

might carry the rapt spirit on the swelling waves of ecstasy to where "the flood-mark of humanity touches the white pillars of the heavenly throne;" music to which archangels accustomed to the antiphonal harmonies of heavenly choirs might listen between the cadences of those angelic anthems.

Dynamical geology is a record of Titanic conflict through æons of world history. If matter is in any even low degree sentient, what age-long agonies, what colossal sums of torture earth has endured since the far dawn of the nebular day. Ruskin has used the idea of some form of sentience in the elements repeatedly and with beauty and force in *Ethics of the Dust*. In Lect. IX., speaking of crystalline power, "It is essentially a styptic power, and wherever the earth is torn it heals and binds: nay, the torture and grieving of the earth seem necessary to bring out its full energy; for you only find the crystalline living power fully in action where the rents and faults are deep and many." Again, speaking of the marbles, "which have been the delight of the eye and the wealth of architecture among all civilized nations, are precisely those on which the signs and brands of these earth agonies have been chiefly struck; and there is not a purple vein nor flaming zone in them, which is not the record of their ancient torture." In Lect. X., Dora interrupts with "You always talk as if the crystals were alive; and we never understand how much you are in play and how much in earnest." He replies: "Neither do I understand myself how much I am in earnest. The stones puzzle me as much as I puzzle you. They look as if they were alive, and make me speak as if they were; and I do not in the least know how much truth there is in the appearance." A little later Mary interrupts, "It is very delightful to imagine the mountains to be alive; but then *are* they?" His reply, though ambiguous, seems to be affirmative, and Dora and Jessie (clapping their hands): "Then we may really believe that the mountains are living?" Ruskin replies: "You may at least earnestly believe that the presence of the spirit which culminates in your own life shows itself in dawning, wherever the dust of the earth begins to assume any orderly and lovely state."

After all, we know so little of the modes of existence of matter