

Wednesday Earth Wisdom – May 8, 2019

What do environment – one component of integral ecology – and health have to do with each other? Lots!

“Every culture’s stories begin with water and center around water. The river Jordan, the Nile, the Ganges, the Rhine, the mighty Mississippi, the Tiber. Water has cultural meaning. But it is also indispensable to life. And it has no substitute.

“Middle class consumers rarely think much about clean, safe water, even though it is vital to their health and their communities. But for citizens of poorer nations, or for residents of cities such as Flint, Mich., worry about water becomes yet another stressor in their lives.

“And though water overflows the Earth, the clean, fresh portion of it is minuscule. Allotting it fairly in places where water is scarce but people are plentiful is a fluid problem. Some thinkers see water as a basic human right, but can we put a price on a human right? Or, if we can’t avoid it, what is a fair price, and how can water be distributed justly?” (*Health Progress*, March-April 2019, “Safe Water Supply Reflects Justice and Health Issues,” pg. 11, David Lewellen)

“Thomas Berry... observed that the three rivers of knowledge and wisdom are contributing to this deepening of consciousness about planet Earth: First, a new awareness reinforced by science about the interconnectedness of everything; second, a deeper recognition of the fragile relationship of human health with natural environments; third, a renewed appreciation and recovery for indigenous (Native American) teachings about spiritual life.

“Before political solutions can be appropriated to address urgent problems of a global water crisis, we need to embrace humility about the essential mystery of the natural world, in this case water.” (Thomas Berry quoted in *Health Progress*, March-April 2019, “A Call to Reverence: The Mystery of Water,” pg. 42, Jon Magnuson, M.Div., MSW)

Can you see and feel the connections? Reflect on them.

