

CREATIVE ENERGY

Bearing Witness for the Earth

THOMAS BERRY

Our best procedure might be to consider that we need not a human answer to an earth problem, but an earth answer to an earth problem. The earth will solve its problems, and possibly our own, if we will let the earth function in its own ways. We need only listen to what the earth is telling us.

This slender volume distills into its elegant pages the most essential wisdom of Thomas Berry's *Dream of the Earth*, called by Dr. Donald B. Conroy, President of the North American Conference on Religion and Ecology, "quite possibly one of the ten most important books of the twentieth century."

According to Berry, noted eco-theologian and historian, our present-day problems—from polluted air and waters to moral bankruptcy and rampant materialism—stem from the basic relationship of human society to nature. We have come to

(continued on back flap)

83 If humans will not become functional members of the earth community how can humans establish functional relationships between themselves.

Q Whether the planet itself can survive the human intelligence it has brought forth.

86-Goal Groping toward an ever more complete expression of the ~~NUMINOUS~~ ^{CREATIVE ENERGY} mystery
Discovery, ecstatic transformation, →
new levels of integration

88-only a fragment of matter escaped an anti-matter annihilation - all we can see

89-Greatest Advance-Invention of PHOTOSYNTHESIS upon which all future life development has depended

Guidance in 'Dream of the Earth' is Available - the Difficulty is in the order of magnitude of the change required of us.

90-No former revelatory experiences are

1 Awareness of an all pervading mysterious energy
-- - primordial experience of human consciousness
(must know?) Wow - ENTHEO

2 - we want to be healed. Then what? - more healed when
down get to our creative role within the intentions
of the universe

3) An client Existence - a pattern - NOT an unfolding
- ritual patterns kept them within proper energy
cycles. That consistency Not Radically disrupted
till modern period.

4) Most significant energy revolution - switch to
shaping of time process toward some ultimate
fulfillment

ENTHEO - This is what the plants begin to
switch us back from
Fundamental Change for Humans & Earth. Destiny
this vision - with Revelation - Source of most power and
psychic energies ever released on earth.

Now - earth comes together - deteriorating - Modern Q
Control of huge energy - jumps in order of magnitude
Consequences vast - beyond imagining of tomorrow
- inevitable.

11. Humans can 1) Plunder or 2) mutually Enhance
The mythic vision is what invokes the energies
needed to sustain the human effort.
Either way. / Must Change Mythic Vision
may the force be with you

12 - Deep Psychic fixation against any alleviation
of the death grip.
- Drug war

13. "Industrial illusion"
We lack progress Not because of pol or econ reality...

14 We have Myth Addiction the most Terminal
Addiction Wow - Earth Cure requires passing
thru the agony of withdrawal - Pot - Peace mythic
vision
Wow Cannabis is the Transition Hemp - Production
Consumption

15 - The Mythic Transition must precede
the industrial. Yeah - that's me 60's
- love, grandeur, awe of North America
Culture

16 - Every culture needs mystique of the land to
counter the industrial mystique 3 PAGES 30-32

14 - Words can't answer for earth problem
- listen to the earth.

20 All in the story - we are in trouble now because
we do not have a good story - old entrenched
Story must educate, heal, guide, discipline
FOR THE EARTH

11 old story - man broke paradise - History is moving
infallably (woman) towards reconstituting paradise.
Contribution of this irreversible historical time (into a
[cyclical] abiding cosmological scene.

This can only go 2 ways - Life / Death - The earth
ethic that came Thomas Berry
was it (Genesis) can lead only to death.

26 Calculus - The Supreme instrument of modern
science.
27 The human - universe in its evolutionary
dimension became conscious of itself

30 Best on Christianity and the Natural World.
- Christian redemptive mystique is little concerned.

31 Both Trad. Believers and scientists miss any real
understanding of the earth process itself.

32 Change in Earth/Human Relationships - Now we
determine the earth process.
- Growing awareness of the integral Physical/Psychic
dimension of reality.

37 - Fear, Distrust, Aversion / Nat. world in believing
community. But there will be
pressure from many - Earth will not be
ignored.

14 Both forms - in both realms C
can significantly treat the withdrawal

38 - Primordial intent of the Universe is Diversity
39 - Reverence will be total (immense) or it will be not at all.
ENTHEO - The universe does not come to us in pieces

A Sierra Club Pathstone Edition™

ENTHEO The Sierra Club, founded in 1892 by John Muir, has devoted itself to the study and protection of the earth's scenic and ecological resources—mountains, wetlands, woodlands, wild shores and rivers, deserts and plains. The publishing program of the Sierra Club offers books to the public as a non-profit educational service in the hope that they may enlarge the public's understanding of the Club's basic concerns. The point of view expressed in each book, however, does not necessarily represent that of the Club. The Sierra Club has some sixty chapters coast to coast, in Canada, Hawaii, and Alaska. For information about how you may participate in its programs to preserve wilderness and the quality of life, please address inquiries to Sierra Club, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

Copyright © 1988 by Thomas Berry

This volume in the Sierra Club Pathstone series comprises chapters 4, 10, 15, and 16 of *The Dream of the Earth*.

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Berry, Thomas Mary, 1914-

[*Dream of the earth*. Selections]

Creative energy / Thomas Berry.

comprises chapters 4, 10, 15, and 16 of

The dream of the earth—T.p. verso.

1. Berry, Thomas Mary, 1914-
1988. 1988. 51-3 (paper : alk. paper)

Human ecology—Religious aspects—Nature—Religious aspects.

1. Human ecology—Philosophy—Religion.

104.3—dc20

C830.B4725 1995

95-44731

Production by Susan Rintow - Cover and Text Design by Amy Evans

Composition by W. J. W. & Taylor

Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper containing

minimum of 50% recovered waste paper, of which at least 10% of the fiber

content is post-consumer waste

Evolutionary Process TEUO.

ENTHEO 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

The way now is the way of intimate commun-

ication with humans to the universe.

Confidence in future - if Gaea guides -

"follow the revelation that takes place

in and through the earth.

44 - True Guidance can't come from Trad. culture
"cultural coding" - for it is mark of the problem
Guidance - go to Genetic Coding - or the Earth - from
whence we came

46 - Human - Less a being than a dimension of the earth
the universe.

Guide I - Genetic Coding - our instincts for living - "no other

Sexuality/Mat. ON TENTS source of guidance
Att. Reinforcers has such

48 - The Primordial Fireball contained all that
would ever emerge into being.

57 - Western Civ. Has set cultural coding deliberately

against genetic coding - origin of our situation

First Radically Anthropocentric Society.
Thus broken the primary law of the universe.

The New Story 20 Integrity
That every component is Integral

The Dream of the Earth 44
57 New Industrial coding (social mores) - Profound

Shift in meaning to entire evolutionary process -

Large advantages to some.

Now Disaster Looming Rel. of

57 - Nature - Now our servant MATTERIALISM

Ever greater consumption was the way to greater

human fulfillment. Every earthly being now not a

sacred reality, but a natural resource

60 God/Know on whose head final lightning will fall. Nature

Albert Schweitzer - Man will end up destroying the earth

Destroying species - to earth

61 Our sense of progress emerges from millennial expectations

of our scriptures.

Did not belong to the community of the earth. Our

destiny is not here. Better place.

Growth now (progress) is a terminal cultural pathology

62 - Limits to growth study - outcry

Supreme Pathology of all history

Pathology greater than any historical or cultural change

- closing down the major life systems of the planet

65 - Wow Paul Ehrlich - / Contrast T. Hayden Book
Set to wait for technological solution "would be a lethal mistake.

Church - Rel - "Scientific analysis points, curiously, to a need for quasi religious transformation of Contemporary Cultures"

68 Huxley - Freud - Saw humans as alien to the community of creatures. We are Too good for the natural world.

68, 69 Day of Reckoning has come - we have gone - in image - from crown of creation to most pernicious of earthly beings. We are the affliction of the earth, its demonic aspect - the violation of earth's most sacred aspects.

69 WOW church doctrine - great 69 - extreme Need to get beyond our existing cultural formation - back to the primary tendencies of our nature itself, as expressed in the spontaneities of our being. TOTAL

Anthropocentric Traditions - all institutions - origin of deteriorating influence we have on earth
70 - Redemptive spirituality Disorienting - emphasize flaws of nature and escape from rather than intimacy with the earth.

71 We still could change course - from plundering to sustainability
order of magnitude Not historical or biological
New cultural coding - must come from revelatory visions
ENTHEO - That come to us in special psychic moments
an intuitive, non rational process - when we awaken to the numinous powers.

72 Role of Shamanic Personality - Supported by the ultimate power of the universe Entheo we must become sensitized to these spontaneous
73 - All our institutions and professions to be judged - Do they foster a mutually enhancing rel. with the earth
74 Ecological Imperative - New sensitivity that lets humans diminish so other life forms can flourish
75 2 Radical Positions - The Ecological & Industrial
76 No prior struggle ENERGY confront each other involved issues at this order of magnitude for centuries
78 - in rel. the earth - we have been autistic - may the force
80 Modern Human 60,000 yrs
God - Entheo - Be with you!!

Go To Front Page
2012
Change in every phase of earthly existence

AWARENESS OF AN all-pervading mysterious energy articulated in the infinite variety of natural phenomena seems to be the primordial experience of human consciousness, awakening to an awesome universe filled with mysterious power. Not only is energy our primary experience; energy, and its multiple modes of expression, is also the primary concern of modern physics, its ultimate term of reference in describing the most fundamental reality of the universe. Physics is establishing contact with energy events rather than with substances of atomic or subatomic dimensions. These energy events extend in size all the way from subatomic particles to galactic systems. The universe can be seen as a single, if multiform, energy event, just as a particle such as the