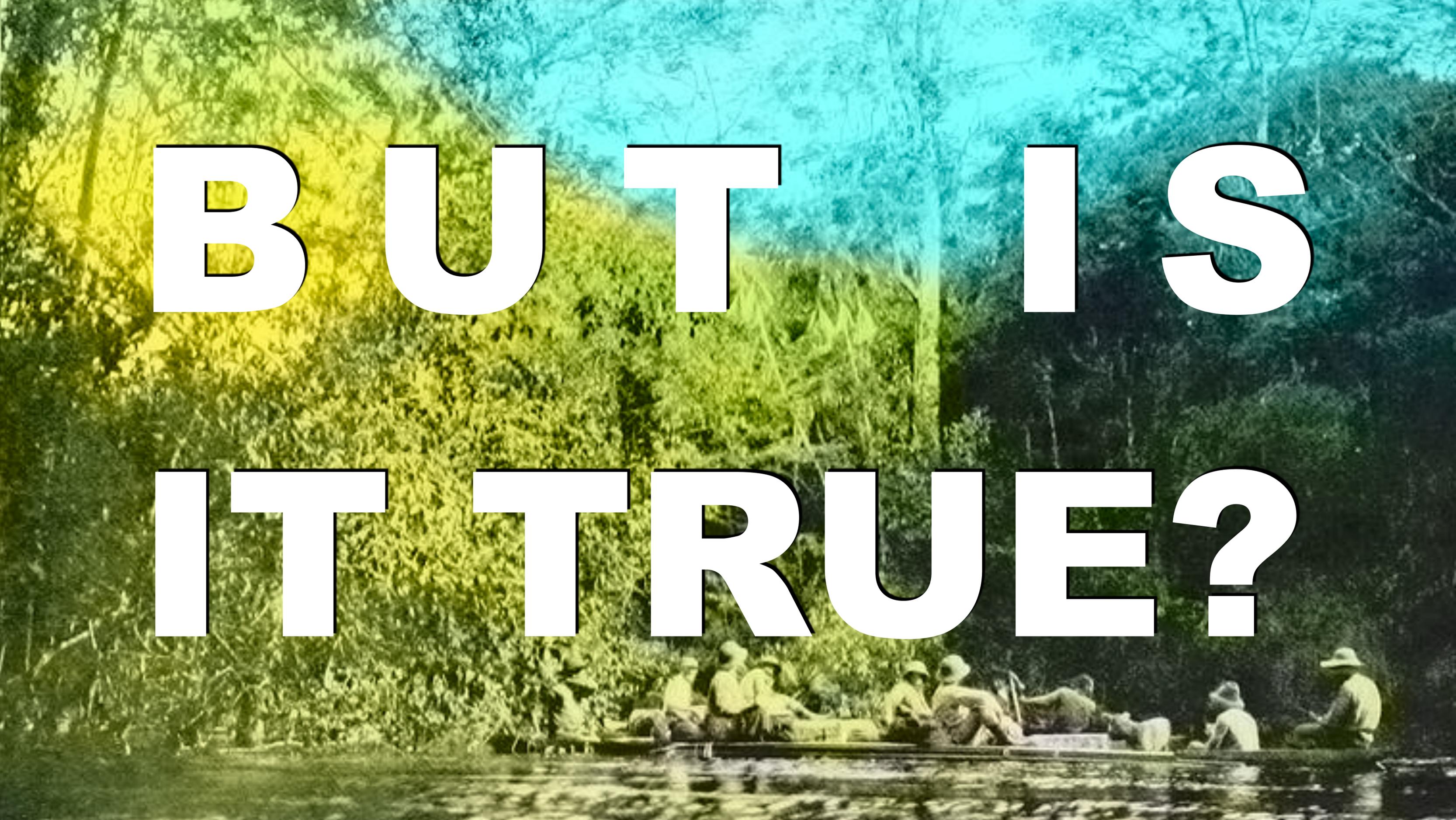
# “Christ and Culture” by Richard Niebuhr



**We Receive it.**

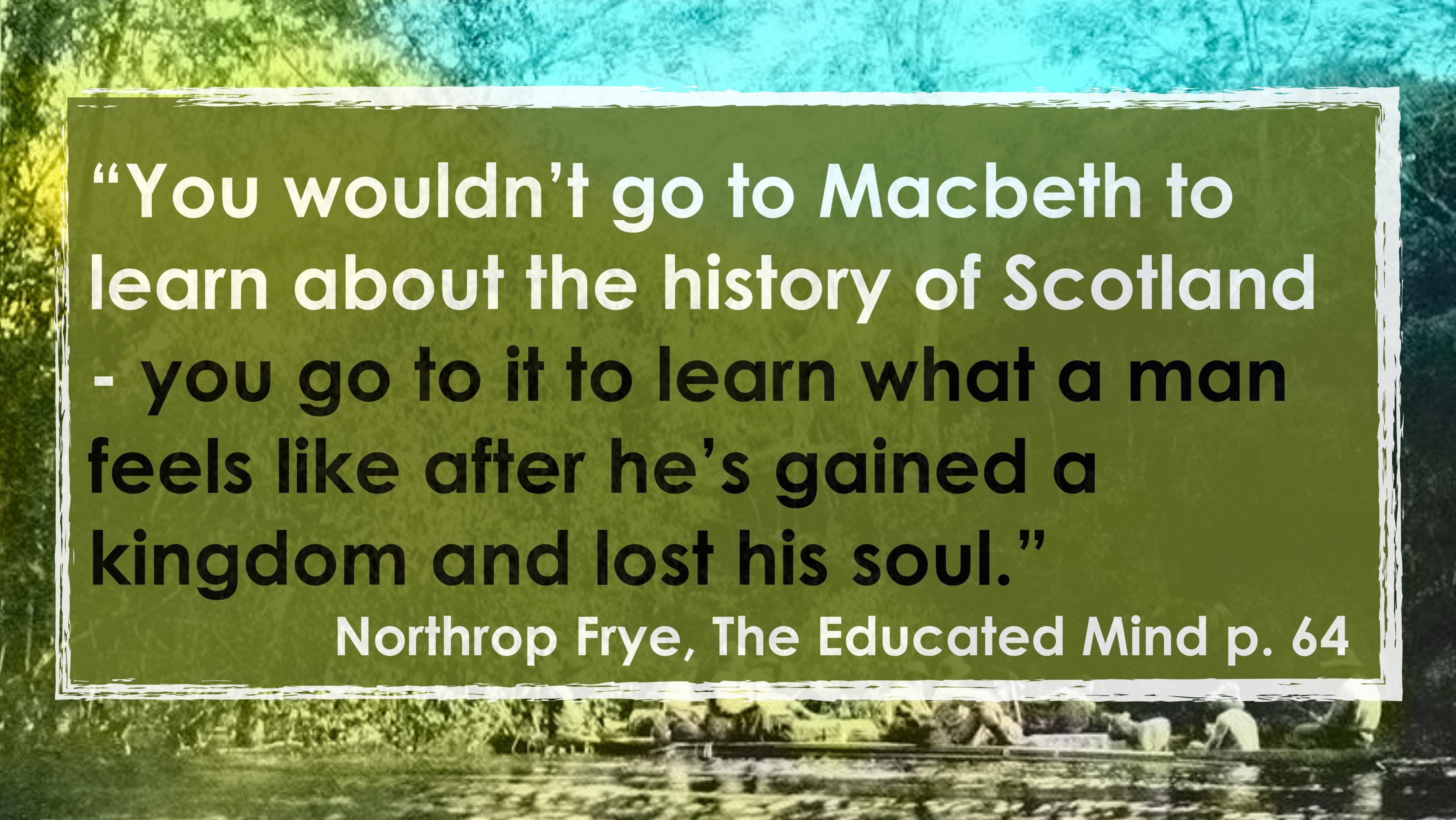
**We Redeem it.**

**We Reject it.**

A group of people in a boat on a river, surrounded by dense green foliage. The scene is captured in a vintage, slightly desaturated style. The people are wearing hats and are positioned along the length of the boat. The background is filled with tall, thin trees and thick vegetation, creating a sense of a remote, natural setting. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery.

**BUT IS**

**IT TRUE?**



**“You wouldn’t go to Macbeth to learn about the history of Scotland - you go to it to learn what a man feels like after he’s gained a kingdom and lost his soul.”**

**Northrop Frye, *The Educated Mind* p. 64**

An empty lecture hall with rows of yellow and blue seats. The text is overlaid in large, white, bold letters with black outlines.

“WHY HATE  
CAN BE  
KNOWN?”

“When you were a child, you had imaginary friends like Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy and God. Why did you get rid of your other imaginary friends and keep God?”

**“You see, if your imaginary friend somehow transforms your life, makes you a better human being, moves you from arrogance to humility, from greed to generosity, from hate to love— if this imaginary friend changes everything for you and makes you the kind of human being you’ve always longed to be but could never find the strength to become alone— **do not, I repeat do not, ever give up on that imaginary friend, because that imaginary friend who changes everything for the good is the most real thing you’ll ever know.**”**

Is it possible that the human imagination is **the playground of God**, that while we fill the imagination with Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny, our imagination was always intended to be the place where humans could interact with God? Only in our imagination can we begin to contain even the smallest expression of the bigness of God; only in our imagination can we accomplish anything, go anywhere, or become anyone; only in our imagination do we have boundless possibilities and endless potential; only in our imagination can we even begin to conceive of what reality might become if it began to reflect the imagination of God. **In our imagination, conversations that come from someone who is all-knowing and all-powerful and all-present, for whom all things are possible, can be engaged at a human level.**

“The reason I didn’t give up on God when I put away my other imaginary friends is that every time I create more room by vacating an imaginary friend, I find more space for those extraordinary encounters with the living God.”

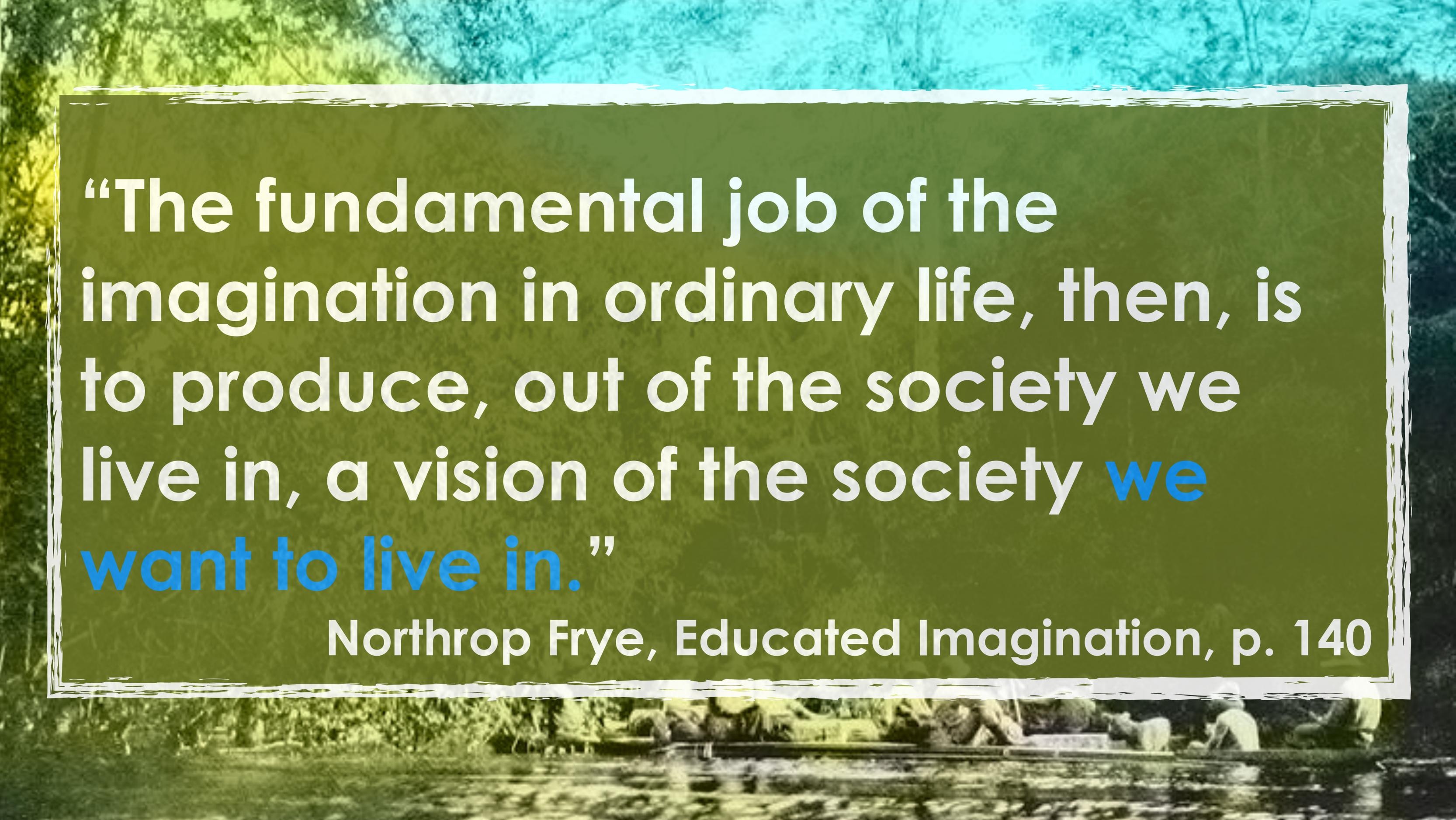
Erwin Raphael McManus, *The Artisan Soul* (p. 100)

## The Explorer - Rudyard Kipling

“THERE’S no sense in going further—it’s the edge of cultivation,”  
So they said, and I believed it—broke my land and sowed my crop—  
Built my barns and strung my fences in the little border station  
Tucked away below the foothills where the trails run out and stop.

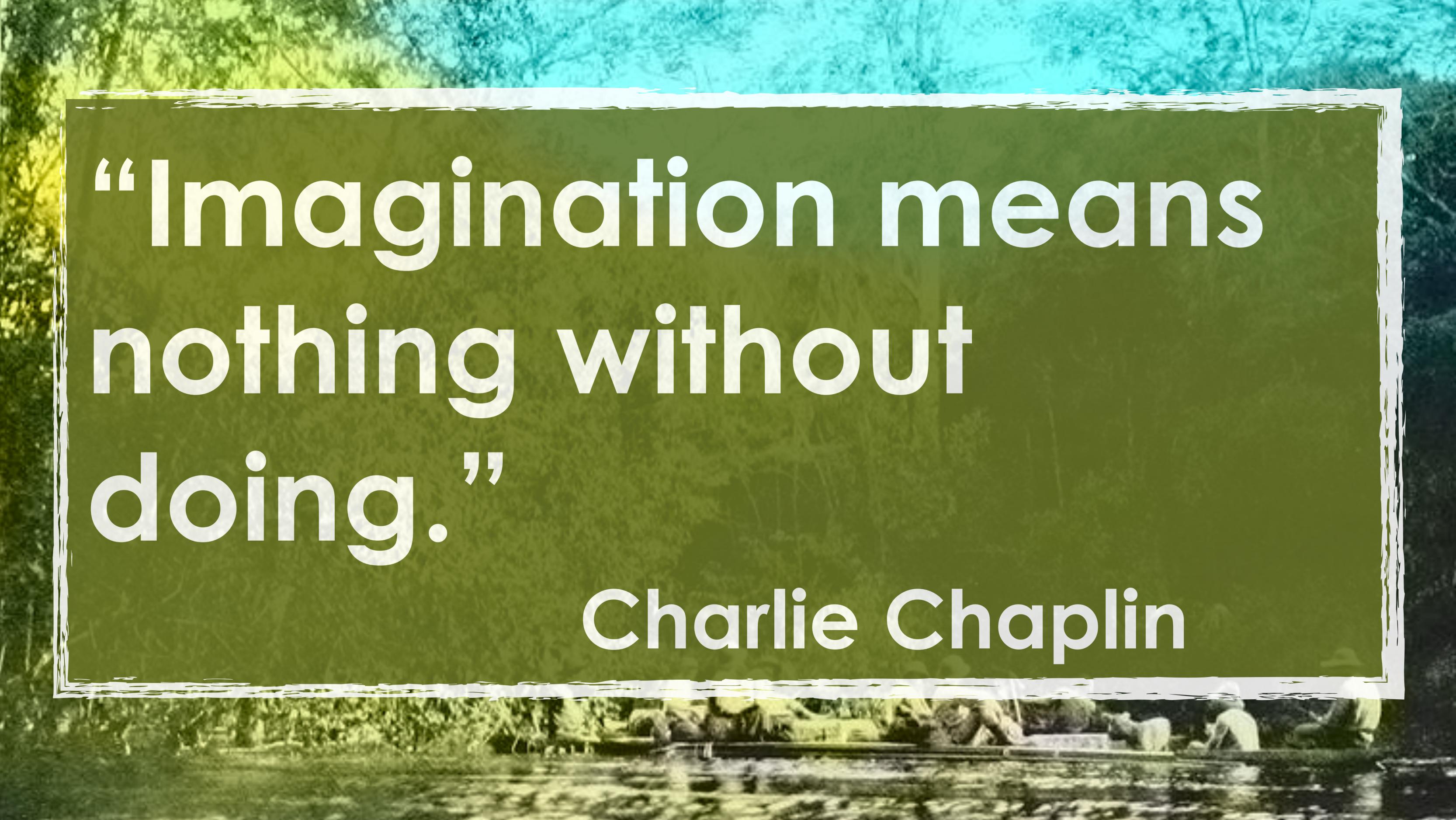
Till a voice, as bad as Conscience, rang interminable changes  
On one everlasting Whisper day and night repeated—so:

“Something hidden. Go and find it. Go and look behind the Ranges—  
“Something lost behind the Ranges. Lost and waiting for you. Go!”



“The fundamental job of the imagination in ordinary life, then, is to produce, out of the society we live in, a vision of the society **we want to live in.**”

Northrop Frye, *Educated Imagination*, p. 140

The background of the image is a black and white photograph of a river scene. In the foreground, there is a rocky riverbank with some vegetation. In the middle ground, several people are visible, some sitting on the bank and others standing. The background shows a dense line of trees. The entire image is framed by a white, hand-drawn style border.

**“Imagination means  
nothing without  
doing.”**

**Charlie Chaplin**

“We must be able to see those things which are invisible, or how can we lift up our eyes to God? Imagination is, like faith, the evidence of things not seen; indeed, is not faith the supreme effort of imagination wherein she stretches her wings, compels her powers to produce mental pictures, or ideas, of the things eternal?”

Charlotte Mason, “The Imagination in Childhood”

**“Mom, I kinda like going to bed at night. Because you get to just lay there and imagine.”**

**Sophi (age 11)**

“The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you. There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.”

Frederick Buechner

“This is what the LORD says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Jeremiah 6:16a

**“Something hidden. Go and find it. Go and look behind the Ranges —**

**“Something lost behind the Ranges. Lost and waiting for you. Go!”**

# Outfitting the Chief Explorer

