

Echoes of Eco



December, 2017

Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

Vol:9 No:10

Extracts from our book "Green Pathfinders - Part II"

Green Miscellany

Shri.N.Krishnamoorthy

Prelude

Jnani Noval: The purpose of human civilization appears to be to find the central point towards which all movements take place in history. We can fast-forward it. The whole creation is moving towards an Advaitic unity trying at the same time to preserve external variety. The purpose of human civilization is to preserve variety and help human beings to find out, to recognize, individually and collectively the underlying unity. The chances of mankind hitting the hull's eye are more if the variety is more.

Annapoorna Duval: Man should be taught to identify unity under a variety of circumstances. In our crèche, we teach the colour sense to the child by helping her to recognize red or blue in various objects, so that the child does not associate red colour with a single object. She should be able to recognize the colour in whatever object she sees.



The whole creation is moving towards an Advaitic unity

In this issue:

- Extracts from our book "Green Pathfinders - Part II"
- The Happenings
- Visions of Wisdom:
 - Creation Spirituality
 - Don't copy the Wester Model
 - Food for the mind



*Whatever I dig up you, O Earth,
May you of that have quick
replenishment!*

*O purifying one may my thrust
never reach right up to your heart
May your dwellings, O earth free
from sickness and wasting,
flourish for us!*

*Through a long life watchful,
May we always offer to you our
tribute.*

- Atharva Veda



"It may not be irrelevant to note that even very modest forms of life, like earthworms, dung beetles and fiddler crabs, have no trouble identifying the real problems they must deal with if they are to survive"

– Edward Goldsmith

Jnani Naval: Yes. That is the philosophy of Hindu National and Religious Culture too. In Veda chanting, a letter or a sound is to be recognized in whatever combination it occurs. When the European civilization, Mid-west religions or Marxism all of which appear to have a common world view try to inch towards external uniformity, truth is the casualty. We have included in this issue a classic article by Lynn Townsend White Jr. tracing the historical roots of our Ecological crisis.

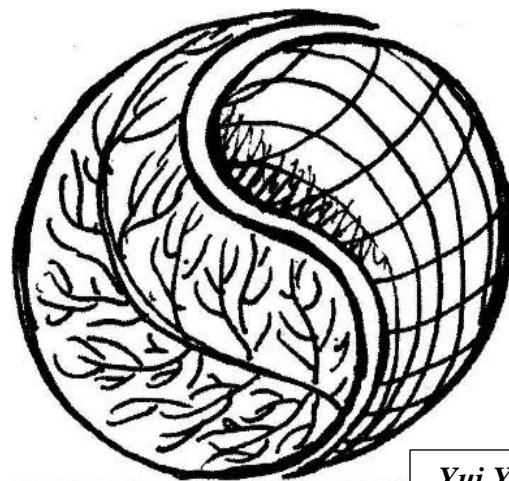


Annapoorna Duval: It is just common sense that you have to learn to live with the plants around you, the animals, insects, reptiles, that God has thrown around you, and the other human beings with whom your lot has been thrown. Does it require a big civilization to emphasize such simple knowledge which seems so obvious?

Jnani Naval: The erosion of our eco-values come about slowly, in imperceptible acceleration. Some civilizations failed to respect their woman. They forgot their Mother Goddesses. Man was imagined to

be a Master of Nature, its owner, enjoyer, not a child of Nature. Two researchers Anne Baring and Jules Cashford writing on the Myth of the Goddess (in the West) aver: "We have concluded that for the last 4000 years, the feminine principle which manifests in the mythological history as 'the Goddess' and in cultural history as the values placed upon spontaneity, feeling, instinct and intuition, had been lost as valid expressions of the sanctity and unity of life. In the Judeo Christian Mythology there is now, formally, no feminine dimension of the divine, since our particular culture is structured in the image of a masculine god, who is beyond creation, ordering it from without; he is not within creation as were the mother goddesses before him. This results inevitably in an imbalance of the masculine and feminine principles, which has fundamental implications for how we create our world and live in it."

Annapoorna Duval: In our village there are many mother Goddesses. The female deities abound. Even our Shiva is Ardhanareesvara, half male, half female. And most of the village temples are surrounded by sacred groves, trees, animals and birds or their images. Nature worship is a vital part of our religion.

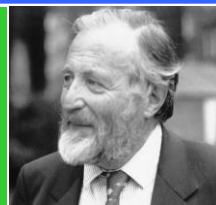


Yui Young World



"Greens and conservatives may share not only a benign moral attitude towards the natural world but also a belief that virtue actually inherits within it"

- Edward Goldsmith



Krish Phidol: But who is going to collect all this information about your sacred groves and present them to the public with proper generalizations? linkages?

Jnani Noval: There was a long era of neglect of our Bio-resources. But in the last two-three decades, the situation in this front has improved. Proper documentation, stock-taking, audio visual recording, and highlighting of environmental degradation are being done. Good, and technically sound films have been made, recording the scenes in the polluted areas. Scientists have written, warning people of the long-term and short-term implications of eco-degradation. The corporate sector also is rising up to meet its eco-responsibilities.



Annapoorna Duval: Education, instead of widening our capacity for perception, seems to make the learners cling on to narrow strips of perceived reality.

Jnani Noval: Yes. Much study has been done on the impact of this constriction in language, family relationships, interpersonal relations, capacity for

expression etc. One tragic aspect is that even countries like India and New Guinea, which have large diversity of language-groups are finding their local dialects dying. Fewer and fewer people speak them.

Annapurna Duval: English threatens to take their place in the curriculum.

Jnani Noval: Yes. Just like the loss of Biodiversity from which humanity is suffering, there is steep decline of the variety of tongues in which mankind speaks. The folk and rural tales, songs, art -forms are fading away, not being replaced by spontaneous new expressions.

Krish Phidol: There should be some way of making a profit and loss check on this front too. What is green - auditing?

Jnani Noval: The corporate sector is coming round to accept standards of eco-safety in their factories, re-treat their effluents and have shown a willingness to be examined and evaluated by independent agencies. This readiness has ushered in eco-audit at least in some industries.

Annapoorna Duval: In the long run, such external controls are to be internalized and made into the culture of a home, an industry, a school or any work place.

Jnani Noval: That is why very specific cases of bringing awareness in a field, as well as broad - based mass education go hand in hand. At least some media men have taken up this dual responsibility on their shoulders.





"Natural systems are homeostatic" – that is less a link in an argument than a point in a constellation"

– Edward Goldsmith



**Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture**



**Happenings this month:
Shelter**



**Happenings this month:
Networking**



Training programme on "Mushroom cultivation" was held at TRC, Kalluvilai on 8th December. 18 farmers attended the training. Smt.S.Premalatha and Shri.S.Rajamony were the resource persons.



Attentive participants - Mushroom cultivation training

Training programme on "NPK rich Bio-manure technology" was held at Technology Resource Center on 30th December. 06 farmers attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



Attentive participants at the workshop



Group discussion during training - Ferro cement technology

One-day Awareness programme on "Ferro-cement Technologies" was held at Technology Resource Center on 13th December. 23 members attended. Sri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.



Different sizes of Shakti Surabhi Bio-methanation plants

One day Training programme on "Shakti Surbahi Bio-methanation plant" was held at Technology Resource Center on 30th Dec. 05 members attended. Sri.V.Muneeswaran was the resource person.

Green health home worked for 4 days and treated 146 patients.

Gita Jayanthi and Annual day of Amudha Surabhi Federation was celebrated on 27th Dec. Su.Aparna Palkar and Su.Radha Devi addressed the packed auditorium. More than 200 SHG members participated. Various competitions were held such as (i) Rangoli (ii) Lemon and spoon (iii) Filling the water in a bottle (vi) Shot put and (v) memory game.

In addition, (a) Elocution completion on the subject "Sis.Nivedita" (b) songs on "Bharati" (c) essay writing on "Bharatiya culture and family" (d) drawing competition on "Swatchh Bharat" (e) competition on preparation of food from millet (Horse gram).

Every member of the SHG participated in one or the other competition (total 10) and enjoyed enormously.



Construction of Biogas Plant

Fixed type - Cuddalore 1 cum - 20

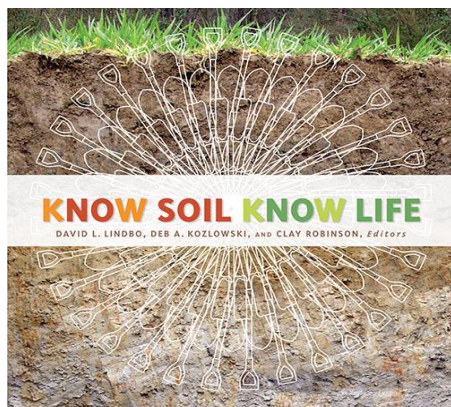


"Development has not eliminated poverty but only modernized it"

- Edward Goldsmith



Visions of Wisdom



Creation Spirituality

Gaia, Deep Ecology, Permaculture and Bioregions are practical ideas of an integrated view of nature. But the world cannot sustain by practical ideas alone. It also needs the spirit. If we do not have a place for the spirit, we will lack meaning. Therefore, creation spirituality which helps to develop a sense of the sacred is an essential part of an ecological world view, for sustainable development. What does Creation Spirituality mean? It is not a religion, it does not mean that you have to go to church, a temple or mosque to read Bible or Gita or Koran. It means that human soul and the soil are imbued with the divine principle.

Extracts taken from Kendra Patrika
- Akshaya Vikas



Don't Copy the Western Model

As early as 1909 when Gandhiji wrote Hind Swaraj, he had warned that India must not copy the Western model. He had often told Nehru that development must start with the rural people. Describing the Indian villager, Gandhiji has said, "an age old culture is hidden under an encrustment of crudeness. Behind the crude exterior you will find a deep reservoir of spirituality. You will not find such a thing in the West. Take away his chronic poverty and illiteracy and you have the finest specimen of what a cultured, cultivated, free citizen should be". It is time to pause, to reflect what we have done to the finest specimen of a cultured, cultivated, free citizen of India.



Food for the Mind

That man's mind affects his eating habits is recognized even by the average nutritionists and dieticians. That is emotional and mental makeup might affect his digestion, his absorption and even the character of his metabolism is recognized only by a minority of physicians.

That the unconscious as well as the conscious mind may tune the metabolite machinery to change vitamin requirements, to create certain vitamin or more amazingly yet to transmute one element into another is understood only by a handful of biophysicists. That The Vital Phenomenon of Life Is Not Chemistry Alone.



Madhukar B. Nisal
President
Nisarg Sewa Sangh,
Nagpur



Kamala Chowdhry
A known
Environmentalist and
established Wasteland
Development Board in
India



R. Ballentine
pioneering work -
an integrated
approach to natural
healing.