

Let's Schmooze

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It's the Itsy-Bitsy things that really count

It's true. The little stuff is really quite important. What we're talking about here is micro-stuff ~ like phytoplankton ~ water-floating micro-organic plants that are too small to see with the naked eye.

By chance, have you noticed the recent internet items talking about how important phytoplankton is to humanity, given its ability to lessen global warming?

And, it just so happens that we're busy killing phytoplankton off! Now, just how intelligent can we humans get?

It seems that phytoplankton can actually help us cool Earth, even though they are very tiny, and just float around in water. For phytoplankton, it doesn't matter whether the water is salty or fresh; phytoplankton exist in all kinds of waters. They cool our planet by releasing aerosols that in turn increase cloud covers. Those cloud covers, in turn, block hot sunshine from further warming our planetary home.

But ~ human industry is continually pumping out carbon dioxide, which is absorbed by the oceans. This oceanic carbon dioxide absorption acidifies the waters. And, that increased acidification in turn threatens phytoplankton life ~ in turn, lessening the cooling effect that they could offer to humanity.

That's terrible, isn't it! We just keep shooting ourselves in the collective foot, don't we! For us humans ~ this should be both frustrating and embarrassing.

We're blinded by our arrogance ~ thinking that we are apex predators and physically and intellectually superior to all other life on Earth. We tend to look down at things smaller than ourselves.

We have to get rid of our arrogant attitudes, especially toward the little things ~ things so small that we can't even see them. We have so many products that are "anti-bacterial" and "anti-fungal." And, we take great pride in killing these little bacteria things.

But ~ it's the little things like bacteria and plankton that support all other life here on earth. It's these little micro-things that act as an invisible layer of elementary and foundational biological life between sterile dirt and rock on one hand and the visibly rich organic life that we can see all around us.

Think of an example ~ if it wasn't for the trillions of micro-organisms in our intestines, we couldn't even extract necessary nutrition from the foods that we eat. If it wasn't for those trillions of micro-organisms in our intestines helping us digest the food we eat, we couldn't survive ~ no matter how hard we chewed our food!

And yet, given all our so-called intelligence and know-how, the only way we seem to be able to think about microbes is as in *anti* ~ as in *anti*-bacterial and *anti*-fungal. This attitude is both negative and dangerous.

The hard fact is, even though there are a few misplaced or "bad" micros out there that trouble us at times, for the most part micro-life on earth not only supports human life, but allows our very existence on this planet. If it wasn't for microbes, there would be no higher forms of biological, organic life in existence on this planet.

Phytoplankton is just one example. We need to quickly learn to appreciate the little things in life ~ like all the forms of micro-life floating around us ~ that create an environment that allows for our very existence, at least at the moment.

Overall, we need to replace our tendency to "judge and condemn" with an ability to "appreciate and care."

If we do that, we just might last a little longer on this planet.

~ *'til we meet again* ~