



Sandra Lewis  
1938 - 2011

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Psalm 104:24 ~500 BCE

Sacred writings are bound in two volumes, that of Creation and that of Holy Scripture.

Thomas Aquinas ~1270 CE

God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.

Martin Luther ~1540

A human being is a part of the whole ... the universe. [We] experience [ourselves], [our] thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest -- a kind of optical illusion of [our] consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature...

Albert Einstein ~1950

A new experience is needed, an experience wherein human consciousness awakens to the grandeur and sacred quality of the Earth process. This awakening is our human participation in the dream of the Earth, the dream that is carried ... in the depths of our genetic coding ... Therein lies the hope for the future for ourselves and for the entire Earth community.

Thomas Berry ~ 1990

Sowing the seed,  
my hand is one with the earth.

Wanting the seed to grow,  
my mind is one with the light.

Hoeing the crop,  
my hands are one with the rain.

Having cared for the plants,  
my mind is one with the air.

Hungry and trusting,  
my mind is one with the earth.

Eating the fruit,  
my body is one with the earth.

Wendell Berry

## Don't Grieve

Anything you lose comes around in another form.  
The child weaned from mother's milk  
now drinks wine and honey mixed.  
God's joy moves from unmarked box to unmarked box,  
from cell to cell.  
As rainwater,  
down into the flowerbed.  
As roses, up from the ground.  
Now it looks like a plate of rice and fish,  
Now a cliff covered with vines,  
Now a horse being saddled.  
It hides within these,  
till one day it cracks them open.

Rumi

The mountains, I become part of it...  
The herbs, the fir tree, I become part of it.  
The morning mists, the clouds, the gathering waters,  
I become part of it.  
The wilderness, the dew drops, the pollen...  
I become part of it.

Navajo chant

Grant me the ability to be alone.  
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day  
among the trees and grasses,  
among all growing things,  
and there may I be alone  
and enter into prayer  
to talk with the one  
that I belong to.

Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav

*It would go a long way to caution and direct people  
in their use of the world, that they were better studied and  
knowing in the Creation of it. For how could (they) find the  
confidence to abuse it, while they should see the Great Creator  
stare them in the face, in all and every part thereof?  
William Penn - 1693*

God is revealed in all creation. We humans belong to the whole interdependent community of life on earth. Rejoice in the beauty, complexity, and mystery of creation, with gratitude to be a part of its unfolding. Take time to learn how this community of life is organized and how it interacts. Live according to principles of right relationship and right action within this larger whole.

Be aware of the influence humans have on the health and viability of life on earth. Call attention to what fosters or harms earth's exquisite beauty, balances and interdependencies. Guided by Spirit, work to transfer this understanding into ways of living that reflect our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

Advices and Queries on Harmony with Creation  
Faith and Practice, 2001  
Pacific Yearly Meeting,  
Religious Society of Friends

*In the beginning, we were told that the human beings who walk about on Earth have been provided with all the things necessary for life. We were instructed ... to show great respect for all the beings on this Earth. We are shown that ... our well-being depends on the well-being of the Vegetable Life, that we are close relatives of the four-legged beings ... We give a greeting and thanksgiving to the many supporters of our own lives -- the corn, squash, beans, wind, rain, and sun. ...*

*We walk about with great respect, for Earth is a very sacred place.*

*The Hau de no sau nee*

... a deep ecology perspective calls us to remember with reverence and gratitude that nature's gifts, functioning as a whole, make life on Earth possible for us and all other species. From this perspective we have no right to create wealth for ourselves from these gifts if, in so doing, we make access to them impossible for other humans or other species. Rather we have a responsibility to care for these gifts and to help ensure their continued availability and vitality for future generations.

What if economics, politics, business, religion, medicine, agriculture, and education functioned as if protecting Earth's resources was an integral part of their missions?

What if the same amount of human intelligence and creativity that is now directed towards maximizing economic growth and efficiency was applied to creating human economic systems that enhance and protect Earth's ability to sustain life now and in the future?

Sandra Lewis -- 2011  
How on Earth Do We Live Now?

## Affirmation and Prayer

May all beings,  
known, unknown and unknowable  
who share the universe with me today  
May We Find Harmony  
each of us in our own way  
within the Compassion of All Being.

Invitation to friends for brief words



## Sandra's words, a psalm of gratitude

for Sandra Lewis, 1938-2011

Outpouring of friends, you  
amaze me each day you care for  
and help me; I need not labor  
or be anxious about my needs.  
I receive without fear  
your energy and love,  
and they sustain me.  
Facing grave illness, I hold to  
my deep connection with life  
and with earth. I hum old hymns;  
lines of beautiful poetry come  
to my tongue. Spirit, I reside  
in gratitude and I remain  
intensely alive. Now my time  
is for saying good-by,  
for loving your company,  
for each taste and smell,  
for taking my last steps  
to belong to the earth.  
I continue to rejoice in life!  
At my ending, scatter flowers  
lavishly over my shroud,  
give thanks for my peaceful return,  
my soft rest in earth.

Andrea English  
November 2011