

Esoteric Environmentalism

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Course 270

“Nature is part of us, as we are part of it. We can recognize ourselves in the description we give to it.” - Ilya Prigogine, chemist and Nobel Prize winner

“Meaning can only be understood in relation to its environment. There are no absolutes, there is no meaning without relationships, everything is not only interacting but interdependent. This is not a loss of individuality, but an understanding that individuality itself is a relationship with the environment.” - Serge King in "Kahuna Healing"

The problem of planetary ecology is one of the most important issues facing humanity today. Although it is not one of the six main problems covered in recent editions of AAB's book "Problems of Humanity", planetary ecology is a relatively new issue that has increasingly made its presence felt over the past century, such as through the rise of the environmental movement and debate on how humanity's relationship with the planet should best be conducted. Esotericism allows us to more deeply consider environmentalism and related specific issues such as overpopulation, global warming, and species extinction.

The primary cause of environmental problems is greed and separation. Greed or avarice makes one want to acquire and consume more, where individual people, corporations, or nations sometimes exploit resources for short-term material profit at the expense of long-term health or sustainability. Separation makes individuals or groups seek their own aggrandizement or benefit at the expense of others and future generations. These causes relate the problem of planetary ecology to the problem of international unity as seen in Chapter 6 of "Problems of Humanity".

Environmentalism is the concept of caring for the natural environment, which can be expressed outwardly in many different ways (some more effective than others). With respect to esoteric psychology, environmentalism can be seen as an expression of Oneness, since it's considering the health of the planet that contains us all. Our physical bodies are formed from the matter of the Earth's body, and our Monads are spiritual projections sent forth by the Logos in which we "live and move and have our being". Increasing numbers of people are becoming aware of and caring about our environment, just as increasing numbers of people are overcoming separation and expressing

spirituality in their lives. From both a philosophical basis (since the environment is a reflection of unity) as well as a practical basis (for increased effectiveness), if you want to improve the world, align and serve with others who also want to do so.

Environmentalism has its skeptics. For example, some suggest global warming is a conspiracy to form a world government that can more effectively remove citizen freedoms, and that data supporting environmental problems is faked, because “it’s easy to lie with statistics”. There’s actually validity to such concerns, where less evolved governments are likely to take advantage of environmental issues to further their own agendas, and it’s important to focus on accurate scientific fact instead of media hype. In addition, some of the more radical “environmentalists” see humanity as an evil influence and hate all forms of human progress. They would want nothing more than for large amounts if not all human population to die off, along with everybody left to return to a peasant like manner of living. However, the skeptic should not let potential flaws (which the modern concrete mind can find in anything if it wants to) result in inaction, or intentionally finding fault be an excuse to continue wasteful and separative behavior.

As with most polarizing issues that have a political component to them, there is glamour on both sides. This makes environmentalism similar to other aspects of spirituality, where we want to find the middle way. This balance is more than the “halfwayness” we are cautioned against by Master M. and other teachers, but is rather more the “noble middle path”. (GWP page 79) It’s more than a muddy halfway sentiment of caring for the environment in theory while still being mostly selfish in action. Rather this philosophy seeks to serve the planet while also serving human civilization and evolution, and to overcome materialism while at the same time working to make our material existence a beautiful expression of Divinity.

Environmental service, being such an expansive concept covering a number of different areas of activity, is related to all ten Seed Groups of service. These Seed Groups and how they relate to environmentalism are listed below:

Seed Groups and the Environment		
Group	Name	Environmentalism relation
1	Telepathic Communicators	Aligning as One with unified communication
2	Trained Observers	Accurately observing state of environment
3	Magnetic Healers	Service toward healing environmental damage
4	New Age Educators	Educating people about environment
5	Political Organizers	Defining balanced policy about environment
6	Religion in the New Age	Feeling our Oneness with environment
7	Scientific Observers	Developing new sustainable technologies
8	Esoteric Psychologists	Knowing our Oneness with environment
9	Financiers and Economists	Raising and directing wealth to environment
10	Creative Workers	Manifesting and implementing all of the above

In considering specific environmental challenges facing humanity, overpopulation is perhaps the biggest potential issue. Many other world problems can be reduced to the

concept of too many people fighting over too few resources. For example, the environment is harmed because people are consuming too much with respect to current production, which isn't sustainable. When times are difficult, materialistic people seek to hold on to or acquire resources any way they can, or look for other people or groups to blame which can exacerbate the problems of nationalism and racism. Issues such as immigration cause cleavage and disagreements because immigrants don't have enough at home, and existing residents fear the newcomers will take their jobs or otherwise use limited resources so there's less to go around.

In the past 200 years the world population has increased by a factor of seven, where each additional billion has been added faster than the billion before, as seen in the following table:

World Population Growth		
Population	Year reached	Years to grow by a billion
1 Billion	1804	many
2 Billion	1927	123
3 Billion	1959	32
4 Billion	1974	15
5 Billion	1987	13
6 Billion	1999	12
7 Billion	2011	12

In previous centuries, when human population was low, there was plenty of land and potential resources for everybody. Consider the Bible verse, "God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it." (Genesis 1:28). However, that referenced a period when a new human Root-Race had been created, and still had very low numbers. Today, the success of the latest Root-Race of humanity is no longer in question, where it has expanded to cover the world. There's no longer any "frontier" on this planet to explore, where instead we're increasingly looking harder and working more intensively for resources to acquire, and taking actions with harmful side effects such as burning rainforest in order to create fields for additional crops.

Although overpopulation seems bad exoterically, it can serve a positive purpose or at least can be seen as the effect of a deeper cause. Physical incarnation is a great asset to spiritual evolution, so the more bodies that can be realistically supported, the better. Even extremely difficult or painful incarnations help build character or burn off karma, although that doesn't mean we need to intentionally make life difficult for ourselves. With respect to reproduction, many people who choose not to have children out of concern for the environment paradoxically might be the best parents, since they have positive qualities they would encourage in their children. Also, Earth has been in a period of significant change for the past few centuries, precipitated by the externalization of the Hierarchy and the closing of the Piscean Age. Therefore many souls want to incarnate now during this important time, either to help serve during the transition or at least take advantage of the accelerated opportunities for spiritual growth.

Increased population indirectly helps humanity's evolution. When a world has lower population, everybody forms separate communities, which don't have much in common and hence are likely to conflict when they eventually meet. This situation describes much of the history of our planet up through the 20th century. Once the world becomes populated enough, and technologies such as the internet cause information to be exchanged worldwide, the concept of "one world" becomes more apparent. Once resources are no longer plentiful, there may be a certain amount of competition over what's left. However, the situation also causes the rise of environmentalism where people become aware of and start caring about the world and learn to behave more efficiently. In other words, issues with population can be seen as a natural part of a race's evolution.

There are no easy solutions to overpopulation. Population needs to be managed intelligently, or else the problem will eventually resolve itself in a much more chaotic and painful manner, such as through warfare or famine. We can increase efficiency or production in a sustainable manner, but developing newer technologies and distributing them won't happen overnight. Similarly, we can decrease consumption, however that requires moral education that isn't easy to accomplish and won't happen overnight either. Decreasing consumption may also result in a reduction of quality of life, which is challenging and may make society miss out on economic opportunity, such as developing technology to live sustainably in the first place. People don't like giving up what they already have or have had in the past. As Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:24) We can also try to manage human population such as China has done through its One-Child Policy, but even if implemented it would still take time for our rising population to level off or drop, and pressure on the environment to ease. Concepts such as better birth control to manage population become linked with politically charged issues such as teaching abstinence versus allowing abortion, women's rights in the developing world, and rights of developed nations (to preserve their current practices) versus developing nations (to build themselves up so they can enjoy similar comforts).

The quotation below, from an anonymous person on an internet message board, shows the intricacies of population management and the diversity of opinions people have about the matter. Even if one agrees with their statement, it's not clear what action society should then take. For example, charity is definitely a good thing to encourage in society, where trying to address the problem by choosing to not vaccinate certain groups of people is a morally gray area with risk of being discriminatory or racist, even if one believes it would reduce suffering in the long run. Note the world does produce enough food to feed everybody currently on the planet, however the problem is distribution, where people are either unwilling to share in the first place, or elements such as corrupt governments interfere with distributed resources before they reach the target population.

"Of course, realistically you have to realize the population will continue to expand until the quality of life degrades. Quality of life is only high while the level of technological increase outpaces population growth. Part of why we have famines in Africa all the frickin' time is because many good-intentioned European and American charitable groups went over and vaccinated the tar out of wide swaths of the continent. This greatly

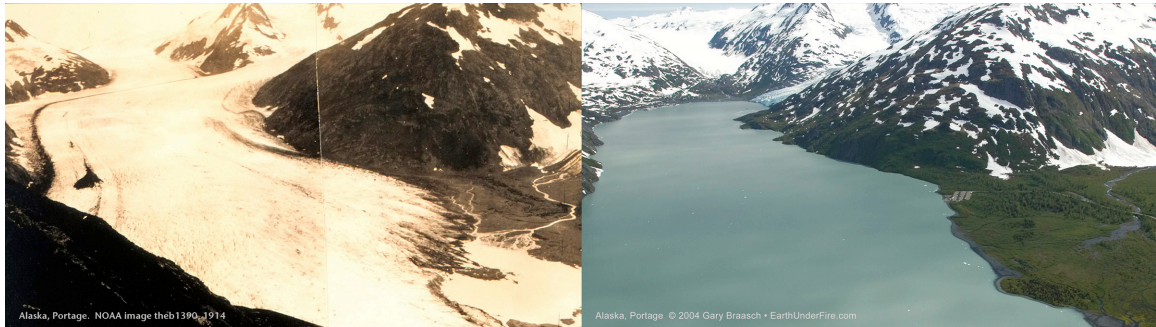
increased infant survival, which meant a lot more mouths to feed without an increase in farmed acres. Take a look at the population pyramids for those countries. It's like 40-60% under 20. Which also has a lot to do with why so many nations there are embroiled in warfare."

Global warming is another serious environmental issue society is currently facing. Climate change is a challenging area to accurately measure without personal biases influencing results, or without scientists being funded by biased sources who stand to profit if things are "proven" one way or another. Decades ago, people were still arguing whether global warming is even happening, however most agree with it being real today. Even former US president George W. Bush, who serves within the "right wing" side of the political spectrum, said global warming was real in a 2010 interview.

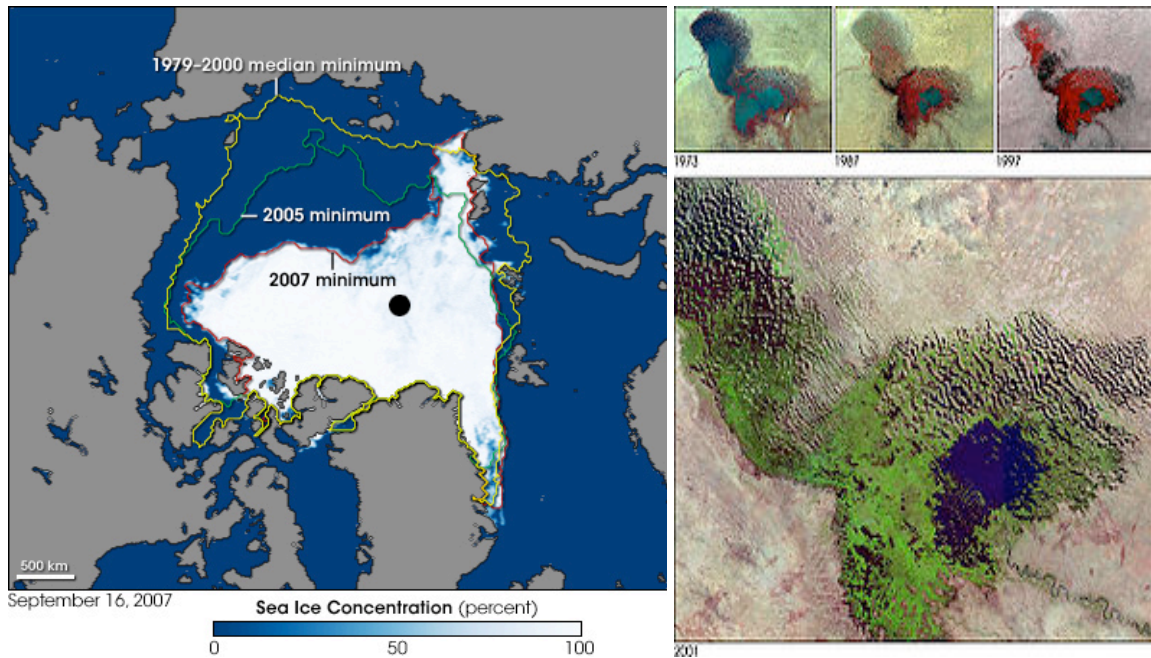
Climate change is complex and manifests in a variety of ways. Analysis needs to consider long term trends, where frequently short term trends show a temporary reversal, such as a few cooler years in an overall warming environment. Also, the concept of "global warming" doesn't just mean temperatures evenly rising everywhere. For example, rising temperature means increased evaporation from oceans and increased melting from glaciers, which has the effect of increased precipitation in other locations around the world. In temperate zones that are still able to drop below freezing in winter, increased precipitation manifests as large snowstorms, a local cooling result which may seem counterintuitive in an overall warming environment.

Human influence, such as through carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from combustion engines causing a greenhouse effect, is only one cause of global warming. Global warming has many potential causes, such as long term solar cycles that change heat reception and periods of volcanic activity that output increased particles into the atmosphere. Our planet has had many periods where it's been much warmer and much cooler than today, such as during periodic Ice Ages. Therefore global warming won't mean the end of the world, as many environmentalists worry. However, rapid environmental change can cause natural disasters, mass extinctions, and a chaotic reduction in level of civilization. The issue is how much impact does humanity have on increasing global warming and what can realistically be done to reverse or at least slow down the rate of increase.

Global warming has many harmful effects, such as rising sea levels flooding low lying areas, glacier recession causing reduction of water supplies during summer months, and desertification of tropical regions. The first two pictures below of the Portage Glacier in Alaska show how much it has receded between 1914 and 2004. The next two pictures of the Pasterze Glacier in Austria show how much it's receded between 1875 and 2004:



Global warming can also result in much larger reductions of ice or even fresh water. The first image below shows how the Arctic ice cap has been shrinking over the past decade. The second image shows how Lake Chad in Africa has been shrinking based on photos taken in 1973, 1987, 1997, and 2001. Fortunately, the vast majority of ice in the world isn't over the Arctic Ocean, but rather within ice sheets upon the land masses of Antarctica and Greenland, which are over a mile thick. However if all such ice were to melt, ocean levels around the world would rise by about 230 feet. Note over 600 million people currently live in coastal areas within 30 feet of sea level, so just 1/7th of these polar caps melting would displace that many people.



Another environmental issue is species extinction, where entire animal races are dying out, frequently through human hunting, but also through climate change or effects such as logging and burning rainforest. One may think we should preserve all species the way they are forever. However, species evolve over time, and similarly the physical forms needed for evolution change over time. Dinosaurs became extinct naturally, where presumably there's no longer any need for physical forms like that, just as humanity present today has no need for the large Lemurian type bodies that were present during that Root-Race. Therefore a species becoming extinct isn't necessarily bad, provided it's happening for an intended higher purpose. However, very few if any members of the human kingdom are knowledgeable or qualified enough to make such an irreversible decision. The materialist may suggest that it's time for a species to become extinct as a way to justify continued greed and avoid having to change their habits.

From an esoteric standpoint, each species (whether part of the vegetable, animal, or human kingdoms) has a purpose, which is to house a set of lives and provide for its evolution on the physical plane. Humanity, properly behaving, is the steward of the younger animal and plant kingdoms, where the "Science of Right Relations" includes these other kingdoms. (EINA page 94) That means caring for and serving them, as opposed to exploiting them. For example, domestically bred pets through their association with humanity allow animals to develop higher faculties, and hence break away from the animal group soul and achieve individualization and entry into the human kingdom. Similarly, farm animals (if treated responsibly) can produce organization and evolution within parts the animal kingdom, allowing it to benefit just as humanity benefits from animals. For other kingdoms, crops can create organization within the vegetable kingdom, and industry provides organization within the mineral kingdom.

If greed and separation are the primary causes of environmental problems, it follows that charity and Oneness are the primary solutions. They are similar virtues, where both

involve group consciousness and service to others. Note the best way to overcome materialism in ourselves or others isn't to fight it to an unhealthy degree, as that just replaces one dense desire (materialism) with another (hating people perceived as materialistic). This philosophy is similar to how the best way to deal with crime is prevention (encouraging positive qualities) as opposed to punishment (fighting negative qualities), even if the latter is necessary in extreme cases.

Technology is another important solution to environmental problems, as long as it's applied correctly and we don't become dependent upon it. Technology itself is neither positive nor negative, where it has the potential to do both good and harm, not just with respect to the environment but in many areas. Technology's use depends on the level of consciousness of the person or group with it. It follows that technology or intelligence in general needs to be combined with love, so that it can be used wisely instead of selfishly. Positive technology is also intimately related to education, both technical to understand and develop techniques in the first place, and moral to use the techniques properly.

Technology can be used to help the environment in many ways. For example, satellites and advanced computer analysis allows gathering and processing atmospheric data, so we can accurately measure pollution levels, temperature trends, and so on, to understand our impact and adjust it when necessary. Modern solar panel, wind or wave turbine, and battery technologies allow energy generation in ways that don't rely on non-renewable, carbon producing, or risky methods such as coal, oil, and uranium fission. In the distant future, we have the capacity to migrate from the planet's surface altogether and live in vast space stations, collecting our resources from asteroids and nebulae, thereby allowing our impact on the planet to be zero if we want.

At the same time, we must remember technology in the cause of many environmental problems in the first place, such as chlorofluorocarbon pollutants creating holes in the ozone layer. All these are exacerbated by medical advances resulting in increased population. Technology even has the potential to not only prevent ecological balance, but destroy it and the human species altogether. For example, nuclear weapons if employed in a world war could make extinct or at least wipe out vast percentages of physical humanity, and bring a radiation filled nuclear winter causing mass extinctions on levels never before seen.

Note there's an important difference between using technology and relying upon it. Using technology means you have it and are able to employ it when you choose, but aren't dependent upon it. Reliance upon technology means one needs it to maintain life or has forgotten how to get along without it. Reliance upon technology is risky, because if it's removed (such as happens periodically when Root-Race scale disasters happen) it will have a much greater impact. Also, reliance upon technology means that people or groups are less willing to give it up or make changes, and are willing to for example engage in unsound environmental activities to preserve their comfort. Science fiction is filled with examples of what can happen when technology reliance gets out of hand, such as docile people never exercising or bothering to learn anything because their every need is taken care of by computer, or robots malfunctioning and rebelling or otherwise taking over.

For further reading about Esoteric Environmentalism:

- The Problem of Planetary Ecology: "Problems of Humanity" by Alice A. Bailey.
- Global warming on Wikipedia (with 200 citations and references):
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming
- Glacier retreat:
<http://www.groundtruthtrekking.org/Issues/ClimateChange/GlacierRetreatInAlaska.html>
- Seven billion people on Earth:
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44990504/ns/us_news-life/
- George Bush interview:
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0508/10316_Page3.html
- Overpopulation and the environment: "Evolution of the Spirit" by Walter D. Pullen, Chapter 19 "Spiritual Politics" (my own book. ;)
- Morya Federation Course 270 materials

With Light, Love, and Power,

- Walter D. Pullen ☺