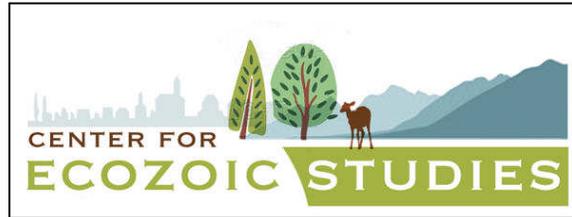


CES Monthly Musings

August 2010
(Published August 8, 2010)



*Seeking integral community
in an ecological age*

“Ecozoic” means “house of life.” An “Ecozoic Society” means a society of life.
* * *

The “Ecozoic Era” is a time of mutually enhancing relationships
among humans and the larger community of life.
* * *

The “Great Work” is living the promise of the ecozoic.
* * * * *

In this issue: “Earth Lives,” by Mary Elizabeth Clark, SSJ; “Dawn” by Patricia Webb; and “The Story of the Hummingbird,” sent to CES by Youngmin Song

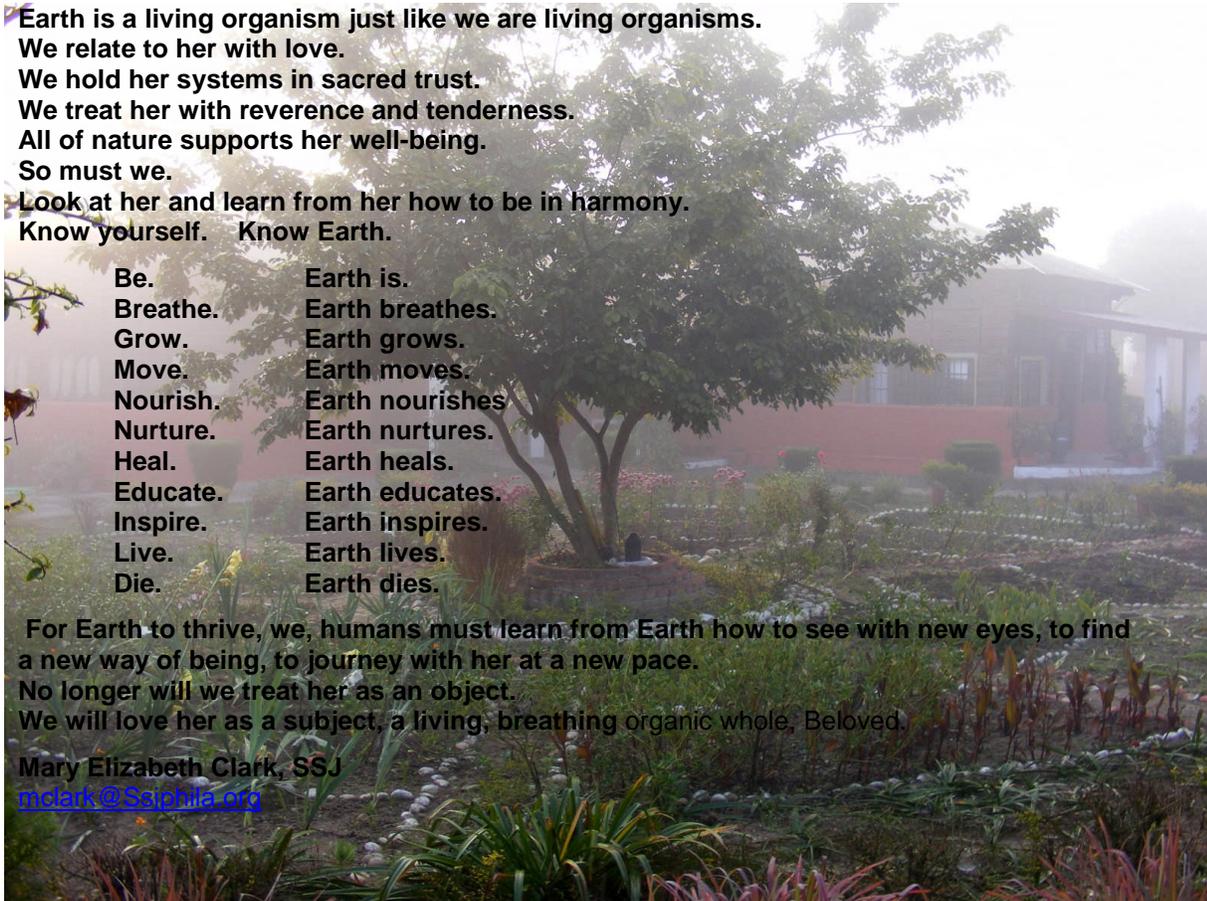
EARTH LIVES

Earth is a living organism just like we are living organisms.
We relate to her with love.
We hold her systems in sacred trust.
We treat her with reverence and tenderness.
All of nature supports her well-being.
So must we.
Look at her and learn from her how to be in harmony.
Know yourself. Know Earth.

Be.	Earth is.
Breathe.	Earth breathes.
Grow.	Earth grows.
Move.	Earth moves.
Nourish.	Earth nourishes.
Nurture.	Earth nurtures.
Heal.	Earth heals.
Educate.	Earth educates.
Inspire.	Earth inspires.
Live.	Earth lives.
Die.	Earth dies.

For Earth to thrive, we, humans must learn from Earth how to see with new eyes, to find a new way of being, to journey with her at a new pace.
No longer will we treat her as an object.
We will love her as a subject, a living, breathing organic whole, Beloved.

Mary Elizabeth Clark, SSJ
mclark@sophia.org



DAWN



*I would have been useless on the farm in early morning.
Would not have done my chores,
Milked cows or opened pasture gates.
They would have found me hiding, still as a stone,
Lost in the cry of an owl.
Pen poised above paper
Waiting, waiting,
To catch the silent, awesome being
Who creeps with light into the new world.*

*Dawn is an amazing thing.
So amazing that we should be awake,
Awake and still,
Catching, if we can, what it does to the trees.
Catching, if we can, the subtle hues of grass
In changing light.
Hearing how birds gain confidence
From dark, tentative cries
To bright and fragrant symphonies.*

*Dawn is an amazing thing.
And I am still, so still, catching it today.
Wishing I had never missed it, even once,
In all my life.
Wishing I had given this much attention
Each time, each time.*

*Thinking how the world could be so whole
If we could see how easily dawn
Weaves a new day from the darkness, from the stillness.
If we could see how dawn, sweet and subtle daughter,
Leads us into day
Without a single false step.*

THE STORY OF THE HUMMINGBIRD

One day a terrible fire broke out in a forest—a huge woodlands was suddenly engulfed by a raging wild fire. Frightened, all the animals fled their homes and ran out of the forest. As they came to the edge of a stream they stopped to watch the fire and they were feeling very discouraged and powerless. They were all bemoaning the destruction of their homes. Every one of them thought there was nothing they could do about the fire, except for one little hummingbird.

This particular hummingbird decided it would do something. It swooped into the stream and picked up a few drops of water and went into the forest and put them on the fire. Then it went back to the stream and did it again, and it kept going back, again and again and again. All the other animals watched in disbelief; some tried to discourage the hummingbird with comments like, "Don't bother, it is too much, you are too little, your wings will burn, your beak is too tiny, it's only a drop, you can't put out this fire."



Photo by Tony Cricelli

And as the animals stood around disparaging the little bird's efforts, the bird noticed how hopeless and forlorn they looked. Then one of the animals shouted out and challenged the hummingbird in a mocking voice, "What do you think you are doing?" And the hummingbird, without wasting time or losing a beat, looked back and said, "I am doing what I can."

Excerpt from Ron Moffatt's [Opening Address](#) to educators attending the Poverty Alleviation Planning Meeting at Pacific Lutheran University on November 30, 2006, http://www.wangfoundation.net/humming_bird.pdf, accessed August 8, 2010. Mr. Moffatt attributed the story to Wangari Maathai

Sent to CES by Youngmin Song
augustinesong@gmail.com

* * * * *

*The mission of CES is to offer a vision, through dialogue, of an
ecozoic society and contribute to its realization through research,
education and the arts.*

To become a member of CES, send a letter to CES at 2516 Winingham Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516, USA, with your contact information and dues. Dues for each calendar year are US\$35 (individual or family); outside USA, Canada and Mexico, add US\$10. Sustaining Member US\$135. You may also pay your dues online at www.ecozoicstudies.org. Contributions are welcome.