

## Wednesday Earth Wisdom – June 19, 2019

A new dream: Are we ready?

“Currently, we in the developed world are easily distracted from [embracing a new intergenerational consciousness and conscience] these tasks by mass consumerism, media entertainment, and political manipulation. Our plundering power is almost invisible to the majority of people in the world, who are intent simply on feeding their families or, in affluent regions, on acquiring more goods. We need a serious wake-up call from our slumbers.

“But solutions must inspire participation and action rather than frighten or disempower people. The next generation is searching for ways to contribute to a positive future. Life in all its variety and beauty calls to us for a response — a new integrated understanding of who we are as humans. This is not only about stewardship of the Earth but also about embracing our embeddedness in nature in radical, fresh and enlivening ways. Humans, Earth, and the rest of life are bound in a single story and destiny. It is no longer a question of “saving the environment” as if it were something out there apart from us. We humans are the environment, and it is us — shaping our minds, nourishing our bodies, refreshing our spirit.

“The task of articulating an integrated vision and identifying effective values requires new language, broader framing, inspiring images, captivating metaphors, and, most of all, new stories and dreams. As cultural historian, Thomas Berry says, “If a society’s cultural world—the dreams that have guided it to a certain point—become dysfunctional, the society must go back and dream again.” (Tucker, Mary Evelyn. *Christian Simplicity: A Gospel Value*, Session 6: Daring to Dream, p. 99)

*Does it read as though Ms. Tucker is writing about integral ecology without using those specific words? What is your dream?*

