

## Some Musings on Earth Day, 2010

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### WHERE ARE WE?

We're in a really dangerous moment in history. Virtually every natural habitat across the planet is being degraded.

We have got climate disruption...

- \* The past 10 years have been the warmest in recorded history.

We've got deforestation of the rain forest and other forests in the world....

- \* 75% of the world's original forests

We've got soil erosion....

- \* 30% of the world's arable land lost in 40 years

We've got the drainage of underground aquifers, the polluting of our rivers with poison...

- \* More than 200 oceanic "dead zones" worldwide.

We've got the overfishing of the oceans of the world.

- \* 90% of all large fish in the ocean are gone.

We've got the toxic burden in people's bodies, the rates of cancer that are going up.

The scientists of the world have come together to tell us that climate change is actually happening at a much faster rate than they had first anticipated. The signs of this are the cataclysmic storms, the extremes in weather. The polar ice caps are melting, and it means that the entire ecosystem is in peril.

### HOW DID WE GET HERE?

One useful measure is called the "Ecological Footprint." In 2007, humanity used about 30% more than what nature can renew. If everyone on earth lived as North Americans do, we'd need five earths.

Many people believe there is an unlimited supply of resources and that we live our lives independently of one another. This really isn't about polar bears anymore. At this very moment, the fate of civilization itself hangs in the balance. It seems we are dangerously close to the tipping point in the world's climate system, where after certain temperature and other impacts are reached, certain things change that can't be moved back.

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

In spite of the seriousness of the challenge, it's not too late! What's called for, and what is in fact emerging, is an awakened global citizenry, one that has the tools, information and commitment to guide humanity in the great transition that is taking place.

- \* An Informed, optimistic people who understand the urgency of our times, and who see that the possibilities are even greater than the crisis.
- \* People who know that our individual actions are significant, and who also realize that we're all inter-connected, part of a larger community, and that something larger is acting through us:
- \* People who see themselves as change agents engaged in creating the future we all yearn for.

We invite you to be one of those people!

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. First, come to see that an environmental sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially justice human presence on this planet is an achievable dream for our future. Realize that these three issues are inextricably interrelated, independent and are different aspects of one profoundly interconnected whole, and that it simply isn't possible to make sustainable progress on one of them while ignoring the other two.
  - ▶ Understand that humans are only a part of this ecosystem and when we kill part of the system we are really killing ourselves.
  - ▶ Understand that in spite of having access to more money, more food, more comfort, more entertainment, more travel, and more communication than any people who have ever lived, there is a great loneliness of spirit today. What we're yearning for isn't more "stuff" but for connection—with each other, with ourselves, with the powers of nature, the possibilities of being alive.
  - ▶ Understand the impact that the ways of the modern world are having upon the human family.
2. Know that each of us has the precious opportunity to say what our lives are committed to, who we long to be, what we stand for. Ask yourself, "What will I say to my great-great grandchildren when, at 3:23 a.m. in the morning, they ask me in dreams":

**Great, Great Grandfather/mother, what did you do while the planet was plundered?  
What did you do when the Earth was unraveling?  
Surely you did something when the seasons started failing,**

**As the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying.  
Did you fill the streets with protest when democracy was stolen?  
What did you do once you knew?**

3. Make a declaration to do something, **anything**, to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just human presence on this planet.

Each of us has a particular passion, a focus, some change we deeply wish to see in the world. Know that now is an opportunity to affirm—or reaffirm your commitment, knowing that our lives begin to reorganize themselves around whatever we stand for.

4. Bring your intentions to life. Develop an action plan that focuses on three areas and act upon it:
- (a) What can I do in my personal life, right where I work and live?
  - (b) What can I do to communicate the power of our words to engage others in seeking and creating the new possibilities before us (to friends, family co-workers & the community).
  - © How can I work with others in collective, cooperative action?

Every single one of us can do something to make a difference--- to support the spiritual consciousness of humankind for the care and loving co-existence of all creation

**BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD!**

For ideas and suggestions on ways in which you can make a difference,  
contact a member of the Green Team.

Note: Portions of this was taken from the “Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream” symposium.