



Our extremophile natures want to rise above it all. Above the animal need to follow the rules that Nature has imprinted on our genomes. Above the limits that Nature has sculpted into our bodies even.

Especially this! For other animal minds must stay true to their bodies, and only humans can extend bodies. Which means we are not subject to *competitive exclusion*, the organizing principle of evo-ecology.

Thus we are un-Natural, for if we choose to compete with any other species, that species will lose. One could even argue that such a choice itself is "unnatural".

my daughter Martha

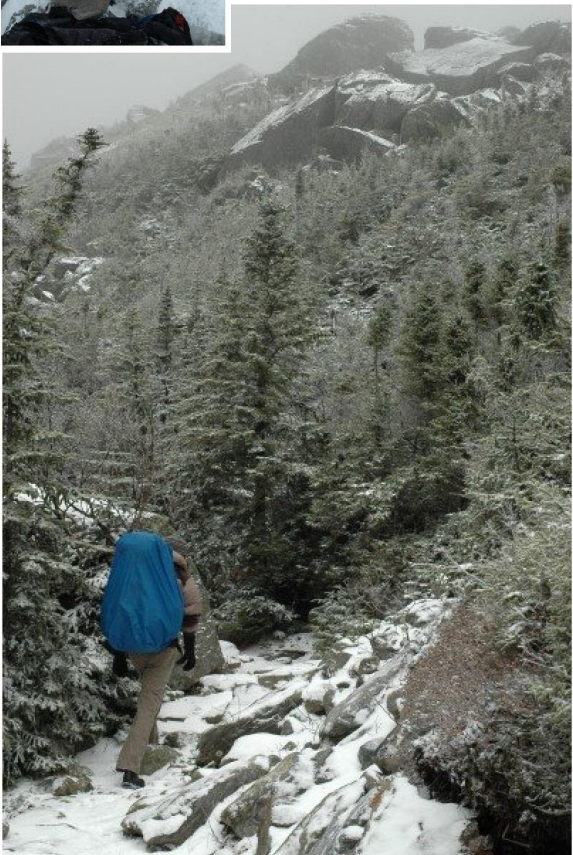


The picture above reminds us that reaching for the heights doesn't always have to be so physical.

Andrew Newman catching air on kite skis



Shane L. S. Dennis (via. Nathan CI)



my son-in-law Kirk

We are still confused when we try to make this seemingly urgent distinction between what's "natural" and what's "unnatural". It's a definitely human distinction, so we are torn between two "natures" when our minds, driven by animal impulses, fear the hubris of technology even while our human spirit embraces technology to make its escape.

It's not really "Natural" to enter the wilderness and not get caught up in the inter-feeding: the give and take of body-stuff according to one's place in a food web. And in this sense it does seem we are becoming less Natural lately. Inattentively at first, as guns replaced spears, and more consciously now as cameras replace guns.

People will always have problems with being unnatural, in the sense of being in conflict with our human (and especially cultural) natures, but it's becoming more and more apparent that being un-Natural is not the problem; it's the solution.