

The Great Turning and Justice for the Earth

Roger Davies

The Great Turning is described as the work to bring about a way of human living consonant with the ways of earth processes, and to open ourselves to a consciousness that participates in the spiritual depths of all being, not just the human. For Friends who hear the call of the Great Turning, our sense of justice includes the restorative justice of protecting and restoring ecosystems and habitat.

Quaker Earthcare Witness (www.quakerearthcare.org) speaks of Living in Right Relationship, which is the underpinning of justice. This right relationship includes the other-than-human world and the people who will live on Earth in the future.

Kairos Canada (www.kairoscanada.org) says, "Justice and equity must be at the heart of any sustainable economic, social, or environmental system

supporting Earth Community. Ecological justice is that which respects, seeks to preserve, and advocates for just relationships among all living things. It concerns the future of all life upon this planet, the condition of the natural world and our human impact or footprint upon it."

This form of justice work need not be energy draining or burdensome. Quite the opposite! It can be enlivening and energizing. Joanna Macy who coined the term "The Great Turning", reminds us that there are at least three areas of concern, and we should follow our passion and employ our creativity and talents as we are led. Some will be called to Stop Bad Things From Happening to protect the Earth Community. Others will use their creativity to bring about transformation in our institutions, technologies, legal, and educational practices. And others will be spiritual explorers, raising the personal and community sense of the Divine, as it manifests in the Universe through all being. Many will be involved in all three callings.

What then might our be our queries in regard to the Great Turning? Here are a few that come to my mind:

- Does our social justice work include work for eco-justice?
- Do we perceive the connections between human misery and degradation of habitat?
- Are we open to experiencing the Divine Presence, The Light, in the Natural World?
- Have we been led to speak of these experiences in Meeting?
- Do we have educational programming and study circles addressing eco-justice?
- Are we as Friends connected and supportive of local environmental groups?
- What can we do to reduce the ecological footprint of our Meeting Houses?
- Do we recycle the waste we produce?
- Can we simplify our lives?
- Do we support Quaker Youth who are led to work or learn for the Earth?

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(with twin granddaughters)*

