

## HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL WASTE NOT READERS

Nature makes no waste. We make waste. We will know when we are winning the battle when we hear our leaders talking about resource management not waste management. The material we so lightly toss away belongs to our children and theirs...P&EC.

We have to stop living as if we are the last generation on earth.  
**Sister Ruth de Platney**

Earth is a goddess and teaches justice to those who can learn.  
The better she is served the more good things she gives in return.  
**Xenophon, 4th Century AD**

"A living creature, one and visible, containing within itself  
all living creatures." **Plato**  
To this the Greeks gave a name: **Gaea**, the Earth-Mother.

Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees.  
**Revelation 7:3**

With all beings and all things we shall be as relatives.  
**Sioux Indian**

## **THE EARTH IS OUR MOTHER**

How can one buy or sell the air, the warmth of the land? That is difficult for us to imagine. We do not own the sweet air or the sparkle on the water. How then can you buy them from us? Each pine tree shining in the sun, each sandy beach, the mist hanging in the dark woods, every space, each humming bee, every part of the Earth is sacred to my people, holy in their memory and experience.

We are part of the Earth and the Earth is part of us. The fragrant flowers are our sisters. The reindeer, the horse, the great eagle are our brothers. The rocky heights, the foamy crests of waves in the river, the sap of meadow flowers, the body heat of the pony -and of human beings- all belong to the same family.

So when the Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wants to buy our land, he asks a great deal of us. We know that the White Man does not understand our way of life. To him, one piece of land is much like another. He is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The Earth is not his friend but his enemy, and when he has conquered it, he moves on. He cares nothing for the land. He forgets his parent's graves and his children's heritage. He kidnaps the Earth from his children. He treats his Mother the Earth and his Brother the Sky like merchandise. His hunger will eat the Earth bare and leave only a desert.

I have seen a thousand buffalo left behind by the White man - shot from a passing train. I am a savage and cannot understand why the puffing iron horse should be more important than the buffalo, which we kill only in order to stay alive? What are human beings without animals? If all the animals ceased to exist, human beings would die of great loneliness of the spirit. For whatever happens to the animals, will happen soon also to human beings. Continue to soil your bed and one night you will suffocate in your own waste.

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls also the children of the Earth.

**Chief Seattle's address to the American President, 1855**

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Towards what ultimate point is society tending by its industrial progress?  
When the progress ceases, in what condition are we to expect that it will leave mankind?  
**John Stuart Mill, 1857**

Now remember, children - no deep breaths after we get to the city.  
**Anonymous Mother.**

What is life?  
It is the flash of a firefly in the night.  
It is the breath of a buffalo in the winter time.  
It is the little shadow which runs across the grass  
and loses itself in the sunset.  
**Crowfoot, 1890**

As the fog of amnesia disperses, there is a transformation in your relationship to other species, and in your commitment to them..."I am protecting the rainforest" develops to "I am part of the rainforest protecting myself. I am the part of the rainforest recently emerged into thinking." **John Seed, Australian activist.**

Viewed from the distance of the Moon, the astonishing thing about the Earth, catching the breath, is that it is alive...Aloft, floating free beneath the moist, gleaming membrane of a bright blue sky, is rising Earth, the only exuberant thing in this part of the cosmos...It has the organized, self-contained look of a live creature, full of information, marvellously skilled at handling the Sun.

**Lives of a Cell by Lewis Thomas, 1974.**

And Daddy won't you take me back to  
Muhlenberg County,  
Down by the Green River  
Where Paradise Lay.  
Well, I'm sorry my son  
But you're too late in asking  
Mister Peabody's coal train has  
hailed it away.  
**"Paradise" by John Prine**

All truth passes through three stages.  
First it is ridiculed.  
Second it is violently opposed.  
Third it is accepted as being self-evident.  
**Schopenhauer**

### **Waste Not**

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