

Wednesday, June 13



### Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee

The concepts of integral ecology have been available for some time and not always under the name “Integral Ecology.” Sometimes, it is referred to as *Integral Life*.

In Kosmos Journal, we read that “... a new integral perspective on life ... provides clues of what it might mean to live life as a contribution to the cultural renewal, aesthetic unfolding, and holistic development of self and society, community and institutions, people and planet ...

“There is only ‘one life’ permeating creation. Personal development cannot really be looked at in isolation but only as integral to life as a whole. Life is neither insular nor static. It is in continuous evolutionary unfolding, operating on the principle of ‘interdependent co-arising’ — a term borrowed from Jean Houston. Life engages all human and non-human systems, animated and unanimated matter alike, in a ‘great play’ of continuous co-learning and co-evolution. In this highly relational process, we need to transcend our current ‘modus operandi’ based on exploitation, control, and dominion towards a holistic, nurturing, and caring attitude to life. Such a perspective ‘re-embeds’ humanity within creation and moves us to participate in life’s ‘great dance’ so that our own individual wholeness flourishes in unison with all life on the planet. Gradually, humanity is opening up to a holistic paradigm, aspiring to rebalance and reintegrate all that we are from within ourselves (body, mind, heart, souls, etc.) and all that we are from without (nature, culture, science, economics, etc).”

*Imago Integralis: The Aesthetics of Integral Fall-Winter edition 2016 Life (Pg 28)*

“The term (Integral Ecology) also has a distinctive Catholic echo. In *Populorum Progressio* (1967), Pope Paul championed integral development. This kind of development would promote the economic progress of humanity, but it would do so within a broader framework of the moral and religious maturation of the human person. In the 1940s, Jacques Maritain expounded the theory of *integral humanism*. This type of Christian politics would join the secular humanist in promoting civic democracy, but it would insist on the religious source and ultimate destiny of the human person. With the exception of the naturalist, these various conceptions of integral ecology clearly influence Francis’ version.”

John J. Conley, [An Elusive Integral Ecology](#) America Magazine July 21, 2015

As you can see, the concepts of integral ecology are not new. It is our understanding that needs to catch up.