

*N.B. This translation contains errors due to the insurmountable language differences between German and English*

## Überdenkenswertes Vorträge 2

### Man and Nature

Lecture by Wolfgang Stauber, June 4, 1994 (Switzerland)

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Proofread and corrections by FIGU Canadian Study Group and Helga Friedrich (April 2002)

All of us are impressed over and over by nature - its incredible variety, its immense power and its noble beauty. We are all touched by the display, when the huge fireball, the sun, sinks into the horizon and the sky is colored from light to a deep red. Who has not uttered a cry of delight at the sight of a flower, and whose heart stays unmoved when watching baby animals, that are chasing each other playfully and curiously scouting out their surroundings awkwardly on shaky legs. We all feel the power of nature when mighty storms rage and trees snap like matchsticks and when waves rise like monsters from the sea and end up crashing, foaming and exploding into craggy rocks. Despite such experiences, most people don't give any deeper thought to nature and their relationship with it. For many, nature is something that happens outside of the house, something they don't see in direct connection with themselves. Untouched nature can only be found rarely now in countries that are heavily populated and has shrunk to a few biotopes. But even these last islands of untouched nature are in danger of being mowed down by the quickly growing mass of humanity. Over the course of time, man has disassociated himself more and more from nature, and as a result, he began being ashamed of his nakedness. His interest in nature and their connection was confined more and more to the investigation of purely material issues. It was forgotten that nature is much more than a bit of blue and green, that it contains much more than physics formulas, and equally, man has lost the knowledge that he himself is a part of nature - a link in the practically endless chain of lifeforms that are inhabiting the Earth. Even though a consciousness for the environment is growing again in these days, and man is beginning to recognize the tight connection between himself and nature, most people really don't care if nature is miserably destroyed. Without stopping and unrestrained man keeps on releasing deadly substances into the natural environment, and incessantly (as though possessed), creates more and more children, without the slightest care if a healthy basis of life can be offered to them. It seems as though man's own comfort and the satisfaction of his lust for power and money are all that matter any more. In a way, he seems to recognize the impending disaster that is brewing, but secretly he hopes to be spared the bad consequences of his actions and to somehow escape his destiny, that he brought on himself. But you cannot escape the fundamental laws of life, the law of cause and effect. No attorney, not the best hiding spot, nor the belief in God can be of help - sooner or later he will reap the bitter fruits of his false way of life. Nature does not allow itself to be endlessly trampled upon - it knows how to defend itself. Without a doubt we are presently experiencing what a destructive power it can unfold once the balance has been tipped...Even though some super-smart people are still asserting that the daily catastrophes are nothing noteworthy, and relegating the dying of our forests to cheap panic-mongering by reasoning that the forests are still green, many people are realizing that the barrel is about to run over. Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, landslides, fires, floods and the evermore often occurring "epidemics" are signs that the Earth is fighting back against its tormentor, mankind. And all the natural disasters that are happening ever more often, that have been brought about by man's unreasonableness, are only the tip of the iceberg in the occurrences that will hit mankind in the near future with unchecked power. But it would be a mistake to feel sorry for man; he who has cut down whole nations in the name of God and King without batting an eye; he who has slaughtered masses of animals like a shooting maniac, without even needing the flesh for nourishment.; he who has leveled forests with huge bulldozers, leaving only desert behind; he who has more feeling and affection for his pet cat than his fellow man or put another way, what would we say to someone whom we gave the use of our home for a few days upon discovering at our return that the floors were filthy, the toilet clogged, the bathroom flooded, the dishes smashed, the curtains slashed and the plants dried up? I believe we would hardly be kissing them and thanking them!

But what are the reasons for the split between man and nature? Why does man see nature only as a source of food and raw materials, as a fun park, where he can play as he likes, without having to consider other life forms? As with all evils belonging to man, the origin of his outrageous and irreverent treatment of nature can

be found in the way man thinks and in his attitude towards life. It is our thoughts that seal our fate and determine our actions. Thoughts let us climb to the highest heights of understanding or they dash us into the deepest depths of damnation. They create our luck or our misfortune, our big chance or our ruin. Man's consciousness is and will be determined and influenced by various ways of thinking, ideologies and philosophies. But by large the biggest and most destructive influence on man's thinking has been perpetrated and is being perpetrated by religions. Creation, which reveals itself to mankind in nature, was replaced by God, or rather Gods, because every religion has its own God, and apparently they each created heaven and Earth, and each insisted to be the only and true one. All have established laws and guidelines for mankind to follow. It is fairly obvious that the guidelines of the various religions do not coincide. Dissension was thus brought to the nations and people of Earth and an infinite amount of blood has seeped into the ground since religions have grabbed the sceptre of might. Where once the order of nature used to determine man's life, and he lived in peace and harmony with the flora and fauna, now the crazy teachings of religions began to influence mankind. Over the centuries and millenia he became more and more enslaved by them.

From time immemorial Man lived with the premonition that he is destined for something higher - that his life cannot simply end with his death. He felt his superiority over plants and animals. He sensed that there must be a higher power over everything, but this remained a mystery to him. The assumption that God was this power made him stop inquiring and searching for the purpose of life. He stopped trying to understand the laws of nature and to draw conclusions for his inner and outer being. Now the religions became responsible for his inner peace and they did not demand of him to think about life, but rather, to simply serve God in a humble and self-sacrificing way. Man viewed nature only as a "food dispenser" instead of as a teacher. With the teaching that man only has one life here on Earth, and afterwards either ends up playing the flute at God's feet in heaven or as a roast in hell, the gates were opened for an ever-increasing indifference towards life. This was increased even more through the mad belief that God predetermines man's path, so that he has no chance to influence his destiny or to change it. So everything went its way. Man lost his respect and awe for nature and all its creatures. Man lived faithfully according to the verse from the Bible: "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the Earth and make it your slave; dominate the fishes of the oceans, the birds of the heavens and all animals that live on Earth". Well, man has imposed his will on rivers and streams; has cut down forests and flooded the Earth with his likeness. No longer does a variety of life decorate the face of the Earth, but rather a monotony has spread in an alarming way. Where once rivers and streams flowed through valleys and lowlands via many tributaries and marshlands, meadows and woods along their banks allowed a multitude of fish, birds, insects, amphibians and other animals to live, we now have only the sad prospect of a channeled waterway and a monotonous countryside. Also, the air is no longer filled with the chirping of crickets, the croaking of frogs, the quacking of ducks, the song of birds and the knocking of the woodpeckers, but rather with the noise of tractors and the roaring of jets that zoom by from time to time in the sky.

Man mistakenly thinks he is the master of nature and many scientists believe they will soon uncover the last secrets of life. But what a huge mistake that is - are not just a few days of continuous heavy snowfall enough to paralyze whole cities? Don't the machines and technical achievements all become like ridiculous toys when the powers of nature tremble and assert their will? Man will never be the master over nature because he does not have power over life and death, becoming and passing on. He may be able to stop a river from taking its course for a moment, but he cannot break the urge of water to keep flowing and creating its own path. Man has the power and ability to put the laws of nature to his own use, but not to change them. Therefore he is not the ruler but rather the user of nature's power, just as an eagle is when he uses the wind and the upcurrent of air to fly high without the effort of his own strength. However, in contrast to animals, who follow the natural laws instinctively, man has the option of acting against the order of nature. This ability comes from his consciousness, that can think independently and decide with intent on something or a course of action. The gift that man can think autonomously and independently is not his own achievement, but rather the result of a development over millions of years, beginning with the protoplasm, up to the lifeform called man. So he was able to evolve to what he is today only thanks to the principles ruling nature. There are some really clever people who insist that man is a freak of nature, since he destroys himself and his surroundings. Cowardly, they blame nature for man's false behaviour. Man's consciousness, that allows him to think freely, have ideas, be creative and develop his imagination - this they call a freak! In their limitless megalomania they accuse nature of making a mistake, without having the faintest understanding of life and of self. Also, there are always some who speak of the cruelty of nature, of eat or be eaten; they don't realize that the laws of nature that seem so brutal to them create optimal conditions for life for all lifeforms by establishing a balance of power. And so the sick, weak and old die off, either through a predator, an illness or a hard winter. That is how nature always promotes only viable, healthy and strong life. If that was not so, nature would perish through epidemics and weakness. Actually, it could never even have come into being.

Well, the searching person must ask where is this power coming from that gives life to everything - who or what is Creation. Of course, one can take the easy way, sit in a comfortable chair, cross one's legs and insist that this power is God - thus putting an end to all this bothersome questioning and searching. The fact is: there is a spirit in all life; spirit is energy - electromagnetic life energy. This power gives life and passes through all lifeforms. The whole cosmos is filled with this power - this creational energy. Even when man, with his insane and erroneous beliefs, imbues this creational energy with all kinds of attributes, it still remains what it is, and that is the power of Creation. That this is true is proven by nature, because it does not adhere to any man-made nor religious laws, dogmas, rules, etc. Billy wrote in the Wassermannszeitschrift #89 "Creation is Creation, and there is no other other Creation in its universe". Also "Creation is the BEING and NOT-BEING of life. It is the universe's most immense mass of spiritual energy. It is spirit in its purest form and immeasurable in its wisdom, knowledge, love, harmony and truth. Creation is a spiritually-dynamic, pure-spirit-intelligence-energy that reigns above everything and is incomprehensible to human beings. It is wisdom and love, which are active for all eternity, creative and involved in an all-encompassing, continuous, unrestrainable evolutionary process." All this is not easily understood at first. We human beings are still small in spirit (consciousness) is still small and misled in various ways, and so we have no choice but to take on the effort of learning in order to build up the certitude in us that this is really so. Nature is the visible material part of Creation - and just as one can draw conclusions about the character of a person by his actions, so also man can build up a much deeper understanding of Creation over time by watching nature and its laws. Man carries a piece of the spirit of Creation in him. And this spirit has the mandate to evolve to perfection with the help of mankind and material life as a whole, through innumerable incarnations. It must collect wisdom and knowledge and ultimately, when this goal is achieved, to merge again with Creation, thus allowing It to perfect itself. Thus, even Creation is arranged in a constant evolutionary process, as unfathomable as this may appear to us.

Nature is an incredible realm of colors, forms and ideas. All human achievements have resulted and are still resulting from the exploration of nature. Without nature, man would not understand the tiniest thing. Nature creates the basis, so that man can even begin his evolutionary path. All these things we should consider in our dealings with nature and in our dealings with ourselves. There is only one way left for us earthlings to free ourselves of the catastrophic situation we have created ourselves, and that is "return to nature". This does not mean, however, that we should tie a bearskin around ourselves and run around swinging a club. All that is meant is that we must once again bring our whole thinking and actions into harmony with the natural, universal and creational laws and recommendations.