



Eucalyptus rubida

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The hyacinth orchid flowers in Glenburn during December, January and February

Earth is Talking in a New Language

Formerly we could reasonably expect that we could predict the weather and the seasonal signs with some confidence. Now Earth seems to be speaking a new language that is taking us unawares.

Can we take this in our stride? Should we be worried about it? It's not that we have much choice immediately. If this is the result of what we casually call Climate Change then to turn this around is well nigh impossible in the short term.

Given this, do you think there is much chance we will change our ways? Consume less – come to a more holistic consciousness – become Earth mystics?

Thomas Berry some years ago now, encouraged us to renew ourselves at the species level. By this I think he meant that we need to become more conscious of our place among the wider community of species, in such a way that we are able to 'rejoin the community of life.' The artificial separation from this community has been identified by some thinkers mythologically as being driven out of the Garden of Eden. We humans have eaten of the forbidden fruit of knowledge and become infatuated with it. At the time of origin of this myth there was already enough going on for sages to warn us with this story. Human consciousness had already entered a deficient mode. Patriarchy had already replaced a period of the feminine embodiment of the sacred.

Crystal gazing the future is always a difficult task, but not altogether futile. If we do not dream a future for ourselves and the race, chances we will get very short change. What I find interesting about genetics and is a more recent variation known as epigenetics. Epigenetics suggests genetic change is not solely dependent on the internal re-arrangement of genes and chromosomes, but also on what lies outside the nucleus of our cells, and influences inheritable characteristics.

The blood and cellular liquids around cells and nuclei contain a myriad of complex chemicals 'manufactured' in other parts of the body (e.g. the brain). These chemicals affect the turning on and off of the genes that determine what we become. We are unique beings, each of us, but being hu-

man, with a human consciousness, puts us in the box seat of potentially being able to change what we pass on to the next generation.

Now some forms of this science are controversial, because they run against the general theory of inheritance, but there seems to be enough substance for it to give us some hope of altering the species in the shorter term.

What we believe, hope and love deter-



mines some of the chemicals that soak our cells. There is already enough evidence that 'belief' can bring about remarkable healing results. Just maybe if we can recover a mystique of Earth, Cosmos and life in general, we can gently mould a new world through the love/prayer that arises in our minds and hearts once they have acquired the new consciousness of belonging to the family of the Great Mother/Father.

Do we need motivation to become more spiritual people? We do not strive to become more spiritual for the heck of it do we? Most people now strive not because of the lure of eternal life, but for the sake of life as we know it and our investment in it through our families and our personal mission. What I am describing here is what

I think I am seeing in people around me. I see people falling in love again with the deeper self embedded in a new divine landscape.

Cultural coding can go hand in hand with genetic coding. The uncertainty, perhaps fear, with which we view what looks like a new world to us has the potential to mould us as a race. I hope that uncertainty and fear chemicals are not the only ones soaking my cells. I am hoping that we can also mourn for a diminished world lovingly and extend the 'loving kindness' of our hearts for its healing.*

We are already the inheritors of our forebears' mixed emotions in ways hard to understand. We are also inheritors of the love and devotion that most of our indigenous ancestors had for Earth. Time to recover it now.

Time also to tame our collective and individual egos. Time also to slay the dragons that encapsulate us in insolation and fear. The sages of all times invite us to discern the 'perennial philosophy' that lies in all traditions, and embrace a global brother and sisterhood with each other and with the Earth Community from which we have arisen. We need to become mystics.

The Earth Story is not something we tell as if it was outside us. We embody the Earth Story in ourselves every instant. We not only tell the story, we are the story in its wild undomesticated version – if only we let it. This wild living means living with paradox and risk, something we have not done well for ages.

Our instinctual wisdom can replace or better inform the cultural coding that has lost its way.

Thomas Berry reminds us of a sunset moment. "At this moment .. we participate in the intimacy of all things with each other"

Trevor Parton

Reading

The Biology of Belief - Bruce Lipton

Molecules of Emotion - Candice Pert

* Coming Back to Life, Johanna Macy, Molly Young Brown

Evening Thoughts - Thomas Berry