

e-Postcard from Joshin-Etsu Kogen

August 24, 2004

Some people think their lives are too complex. They think that a simple life, a natural life, a life in the forest would be more rewarding. They think living as one with nature would be glorious and bring them happiness.

Well, I've got some news for them. Out here, it isn't all sunshine and roses.



Out here, when it rains, you are one with the rain.



When you're not sitting in the rain, you're picking bugs out of your hair.



And if you aren't doing it, someone else is doing it for you.



And half the time they pick you instead of the bug.

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And when you aren't getting pinched, you're being kept awake by the kids screaming.



Or by the neighbors fighting over the same stupid rock they've been fighting over for years.

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And when you take a bath, you're always wondering who has done what in the water.



Sometimes you just want to find a spot all to yourself.



If you could, you'd shrink yourself back down and curl up with your mother for some peace and quiet.



But instead, all you can do is face another day.



I swear, sometimes I'd trade my opposable thumb for a quiet room, a glass of port and a good cigar.



Living as one with nature glorious? My a...