

The Impossible Animal

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 is aware that he is an animal. His verb tenses show an awareness of time. He is thus 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 must hurry to find answers because the time will inevitably come when worms eat him.