

THE PHILOSOPHY OF DESPAIR

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The Philosophy of Despair by David Starr Jordan

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DAVID STARR JORDAN

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OF DESPAIR**

The Philosophy of Despair



**The Philosophy
of Despair : By
David Starr Jordan**

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TO
JOHN MAXSON STILLMAN
IN TOKEN OF GOOD CHEER

A darkening sky and a whitening sea,
And the wind in the palm trees tall;
Soon or late comes a call for me,
Down from the mountain or up from the sea,
Then let me lie where I fall.

And a friend may write — for friends there be,
On a stone from the gray sea wall,
“Jungle and town and reef and sea—
I loved God's Earth and His Earth loved me,
Taken for all in all.”



Today is your day and mine, the only day
we have, the day in which we play our
part. What our part may signify in the
great whole, we may not understand, but
we are here to play it, and now is our
time. This we know, it is a part of
action, not of wishing. It is a part
of love, not of cynicism. It is for
us to express love in terms of
human helpfulness. This
we know, for we have
learned from sad experi-
ence that any other
course of life leads
toward decay
and waste.

