



Fact

Nature's Deceptive Nurturing

Nature has nurtured some of her selected species with three seemingly under-appreciated abilities, unless of course, the species in question is self-aware of the survival agenda of camouflage, regeneration, and metamorphosis. *Camouflage* allows predators to hide in plain sight. They blend into the surrounding environment so well—rocks, trees, or vegetation. Predators are permitted to stalk, sneak around, and blindside unsuspecting prey. Simultaneously, camouflage also allows prey to hide in plain sight from predators. Nature is full of curve balls. She stands as the *original pattern for deception*.

Does camouflage ability suggest self-awareness? Do animals know they are virtually hidden? Considering what we know today about animal intelligence, it is most likely true. The splendid white polar bear hides his black nose with its great paw with razor-sharp black claws clutched beneath. Unsuspecting prey see pure white snow ahead until, of course, they see red.

Due to color and markings, a big cat—the lynx—blends in with surrounding tree bark; prey have no idea what's happening until fang and claw tear them to shreds. Meanwhile, a species of butterfly looks like a green leaf as it sits upon leafy twigs.

Want further proof of nature's power? Look at regeneration. A bird dives into the path of a crustacean—a crab, lobster, or crayfish. It grabs one of the crabs' ten legs in its strong beak and takes to the sky, only to lose its prey seconds later, left "holding the leg," so to speak. The crab frees itself by losing the trapped leg, only to *grow it back in about two weeks*. Fish, salamanders, and some mammals show regenerative ability. Humans have regenerated fingertips, ribs, and entire livers with as little as twenty-five percent of the original organ left to sprout another.

The most spectacular example of *nature's changing room* is biological metamorphosis where species conspicuous and abruptly morph—*changing their entire physical form* to something else. What once was a repulsive worm becomes a beautiful butterfly.

Do we ever really know what stands before us?