Judeo-Christian monotheism had a vast historic impact on Western values, shaping many cultural patterns in the West, including the relationship of humanity to Nature. The widespread conception in Western civilization 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 foundations of this conception are in the biblical text, particularly in the Creation myth. Western man’s alienation from Nature is pivotal throughout different periods in Western culture, a structure deeply rooted in religious origins, continuing into the secular world.

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 total upheaval in the religious world-view of the ancient (Middle?) East, in which the gods were bound by the constraints of nature and destiny. Greek theology and cosmology also assume that the world is governed by destiny and necessity. Although this religious upheaval underwent many transformations, it is still present in our culture and has far-reaching ramifications for the present day.