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Saving the Earth

by Bill Herbst

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email: billherbst@aol.com

website: www.billherbst.com

As a footnote to the popular media's sudden embrace of environmental concerns, as well as the rush by corporate America to hop on the bandwagon of image-marketing, let me add a personal observation.

Considered from a metaphysical perspective, the consciousness of Planet Earth is not merely an extension of human interests and concerns. Nature may be our 'mother,' but the Earth is more likely concerned with what might be termed 'animal husbandry' than any overly sentimentalized notion of parenting.

We are on this planet at the apex of its animal life-forms because it suits the Earth to have us. Any cosmic purposes involved are probably far beyond our comprehension, in much the same way that sheep entertain not even a glimmer of the shepherd's motives.

Phrases such as “*Save the Earth*” represent a hideously laughable misappropriation of Planetary Consciousness. What we’re really concerned with is **ourselves**, not the Earth. Environmental destruction at every level—water and land pollution, species extinction, ozone depletion, even atomic radiation—harm **us**, but probably not the Earth itself.

Our continued survival and responsible appreciation of life are indeed on the line. But if we do ourselves in, and in the process foul the environment for thousands of millennia, it may represent little more than a temporary inconvenience for the planet.

So let’s get it straight and say what we mean: The issue here is human immaturity, shortsightedness, and insensitivity—**not** the salvation of the Earth. The ongoing madness and impending tragedy are just as real and no less important on that account, but it is the **human** tragedy that we must address.

Whatever we do, Gaia will still be here long after we are gone.

