

Real Intelligence and Nature

-by Ian Goudie

We live in times when we witness that mankind is seemingly unable to curb the accelerating destruction of the very ecosystems that support planetary health. The Amazonian rainforests, often referred to as the lungs of the earth, are being burned and cleared all in the name of capitalism. Profit is a corporate agenda and a synonymous term for greed. Mahatma Gandhi stated that " ... *for greed, all nature is insufficient* ...", a truism because Nature gives and gives and gives until there is nothing left. Because something is profitable it should not be the *raison d'être* to exploit it but it seems this is what the corporate rule of the world has turned into. Money originates as human energy applied to converting natural resources into products. Tropical old-growth hardwoods are more valuable cut down and turned into cheap table-top slabs to be cheaply marketed all over the world rather than left intact breathing and cleaning our planet's polluted air. Climate change brings us face to face with the global materialistic dysfunction of our times. Many people seemingly want to help somehow but few real actions are taken, and even fewer people heed Gandhi and are trying to " ... *be the change that they want to see in the world* ..." In eleven hours a car driven at 50 kph consumes the oxygen one human being needs for a year, and we point at the oil and gas industry as a big culprit in pumping out the CO₂ into our atmosphere while failing to see that we are all part of the big problem. From inside this module we will never curb climate change. Sometimes it seems that the best we can do for the environment is recycle a few cans and containers.

Recently our media (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/environment-council-members-resigning-1.5474870>) covered the dismal disarray of our successive provincial governments in assuming responsibility for conservation of our special ecological areas in NL. The National Geographic Society lists Newfoundland in the top four tourism destinations in the world, and a lot of this has to do with our expanses of unspoiled natural areas. The same governments pump the media with campaigns selling this theme but securing these assets for perpetuity is not happening. It is sad to see that members and chairs of the Wilderness and Ecological Reserve Advisory Committee have given up in lost hope <https://www.thetelegram.com/news/local/expert-advisers-to-newfoundland-and-labrador-government-resign-in-protest-414658/>). It's even an uphill battle to get government to follow the spirit of its own environmental legislation (<https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2020/02/28/newfoundland-ruling-slows-mowis-canadian-expansion/>). As Dr. William Montevecchi reinforced when offering-up his 3 decades of volunteer effort " ... "*We don't need another minister who is going to spin a happy time story about how committed he or she is. We need a paradigm shift. We need people who have courage* ..." Ministers are ephemeral, and we shouldn't lose sight of the senior bureaucrats behind the scene who are the common thread pushing ill advice to another naive minister.

Where are these courageous people going to come from?? Zita Cobb, in explaining her mission for Shorefast, the Not-For-Profit on Fogo Island in interviews in the magazines *Hotelier* 2015 and *Atlantic Business* 2013 stated: "*Human beings are becoming dumber and dumber all the time...Our worlds are shrinking into this binary over-intellectualized digital world... If we spend increasing amounts of time on little screens getting our information, we're becoming dumb...we are not using all the faculties human beings have ... We are losing our capacity to interact with each other and the natural world...*" The important question is: what is Real? Many people interacting on Facebook or some other media streaming think that all that binary data is somehow "real". Yet Nature herself is the greatest of all mysteries and has ultimate intelligence. Every cell in our bodies comes from, and ultimate returns to, Nature. It seems clear that the more we respect and copy Nature the closer we get to sustainability. Zita Cobb states: "*... The twin pillars of sustainability are Nature & Culture We are losing track of the nature and culture part, and we are losing sacred....*" The culture is centered in place and is the unique integration of humans over time with their surrounding Nature, something that we had a lot of in Newfoundland before the collapse of the fishery and out-migration chasing money elsewhere.

As individuals we mature and evolve in many modalities as we age. At some point, if we are truly evolving, we have to seek answers to very difficult questions, such as: What is Real? What is Life? Who Am I? The answer to such questions, known as *koans* in Zen, do not manifest through the intellect, and can only be experienced directly. In '*New Earth*', Eckhart Tolle states that '*... Nature exists in a state of unconscious oneness with the whole. It is our destiny to live in conscious oneness with the totality of universal intelligence*' Some authors, such as Alick Bartholomew in '*Hidden Nature*' point out that the real issue is that the intellectual movement of the late 17th century, and its equivalent in science, Rationalism, have caused a great schism in human society. That movement put man on a pedestal, being apart from Nature and interpreted all natural phenomenon by a process of deduction. The effect has been a separation of thinking from experience, and such authors conclude that there has to be a fundamental change in the way we see the world (especially our environmental policies) before change is possible. Callum Coats in '*Living Energies*' points out that it is vital for our survival that whatever methods we adopt for our future, technology should always emulate the natural movement of energy, and Nature's systems of motion, growth and development. The natural world has inherent intelligence; trees know when to stop growing, a salmon can find its natal river, shorebirds move from one hemisphere to another touching down in very predictable locations, cells on cut skin know when to stop regenerating. It's all part of a greater mystery. Science can define the patterns but we don't really know how it all happens.

The collective human consciousness is disconnecting from Nature exponentially fast because the materialistic view conceives of humans as living in peace and prosperity in a technological wonderland where the basic natural laws can be ultimately engineered. Just around the corner is the 5G or Fifth Generation global network,

supported by 20,000 orbiting satellites facilitating irradiation of every corner of the earth with the extremely high frequency (EHI) waves or the "electronic ecosystem" as discussed in tech circles. These are the conditions to allow for the establishment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assume a much greater role in our lives. With introduction of each of such new digital technologies, human beings became a little more disassociated from the natural world. In *'The Final Assault'* in New View Vol. 33 author Jeremy Naydler explains that while smart phone addiction both dislocates users from their own inner centre of stillness, and at the same time disconnects them from the natural world, with the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) "... *With a haptic suit, the wearer will experience sensations of touch-pressure, warmth, hardness, moisture, dryness ... In virtual reality ... Leading to increasing confusion as to which world we really belong: the electronically generated or the natural world or otherwise creating a confusion that virtual is integral with the real world... People will adjust to regard the virtual world as having as great a claim on their attention, their emotions, their thoughts, as the natural world*" So the disconnect from Nature is rapidly taking over and shows-up strongly in Governments and industry.

Climate change forces us to look at the Earth as a whole, the deep ecology of the mystery of how everything in Nature has a balance: uptake of CO₂ and release of O₂, precipitation and evapotranspiration, trees regenerating after a blow-down or forest fire, the salinity of the ocean and its currents upwelling and mixing, and so on; Gaia's ecosystems functioning in their miraculous ways. But no, a cleared patch of Amazonian rainforest can grow soybeans and there is profit to be made, and another alveolus dies in the marching path of human monocultures. We should rest assured that an environmental assessment was undertaken, maybe paid in part by your Canadian tax dollars, and most likely the soybean products will achieve fair trade and environmental certification, all part of the global corporate co-opt and usurp of Nature.