

# THE PATH OF QUAKER PEACE

## THE SIMPLE LIFE IS

*UNADORNED*

*UNAFFECTED*

*PLAIN*

*NO DECEIT*

*TRUTH*

### The simple life

**The simple life is a peaceful alternative that gives all people the possibility of a life of dignity and respect.**

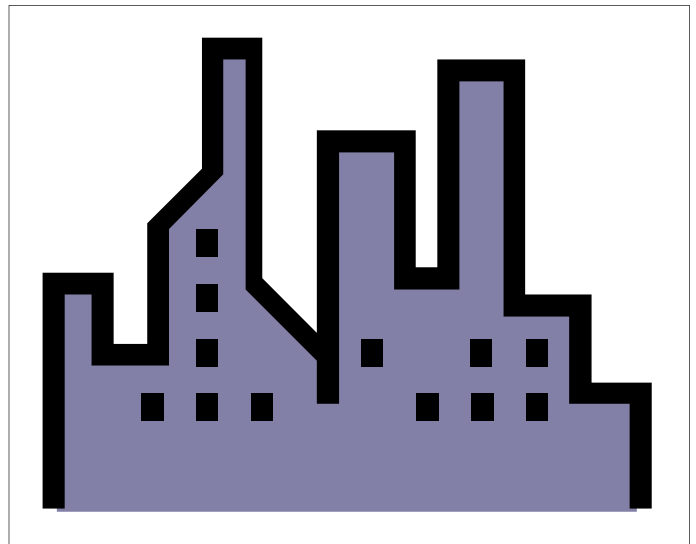
**The simple Way, the peaceful way is sharing.**

## THE SIMPLE LIFE

### My Fair Share of the World's Resources

As there get to be more and more people and fewer and fewer resources in the world, there is more competition, more violence expended to acquire them. The peaceful way is sharing. There would be plenty to go around if I would take only my fair share, and share with others who do not have enough. I have to have material possessions but they should not determine my worth as a person; possessions should not be the most important thing in my life.

A simple life is one of the few peaceful alternatives that gives all people the possibility of a life of dignity and respect. A simple life is a peaceful answer to both individual problems and the world's ills. If I lived a simple life, the world would work much better, be a more peaceful place. A simple life is not a life of poverty though. I don't want to be poor or cold or hungry and



EVERYONE NEEDS DECENT HOUSING

I don't want anyone else to be either. Instead I must try to live on the lowest economic level consistent with what God wants me to do. I need to buy useful, necessary things, recycle everything I can. Of course, I must only take my share in the first place and leave the shares of others alone. Living in the

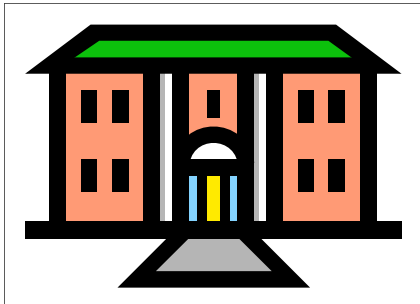
United States makes this difficult to do as we use a great proportion of the world's resources. But I must try to do this if I want peace, not war, some chance for people's dreams to come true for themselves and their children.

## A SIMPLE LIFE MEANS SHARING

# THE QUAKERPATH OF PEACE

## THE SIMPLE LIFE

...love clothes my mind.  
Woolman Journal



A 400 FOOT LIVING SPACE

At a Quaker discussion on how to live a simple life, a 400 foot living space was suggested as a fair share. So I bought an old 10 by 40 trailer. That didn't seem much space for just me and the person suggesting it had, I am sure, meant it for a small family. I have to admit that the first thing I thought about was adding a porch.

A simple life is an important part of following the path to Quaker peace. A simple life has God as its center and

one main direction, to serve Him. It is a plan, consciously made, to have the physical part of life under discipline so that there will be more time for the spiritual: time to say one's prayers and meditate, time for family, time to read or study. But garden, house and job are also ways of loving God and showing this love. I should, of course, have some concern for the well being of others as well as my own.

God is a God of order, balance and harmony. I need balance, order and harmony in my life. I need to serve God and do His will. Part of this

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## A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW

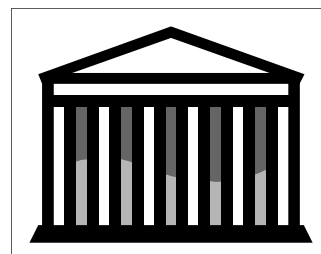
*"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."*

service, but not all of it, is earning a living and caring for my family. I shouldn't use all our time and energy doing this though. It seems to me that John Woolman, the best example of living the simple life, makes it sound easier than it is. But John's life shows me the spirit in which mine should be lived. He

pricks my conscience and inspires me to do better things in the world.

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## INSIDE STORY HEADLINE



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# THE CONNECTION OF THINGS

## The Connection of Things

I parked my 10 by 40 foot Mobile home in Hillsboro, New Mexico.

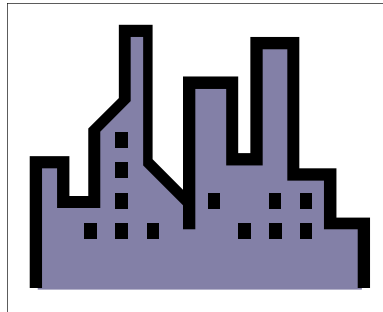
In the most beautiful spot in the state.

Early in 1877 prospectors found gold ore along Percha Creek, which runs through Hillsboro and Kingston. The excitement of these discoveries encouraged further pros-

pecting along the several branches of the creek.

More gold was found, also some silver. Hillsboro and Kingston, typical prosperous mining towns, had saloons on every corner, open twenty four hours a day. Lawlessness was business as usual. This prosperity took a downturn in 1893 with the devaluation of silver. Hillsboro fared better than Kingston because it depended more on gold than silver.

When I lived in Hillsboro, the owners of a nearby copper



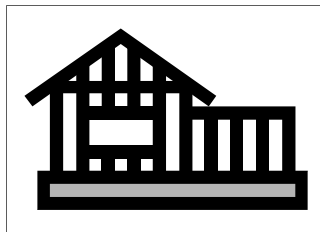
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mine tried to re-open it. Today a mining operation needs lots of water. A concern about opening the mine is the "take down," or lowering of the water table, the possible draining of the aquifers.

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## INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

## NO CHECKLIST



Caption describing picture or graphic.

*NO CHECKLIST,  
NO UNIVERSAL  
FORMULA AS TO  
WHAT IS A  
SIMPLE LIFE.*

cc1s

Primary Business Address  
Your Address Line 2  
Your Address Line 3  
Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555  
Fax: 555-555-5555  
Email: xyz@microsoft.com

**A simple life is committed to  
loving God and putting Him first in  
my life.**

*A SIMPLE LIFE IS NOT  
NOSTALGIA FOR THE PAST.*



But jobs are essential, too. Even the simplest life has to be funded in some way. A sensible, common sense balance between the protection of the environment and the necessity for jobs and products is needed.

Quakers have always believed that every person has value, is wholesome and good, because God lives within them. John Woolman thought that people were noble. This puts a tremendous responsibility on each individual to be informed and show some concern. If I am going to live in a world with fewer resources and more people, I will have to call on all that is noble, wholesome, and good within me to use natural resources and water in a way that is best for everyone.

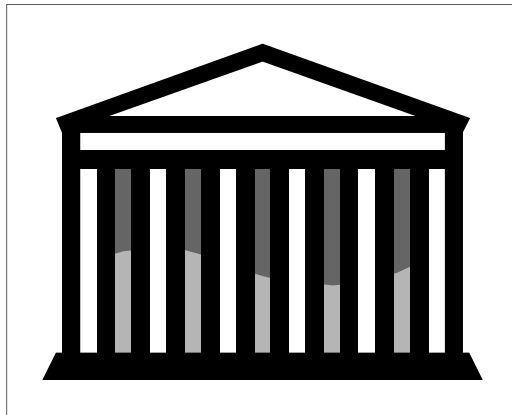
John Woolman wrote about the connection between people's actions and their effect upon the environment. Both historically and today, mining and ranching have altered land and water. A special recent problem is the use of water from the lake for irrigation. If the water in Percha Creek is polluted when it flows into Elephant Butte Lake, this effects the quality of irrigation water used for chilies and pecans downstream. There is a connection between water and how much there is of it, how many people use it, for what reasons. A deep snow pack in Colorado – which, when it melts, supplies the water for Elephant Butte Lake – is connected with having or not having a garden, watering your fruit trees, being able to hose off your patio and what is more,. the kind of job you can find locally.

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## GENIUS OF QUAKERISM

The genius of Quakerism is that it doesn't ask me to sell all that I have and give it to the poor.

Instead it says keep for oneself only that which is needful.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

The Quaker Religion is a practical one which doesn't ask me to become a ward of the state.

ility on me. If I call the shots,

However, this puts a tremendous resposib