



We Mercies

Care for Creation

As you take the next step, remember the traditional custodians of the land

WEB OF ONENESS

Perhaps the most significant finding of the new scientific theory of creation is that we are all ONE.

We are all made from the same stardust formed after the so-called Big Bang. We have all evolved from the same common ancestor even though evolution has led us into so many diverse forms of life and consciousness – from the so-called inanimate to the very complex human.

It is hard to really understand what it means to be kin to the ants in our kitchen, the bushes and plants in our garden, the elements in the food we eat, and so on. I still get rid of the ants but I feel guilty. Where does the balance lie? I think of the Buddhist practice of avoiding stepping on an ant. But do they let their kitchen bench be overrun?

Recently I read a little story in a Far East magazine which gave me a small jolt of comprehension. It is set in Chile. The port of Valparaiso has been World Heritage listed for its beauty. The Columban Fathers have charge of a parish there on one of the hilltops overlooking the city and the Pacific Ocean. In the area there is an ancient group of around 250 Chilean Wine Palm trees. What gave me the jolt is that the writer did not call it a grove or a stand or whatever but a COMMUNITY.

A community of trees! The individual trees can live for over 1000 years. Do they communicate with each other and how? Do they send loving thoughts to each other? Do they help each other remain healthy and grow? How do they relate to the environment around them? To the human beings in the area – who previously had often vandalized them but who, through the ecological work of the parish, have now begun to seek to protect and value their ancient neighbours, the community of Chilean Wine Palms. It is still mystery!



Do you consider yourself part of the whole family of creation?

What are some practical implications?

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Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Onondaga Nation of America, spoke to the United Nations in these words:

I do not see a delegation for the four-footed. I see no seat for the eagles. We forget and we consider ourselves superior, but we are after all a mere part of the Creation. And we must consider to understand where we are. And we stand between the mountain and the ant, somewhere and there only, as part and parcel of Creation. It is our responsibility, since we have been given the minds to take care of these things.

*You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body love
what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.*

Mary Oliver

