



Beech Orange

Eucalyptus rubida

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Nature's architectural wisdom is fascinating, with this fungus appearing in the Warrawilla Rainforest Reserve not far from us. It grows only on Myrtle Beech trees. Its botanical name is *Cyttaria gunnii*.

Climate Change: Curse or Blessing?

Climate Change a blessing? Surely this can't be right. Look around; the environment is doing all sorts of weird things. It's wetter and drier, hotter and colder than ever before. Humans, animals and plants are suffering all over the planet. We are said to be in the sixth major extinction of species in the history of life, and what's more disturbing is that we seem to be to blame for it.

Well, just maybe there is another way of looking at it. In aviation, if a plane is flying towards a mountain and is getting too close, a siren sounds in the cockpit to warn the pilots to take evasive action. At the time they probably would not take time to say "Thank God for the siren" as they would be somewhat preoccupied. But later, hopefully having survived the incident, they and the passengers could well say that.

Don't you think there is a parallel with climate change. We are heading into a mountain as it were and we need an urgent and abrupt warning to take evasive action. And where is the message coming from - the Earth itself.

There is a half-truth going around that we have to take care of the Earth. As scientist Lynn Margulis has pointed out: "It is the Earth that takes care of us, not we of it." Mother Earth is working perfectly; responding to the various stimuli that arise from the presence of the land, and the flora and fauna that make up her body. The parallel with the human body is unmistakable.

Our immune system works every second of our lives, responding to whatever happens to us. Sometimes we overwhelm it and we 'suffer' the consequences. Living in harmony with our bodies has to be extended to living in harmony with the greater universe of which we are an essential part. We ARE the universe in

one of its expressions, not something separate from it. Everything 'living' and 'non-living' is part of one huge event we call the Universe. Everything that happens, every story that we encounter is part of one great story and is to be seen on the context of the whole. The human is now seen as the Universe come to conscious reflection of itself. The initial act of creation is still going on in us today, as Meister Eckhart was at pains to point out frequently in his writings:

I have often said that God is creating the entire universe fully and totally in this present now. Everything God created six thousand years ago - and even previous to that - as he made the world, God creates now all at once

grace that flows through our lives and then on beyond us.

I recently heard that a Maori group refused to meet with government about a certain river, because the meeting was scheduled for an office somewhere. Because they identified with the river so much they insisted the meeting take place at and in the presence of the river. The government refused and the meeting did not take place. Talk about cultural blindness!

Not that we are any better. Western culture in its most common expression perpetuates the non-myth that we are separate from what is around us. The true myths of culture underline and help



Sylvia Ck. Toolangi

A river is not just defined at its source or at its mouth. A river exists all up and down its length, and is a source of life for all the places it flows through. It has a unique identity even as it loses its water into the sea or a lake. The metaphor can be extended to us as humans. We are a part of the river of life, that stream of

us to express and embody the deep connectedness we have to the Greater Body (my capitals). In our Christian expression I think this is what the Eucharist is about - us being one with the Christ figure, just as he said he was one with the Father figure, and this is our central Christian myth - unity with the Source of life.