If according to Thoreau's famous dictum: "In Wildness is the preservation of the world," wherein lies the preservation of its law? In the summer of 1846, in the midst of his two year retreat at Walden Pond, two events occurred which significantly redirected the course of Thoreau’s life. In July he was arrested and jailed for failing to pay his poll taxes. Two months later, he traveled into the wilds of Maine, culminating in his ascent of Mt. Ktaadn. These two events form a critical juncture of elements and experiences that provide a vantage point from which to explore how one's encounter with "the Wild" might contribute to a better appreciation and appropriation of "Higher Law."