

Curse and Redemption

Like other animals, man spends his life ingesting, excreting, reproducing, sleeping, fearing, and coveting and, like other animals, he is aware of his environment. But he is cursed because he must bare the burden of knowing that he is still an animal. His verb tenses show an awareness of time so he is the only animal who knows he will die. He can contemplate the heavens. He can contemplate his own self-hood. He can search for ultimate significances of both, but he thinks he must hurry to find answers because the time will inevitably come when the worms eat him. Some eventually realize that what they need for their cursed existence is a redemptive faith in a transcendent power.