



All life is one¹

“We are destroying life on the planet.”²

The Industrial Revolution witnessed rapid developments of science and technology. But only now are we beginning to recognize that the unintended consequence of our reckless misuse of this power has been the slow and inevitable destruction of life on Earth.³ Humanity now needs to make a “great transition”⁴ to a new and radically different way of living – because if we don’t, we face the prospect of a future where the few of us that survive will live among the wreckage of a dead planet.⁵

“Ecology changes our values by changing our concepts of the world and ourselves in relation to the world.”⁶

We need abandon our self-appointed superiority and realize that *Homo sapiens* is not a species created independently from nature – quite the opposite - we are fundamentally in and of the Earth. Life began to emerge on the Earth about 4,000 to 3,500 million years ago⁷ and it is only in the context of this deep time that we can begin to understand that we are, and always have been, Earth-centered animals with an ancestry that stretches back through apes, mammals, reptiles, and fish to a “universal common ancestor” in the form of primitive bacteria.⁸



“DNA is the blueprint of life... it connects us to every plant and animal alive today.”⁸

Most of us are aware that we share about 99.4% of our DNA with chimpanzees.⁷ But few realize that all plants and animals, no matter how seemingly unrelated to us, have sequences of genetic code that are identical to those in our human cells.⁸

“All life is fundamentally One.”¹

This simple, but profound statement, is the foundation of the philosophy of Deep Ecology developed by Arne Naess. From this perspective things flow together and merge into a new reality - one in which we begin to understand that we are not separate but part of an interconnected and interdependent web of life.⁹

**“We need...
love and empathy for Nature.”³**

As we broaden our horizons, we begin to think not only of ourselves, but of life of the Earth as a whole. We perceive the intrinsic value all plants and animals have in and of themselves. That all have the right to life¹⁰ and should be respected simply because they exist.¹ That in the context of an interconnected living Earth⁷ their vital needs are also ours. It is only from this concern for the well-being of the Earth that we will transition to simpler, more sustainable lifestyles.

**“All life and all material parts of the
Earth’s surface...
could be regarded as...a single living
entity – Gaia.”³**

The revolutionary idea that the Earth itself is a “form of life.” was proposed by James Lovelock.⁷ The Gaia Theory sees the Earth as living organism that encompasses all rocks, water, atmosphere and all living creatures - a complex integrated system that controls its environment to always be comfortable for life.⁴ Gaia forces us to abandon our homocentric world view - the concept of our uniqueness and separateness - and embrace the fact that everything exists within a vast and intricate web of life⁹ upon a living Earth. To begin to see the Earth not as a multitude of separate animals and plants on a lump of rock drifting in space but rather as a living community of interconnected beings, linked by complex patterns of interdependency.



**“Environmental questions are based
largely on how one sees reality.”¹⁰**

**“Begin to see all things, including
ourselves, as part of the community
of living things.”³**

We now face a range of massive ecological, possibly existential, crisis. The Earth is dying, and we are killing it. The goal must be to stop the destruction and work instead towards “planetary well-being.”¹¹

All humanity - you and I as individuals – need to urgently make essential changes, in thought, action and lifestyle. But first and foremost, what’s required is fundamental change in the way we perceive the Earth and our place in its community. We need to begin to see the Earth as Gaia - as a living and beautiful entity composed of billions of different creatures. We urgently need to shift to a new reality based on the concept that all life is one - because only when we begin to live from this fundamental all-inclusive vision of life we also begin to love and care for her.

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