The Natural World

JE’s Philosophy of Nature
Nature of Creation

1. Real being: result of exercise of divine power (immanence)
   - the more exercise, the more divine (thus, God is ultimate and true Being)
   ("All natural existence is only idea.")

2. Real substance:
   - spirit not matter
   - consent to Being (i.e., conformity to nature of God)
   - relational: "excellency," or similarity of one being to another
     - identity of relation is the essence of being

["Beauty of World", "The Mind" no. 1]

1. Communication between orders of being
   - God's ends & aims are open to view (revelation)
     - creation as symbolic, discursive divine text

2. A stage or theater of God's works (Calvin)