

The Goodness of Creation - 1

We Are Interdependent

Mathew Koshy Punnackadu

The increasing environmental degradation today results from the modern-day development slogan: **Maximum production, Maximum consumption and Maximum profit. According to this slogan, development is measured in terms of money and profit making. More profit means more benefits and more developmental scope. So production of goods is not based on humanity's needs but rather on their whims and fancies. It has become evident that people are consuming far more natural resources than the planet can sustainably provide. Many of the Earth's ecosystems are nearing depletion or irreversible change. The well-being of humanity, the environment, and the functioning of the economy, ultimately depend upon the judicious and responsible management of the planet's natural resources.**

We fail to understand the intrinsic value of each component and the ecosystem surrounding it. The Universe, Earth and all its components are a part of a dynamic cosmic design within which each piece has its place. God designed each component to play a role in contributing to the well-being of the Earth. All components on the Earth are mutually interconnected or dependent on one another for life and survival. We should discover and acknowledge the contributions of the species to find out whether they are abiotic to their shared ecosystems.

Actions that inhibit their contributions should be identified and prevented. In the web of life, every animal and every plant relies on other plants and animals for survival. All animals and plants, in a sense, work together to survive. God created the web of life, which is interdependent. Losing one species will break one link in the web, weakening the whole web. **Everything on this Earth, created by God, has an intrinsic value, purpose, and voice and is interconnected.** Earth is a living creature. Human beings are a part of Nature. Therefore we cannot afford to neglect any of the elements of Nature. Air, Water, land, forests, biodiversity, rivers, mountains and wetlands are the essential elements of Nature. If any member of God's Creation suffers or becomes extinct, all suffer together with it. The nexus and inter-linkages between all the elements of Nature can be rendered intelligible in the context of the biblical idea of

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interdependence and the relationship between the body and its parts, which Apostle Paul described in 1 Corinthians 12: 26, "One member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it." The following examples will explain it.

The Mangroves were considered 'useless' vegetation. The conversion of mangrove habitats into tourist resorts contributed significantly to the catastrophic loss of human lives and settlements during the 2004 tsunami. A mangrove is a group of tropical and specialized trees growing in the saline and brackish water area most suitable for feeding, breeding and their are the nursery grounds of the marine organisms and hence crucial for aquaculture purposes. Mangrove trees offer significant and unique habitats to birds, mammals, and fish populations through a complex marine food chain, breeding habitat creation, and restrictive areas that protect maturing offspring. In the past two decades, the entire coastline along the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, and Strait of Malacca in the Indian Ocean and South Pacific Ocean, has witnessed massive investments in tourism and hotels. But Myanmar and Maldives suffered significantly less from the killing spree of the tsunami because the tourism industry had so far not spread its tentacles to the virgin mangroves and coral reefs surrounding the coastline. If only the mangroves were kept intact, the damage from the tsunami would have been greatly minimized. In 1960, a tsunami hit the coast of Bangladesh in an



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area where mangroves were intact, and there was no human loss. Mangroves, one of the creations of God, have intrinsic value and purpose and are interconnected with other creations. Mangroves are an essential part of the body of Earth. If Mangroves vanish from Earth, every part of the Earth will suffer.

Frogs, the friends of farmers, are an essential indicator of the ecosystem. Frogs feed on many insects and pests that frequently destroy crops. Frogs play a vital role in maintaining a healthy environment in the food chain. Many human activities are unsuitable for frogs and their habitats. We drain the wetlands to get land for cultivation, housing and tourist resorts, causing habitat destruction. The extinction of frogs will result in the multiplication of mosquitoes and other insects, which will spread fatal diseases. Frogs are a wonderful creation of God, with an intrinsic value, a purpose,

and an interconnection between other creations.

Bees visit plants' flowers, take nectar and use it to make honey. While the bee collects nectar, it gets a powder called pollen. Bees fly from one flower to the next, carrying this pollen, which falls into the flowers, and the plants use that to reproduce. The plant helps the bees, and the bees help the plants. If the butterflies and bees become extinct, pollination will not occur, resulting in the loss of food harvesting.

The majority of people consider grass, which is growing on the ground, as useless. In order to avoid the growth of the grass, some may spray herbicides. If we clear the grass from the surface of the Earth, it will grow within a short period. Usually, most people do not know grass's intrinsic value, purpose and interconnectedness. If the grass is not there on the surface of the Earth, the Sun's rays will fall directly on the Earth's surface, and heat energy from the Sun will be transferred directly to the Earth. As a result of the disappearance of moisture, micro-organisms will die, resulting in desertification. Desertification is an irreversible process. If the grasses were there, sunlight would not have fallen on Earth's surface. The grass will convert the heat energy from the Sun to chemical energy. In other words, photosynthesis will take place, and carbohydrates will be produced, food for all animals. God created grass as a blanket over our Earth; it is neither waste nor useless. Grasses are the beautiful Creation of God. The energy in living things originates

from the Sun. Green plants are the only living organisms that can use the energy from the Sun to make food, which can be used by the plant itself or by animals that eat the plant. If people/ animals eat the plant, they get energy from its carbohydrates. However, people cannot hold their hands to the Sun and make food like the plant makes food in its leaves.

We are reluctant to acknowledge the intrinsic value, purpose and interconnectedness of each component in the universe. Each component of God's Creation has a voice. We are unwilling to hear the voices of God's creations, communicating with each other in their language. Why is it impossible for us to understand the language of the communication of each species? In Acts chapter two, we read; "On the day of Pentecost, all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. When the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we will be able to understand the language of plants, animals and other components of Earth. The presence of the Holy Spirit will enable us to understand the language of other creations of God, and we will respect the integrity of Creation.

Conclusion

A fantastic variety of habitats, people, plants, and animals are all interconnected in a fragile web of life we call "biodiversity." Furthermore, every member is essential in keeping this web in balance. About 1.4 million species have been identified, and researchers estimate that millions more are yet to be identified. Everything created by God has a purpose, and nothing in the universe is either waste nor useless. Thousands of species are vanishing each year due to pollution, over-harvesting, habitat degradation, and other human actions that affect the other creations. Hence, Apostle Paul describes, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it." If one part of God's Creation suffers or vanishes from the Earth, every part suffers. Let us conserve the Earth, the body of Christ, with excellent and reverential care. **The Creation is a symphony where we find a variety of creatures, each singing and worshipping the Maker. The Hebrew prophets call Shalom the webbing of God, humans, and all Creation in justice, fulfilment, and delight. Shalom is the fellowship to keep the goodness of the Creation.**

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