



## Features

### **Time to Kiss the Earth Again: An Exploration of Ecospirituality**

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At a rustic campground in Big Pine, California, a rag-tag band of teenagers meets with guides from the School of Lost Borders, preparing to spend three days alone in the desert as a wilderness rite of passage. A workshop leader in Michigan, trained by African shaman Malidoma Somé, helps a group of middle-aged women create altars for the five elements of Dagara cosmology as they prepare for a traditional West African grief ritual under the stars. On a chilly night in South Dakota, a Lakota Sioux medicine man starts the first round of prayers in the sweat lodge (*inipi*).

Seeking spiritual connection through nature is the foundation of earth-based spirituality, sometimes called ecospirituality. Practiced for centuries by indigenous people around the globe, earth-based spirituality is gaining popularity among a small but growing number of Westerners who feel alienated from mainstream religions and modern culture's war on the earth. Common concepts can be found in Native American, Celtic, indigenous African, and Wiccan practices, as well as the Taoism of ancient China, and the women's spirituality movement.

Celtic shaman Tom Cowan notes that the ancient Celts saw everything in the universe as "alive, conscious, accessible, and power-filled."<sup>1</sup> This is echoed by Malidoma Somé, who describes his childhood among the Dagara people in West

Africa and their belief that “...every tree, plant, hill, mountain, rock...emanates a healing power whether we know it or not...”<sup>2</sup>

This way of seeing can provide a much-needed balance in modern culture with its view of humans as separate from and superior to the natural world, where the desires of the flesh undermine our spiritual longings. It also offers a different basis for morality. If all beings are part of the web of life, interconnected and interdependent, then our efforts to stop environmental destruction are truly an expression of enlightened self-interest. As Chief Seathl (Seattle) said in 1854, "What befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth... Whatever [man] does to the web, he does to himself."<sup>3</sup>

Ecospirituality celebrates the cyclical nature of life, the dance of light and dark, activity and rest, expansion and contraction. In a culture that demands constant productivity and upward mobility, ecospirituality offers a framework for the natural ebbs and flows of a day, a year, or a lifetime. Practitioners of traditional five elements acupuncture build on the ancient Chinese knowledge of these cycles, as they help clients find rest and replenishment in the winter (water element) so that they have the strength to rise in the spring (wood element).

A growing number of psychologists, theologians, and environmental activists have come to believe that many psychological and social problems are rooted in our culture's disconnection from the natural world. Earth-based spiritual practices offer a way back to balance, to source, to what some would say is our true nature. Perhaps, as poet Robinson Jeffers wrote, “it is time for us to kiss the earth again.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Cowan, *Fire in the Head*, 45.

<sup>2</sup> Some, *The Healing Wisdom of Africa*, p. 38.

<sup>3</sup> Quoted in Seed et al., *Thinking Like a Mountain*, p. 71.

<sup>4</sup> In Roberts and Amidon, eds., *Earth Prayers*, p. 104.

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Seeking spiritual connection through nature is the foundation of earth-based spirituality, sometimes called ecospirituality. Practiced for centuries by indigenous people around the globe, earth-based spirituality is gaining popularity among a small but growing number of people. Time to Kiss the Earth Again: An Exploration of Ecospirituality. by Jeanne Mackey, M.S.W. reprinted from Nature as a Healing Place, Volume 5, No. 2, 2003, of Connections, published by the Wholistic Wellness Network, Inc. At a rustic campground in Big Pine, California, a rag-tag band of teenagers meets with guides from the School of Lost Borders. Speaking of saving lives, space exploration could save all our lives. Our solar system has calmed down a lot since the early eons, but there are still uncountable big asteroids and comets out there that could smack into the planet and really ruin your day. It's happened several times in the past, each one causing a mass extinction. It's not a matter of if another large asteroid hits Earth, but when. A robust space program is the only hope we have of deflecting such an object. Colonization Is the Ultimate Backup. There are currently more than 7 billion humans, which is a lot. A group of international researchers has come to the surprising conclusion that reforesting the entire tropical regions of Earth would have an almost negligible effect on atmospheric carbon dioxide. A group of international researchers has come to the surprising conclusion that reforesting the entire tropical regions of Earth would have an almost negligible effect on atmospheric carbon dioxide. In their paper, the scientists from London, Leeds and Hong Kong, wanted to test an extreme hypothetical scenario involving the reforestation of vast areas of land in Brazil, DR Congo, India and Indonesia, among other areas. Trees, forests and rainforests factor heavily into many long-term climate change mitigation strategies. Some people think that space exploration is a waste of resource while others think that it is essential for mankind to continue to explore the universe in which we live. Discuss both sides and give your opinion. Band 7 essay sample. Some people argue that exploring space involves too much investment and time, while others think it is required for mankind's survival. In this essay, I will discuss both views and express my opinion. Space research requires huge amounts of money which can be invested for meeting the basic needs of the people. Countries like Somalia are unable to fulfill the basic View Ecospirituality Research Papers on Academia.edu for free. In Matthew's "Sign of Jonah" text, Jesus went down "into the heart of the Earth" at the time of his transformation. The current global ecosystemic crisis represents an urgent call to reclaim the centrality of this solidarity with more. In Matthew's "Sign of Jonah" text, Jesus went down "into the heart of the Earth" at the time of his transformation. The current global ecosystemic crisis represents an urgent call to reclaim the centrality of this solidarity with the Earth. Several decades ago, Gregory Bateson Save to Library.