

Towards a New Ecological Imagination: Post-Anthropocentric Leopardi

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Abstract

This essay examines how far Leopardi's thinking goes to support contemporary ecological thinking with its ambition to furnish grounds for a less imbalanced relationship between the human species and the natural world that it has increasingly engineered over the course of the past two hundred years. A dogged foe of many anthropocentric commitments fostered by late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century Europe, Leopardi still clung to human entitlements that rendered a greater appreciation of Nature difficult, including the premium placed on subjective desire and on the epistemology of reason itself. Nevertheless he activates imaginative steps that transcend the intellectual crisis of the Copernican revolution, evidenced by his empathic eulogy of birds and his fascination with the transcendent indices of disembodied voice and song.

Keywords: Leopardi; ecological imagination; post-anthropocentrism; nature; *Operette morali*.