Judeo-Christian monotheism has had a vast historic impact on Western values, shaping many cultural patterns in the West, including the relationship of humanity to Nature. The widespread Western conception of Man as standing apart from the natural world while dominating Nature has a direct connection with how humanity relates to the planet, as well as to animal and plant life. The cultural roots of this conception lie in the biblical text, particularly in the Creation myth. Western man’s alienation from Nature runs through different cultural periods like a vertical axis, a deeply rooted structure, its beginnings religious, its continuation secular.

The Judeo-Christian Creation myth expresses two aspects of Man’s alienation from nature. The first is the separation of divinity from nature. The second is the separation of Man from Nature, his placement in a superior position at the top of the hierarchy of all created beings, and in his being given the position of partner in forming natural reality. This represents a complete revolution in the religious world-view of the ancient East, in which the gods were bound by the constraints of nature and destiny. Greek theology and cosmology are also based on the assumption that the world is governed by destiny and necessity. Although this religious revolution underwent many transformations, it is still present in our culture and has far-reaching ramifications until the present day.