

way we wish. That is why we have the ecological problems we now face. We've abused Nature too much.

To begin treating Nature with dignity we need to have a new respect for her. We have to, at least, give Nature the respect we should give to our fellow human beings. Earth is much more than just rocks, water and plants. As I've pointed out many times, the Native people have honored their primal knowledge of the essence of Earth and have been trying to tell us about it for centuries.

Their world has lived for eons with the knowledge everything in Nature has a Soul. What I want to do is to direct our attention to some modern evidence that support the teachings of the traditional Native people. It accepts that Earth and all that's living on her is alive and contains the same Life-Energy or Soul.

That's something I've been wondering about.

Modern psychological and parapsychological research can offer evidence to support many of these claims. The scientific world cannot agree with them because a Soul cannot be measured. It's not physical. Our science was designed to discover and test physical laws; hence new methods for studying the Soul need to be developed and accepted. Fortunately that process is already happening. We need to open our minds and finally accept – as we've accepted Galileo's theory that Earth really revolves around the sun – Soul is the essence of all things. We're truly Soul, learning in this physical body on Earth.

There are a handful of researchers who've built a strong case for the existence of Life-Energy in Nature. Perhaps the first physical indication for the existence of Life-Energy associated with plants came from the work of Cleve Backster, America's foremost lie-detector examiner.

Wait! I've heard about him. Didn't he have something to do with experimenting with plants, in the late sixties?

That's right. In 1966, on impulse, he hooked up his polygraph machine to a plant to see if there was any reaction given by the plant while it was being watered. No reaction was noticed, but the graph indicated something was going on. He tested further by putting a leaf in his hot coffee. Still nothing. Then he thought that he'd get a match and burn the leaf to see what happened. At the moment he had that destructive thought the polygraph reacted violently. Backster's life changed in those few minutes. In the following years he conducted hundreds of experiments and established plants react emotionally to both positive and negative intentions.

What kind of experiments?

One experiment consisted of having two plants placed in a room. A randomly chosen person was selected to destroy one of the plants in the presence of the witness plant, which was connected to a polygraph. Six people were paraded back into the room. There was no reaction to five of them, but when the person who had destroyed the other plant entered, the polygraph reacted violently.

How does a polygraph work? What do you mean, “reacted violently”?

A polygraph is designed to detect different pulsations in the skin of a person, or in this case the skin of a plant. When there's a lot of tension in the skin, a recording needle on the machine will swing rapidly up and down recording the information on graph paper. In this experiment the needle moved rapidly indicating there was a lot of stress in the plant. It seemed to indicate the companion plant somehow knew and remembered who destroyed the experimental plant.

Since we can't find any evidence of a brain in plants, then we would have to attribute that memory to Soul, right?

I'm proud of you. My understanding of Soul would suggest it. Let me go on. This and other experiments set the stage for his work being published in *The International Journal of Parapsychology*. Other scientists now had the opportunity to repeat his experiments and do further research. I suggest you read this best selling book by Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird, *The Secret Life Of Plants*,⁴ if you're interested in further research and findings.

I've too many books to read now. I'll keep it in mind to read later, but can you tell me more about Backster's work?

Yes, when he published his work, other scientists became interested and tried to duplicate his experiments. Many had success, however many more experienced failure. It seems this type of experiment needs to be done by people who have a special sensitivity to alternative energies. Marcel Vogel, who attained successful results and did further plant research with children, concluded that “the experimenters must become part of their experiments” in order to achieve success. A different modality is needed to obtain consistent, repeatable results. However, although the evidence hinges on a spiritual factor, I feel it's strong enough even to challenge our present physical science, and it shouldn't be ignored.

It's still being ignored, isn't it?

It's unbelievable, but true. It's a perfect example of one of society's most often accepted axioms – when something will not fit into our traditional belief, then ignore it. When it's ignored, people tend to forget about it, and this reinforces the fallacies of what they 'think' is true.

Let me go on with further evidence. At the same time in Findhorn, Scotland, people began to grow large vegetables and flowers in a desert-like soil. The physical evidence was 40-pound cabbages, 8-foot delphiniums, and roses that bloomed in the snow. But the source of their spectacular success was the presence of Nature Spirits. Peter and Eileen Caddy developed the idea of the garden through a series of visions during meditation. An amazing account of the garden is presented in Paul Hawken's book, *The Magic of Findhorn*.⁵ It's another book you might like to put on your list for future reading.

Yes, I will. That's amazing. I've never heard about Findhorn. Please tell me more.

Dorothy MacLean, one of the co-workers at Findhorn, began to communicate with the specific divas for each plant.

Stop! What are "divas"?

Divas are Nature Spirits. "Diva" is a Hindu word meaning "a being of light". Apparently they're the little elves, gnomes or pixies reported in children's stories, especially from Ireland and Scotland. Although Dorothy couldn't 'see' the divas as some children do, she communicated with them and learned that each plant has a diva who nurtures it, and the diva's Spirit is the essence of the plant itself. All plants, like animals and people, are essentially Life-Energy or Soul manifested on Earth in a physical form, which we call a plant. The divas gave Dorothy instructions on how to cultivate and care for each plant. And "Dorothy had learned to look at Earth as a living sentient organism and at plants as living beings."⁶ *The Findhorn Garden* book⁷ is available for those who wish to study the world of the divas further.

The Findhorn experience is a good example to show the relationship of plants with humans and the rest of Nature, on the Spirit level.

I'm beginning to see it's a lot more complex than I've imagined. I'll have to read the books and learn more about it. Do these other books you have here tell similar stories?

Yes, the first author is from Australia. Michael Roads has written at least four books now. I highly recommend his first three books: *Talking With Nature*, *Journey Into Nature*, and *Journey Into Oneness*.⁸ I met him in a bookstore in Kingston a few years ago, while he was on a promotion tour for his books. His inspirational books are concerned with his profound contacts with water, plants, minerals, animals and even storms. He established once and for all that the essence of every aspect of Nature is Spirit.

Was the scientific community satisfied with this, or just you?

I was anyway. And I think anyone with an open mind would have to accept there is Spirit-That-Is-In-All-Things. Michael was born in England, but when he was a young man he moved to Tasmania to operate a beef and dairy farm. During that time, he switched to organic farming, which allowed him to connect directly with Nature. It all began when his wife, Treenie, started to 'know' when the cows wanted new pasture. Michael was soon able to tune into the cow's thoughts and have his own thoughts understood by the cows. He'd have the cattle waiting at the gate when they were to be moved. Later, this 'thought' communication was used to clear a group of wallabies from the grazing fields. Michael ended up making a deal with them – they were to leave the field alone in exchange for their own grazing area. There was also the incentive if they insisted on damaging the cattle's fields they could be shot. From this humble, very practical beginning he discovered he could communicate with all of Nature.

How was he able to do that?

He'd sit down and enter a meditative state and with intent he was able to communicate with many aspects of Nature. For example, one year Michael dug up a tree for Christmas. In his communications with it, he discovered the tree's connection with all of Nature.

"I am not separate in consciousness from each separate physical tree you wished to take. Each tree can be likened to an aspect of "one" consciousness. for my energy reserve was, and is, united with your own spiritual energy."

At another time he was sitting beside the river and started to communicate with a willow tree. Michael offered his respect for the tree and the willow replied.

“Respect? Rare indeed is the quality of respect in mankind. To respect each other, to respect Nature – Life – requires a respect of the Self.

So few, so few indeed, respect their own Selves.

Indeed, the energy we experience most from mankind is Self-loathing buried deep and malignant in the debris of subconscious fear. Small wonder that such loathing, such a lack of Self-respect manifests in sickness, in malignant growths, for such an attitude is a malignancy of the mind.”

I remember you talking about respect before, in connection with Native people. You said respect was present in everything they did with Nature.

Yes, the traditional Native people wouldn't take a tree or kill an animal without first showing respect by thanking it with an offering of tobacco. Their Medicine People communicated with Nature. They understand the value of respect, both for themselves and for Nature. Michael Roads is not unique, but he certainly has had some extraordinary experiences few people of Western society are familiar with. I strongly recommend his books. I feel certain all people with open minds will agree Nature is indeed alive.

If animals and plants have Souls, I can't see why all of Nature shouldn't have a Soul since they're both a part of Nature anyway. Michael Roads is another author I'm going to read. This book has an interesting title, *Behaving As If The God In All Life Mattered, A New Age Ecology*,⁹ how does it fit in?

It's by Machaelle Small Wright and is an exciting book, which describes her experiences working intensively in her gardens on 45 acres in Virginia. She, like Dorothy MacLean, has been able to contact many of the plant divas and learn from them. Valuable information is given in her practical *Garden Workbook*¹⁰ and several other publications.

I remember working in my parent's garden – pulling weeds mostly – but I never thought of the vegetables being any more than things we eat. I certainly never had any concept they might have consciousness, let alone communicate with people. Can they really think? How do they feel about us eating them?

According to Machaelle plants exist partly for service to man and animals. She even points out that the life cycle of the plant does not end at

harvest time but continues through the preparation and eating process. The nature kingdom celebrates in this special relationship. They only wish humans would understand and share in the celebrations. Remember, Soul or in the case of plants, group Souls, cannot die. They simply move on to animate other plants and gain more experiences in their pursuit to reach x-perfection.

I suppose the same thing is true with animals as well. Like you said, they only ask for our respect.

Yes, that's right, especially with the insects and animals that flock. They have group Souls which later start to individualize in lone animals such as the wolves and cats. The important thing here is intent. If the intent of a herd of cattle is for human consumption, then the Souls that choose to occupy those bodies enter for that experience. The Souls that choose to enter the cat family are not expecting to be killed for food. They have a different agenda for their life experience.

That's very interesting, Jerry. What about people who say they are vegetarians because they don't like killing animals? If what you say is true, people don't have to become vegetarians for that reason.

That's right. Our teeth are designed for us to be omnivores. Still, there are indications that as we become more spiritually aware our bodies become more finely tuned and we'll find we are healthier if we become vegetarians. However, most people need both types of foods in their diets now, to be healthy. That being said, there are other reasons why we should consider becoming vegetarians. The animals that provide our meat are not killed with respect, as any visit to a slaughterhouse will reveal. Also, most commercial meats are enhanced with various chemicals that may not be healthy for us.

Likewise, our commercial fruits and vegetables are sprayed with pesticides and fertilizers that can make some people ill. What's left for us to eat?

Good question. Our processed foods are a cause of many cancers, allergies, and other illness in our modern life. We have to wake up as a society and lobby against the chemical corporations who are making billions of dollars with no regard for our health. In the mean time we need to buy organically grown foods or grow them ourselves.

I guess that is another way we have to be responsible for our own health.

Yes, and for our planet. One of the more striking statements Machaëlle makes in her book concerning our relationship with Earth is on page 224:

“– we are faced with the job of healing the planet, healing it from the multitude of messes we have created. Once we open to the concept of nature intelligences, the reality of energy behind form and the consciousness contained in that energy – once we open to all of this, we begin to see the depth of the consequences of our old attitudes.”

You see how important it is to bury our old attitudes and evolve with a value system that will be compatible with Earth and everything that lives on her! That is the only way we will ever heal Earth.

That’s what you’ve been saying from the beginning. I see there’s a lot of evidence to support your beliefs. I notice you have one more book here. What does Rutheen Taylor have to say?

She attempts to awaken our culture spiritually in order that Earth may be preserved and flourish in her natural state.

Rutheen Taylor’s book, *The Key, Live Contacts With Our Perceptive Planet*,¹¹ vividly describes her encounters with Earth. Nightly, since 1989, she has been communicating directly with Earth – to the point she actually experiences Earth’s fear of becoming a desert planet. The message is we must stop destroying Earth and begin to heal her if we want to continue to live here.

Rutheen knows Earth is a sentient, living being. Earth has told Rutheen she wants her organic aspect to be known as Gea instead of Gaia, which is the name Lovelock has used, to explain that she is a self-regulating organism. We have destroyed so many of Earth’s ecosystems that she laments:

“This is not the time I should die. Since I am a living organism, the Gea part of myself is meant to die sometime, but this is not the time. There are ages yet that I should live. If I die now, it will be an unnatural death!”

Rutheen instructs us in how we can contact Earth and learn how to help her in her recovery. This is another exciting book.

Okay, Jerry, we’ve established that Earth is alive and has a Soul. Exactly what does this mean to us?

What are the implications of knowing Nature is as alive as we are? First, how can we continue simply to use parts of Nature as inanimate objects