

## Human Waves

How I am alone?  
Every day I touch 233,623 other people.  
People in ever increasing numbers  
---- Inter-connecting out our stories-----

Witnessing feet: in a pair of Nike sneakers walking upon...  
The spirit of 7 Indonesian children, unable to buy the shoes they sew.  
Picking up and eating a peach, while holding...  
Hands of 52 Migrant farmers harvesting the crop.  
Typing poetry upon a computer as the hard drive spins...  
235 souls turning as cogs assembling more computers.

Add up the numbers, discover a surprise  
How quickly these connections trace around **our** planet  
Everyone, each of whom likewise, reaching, reaching out  
Caught in a vast web of economic dependencies  
Till as a group we are all:  
6 billion hungry people: eating a planet to bedrock  
Showing that yes, each of us matters  
That two feet are indeed the crest  
of a wave 467,246 feet tall  
In wave after wave after wave  
Grinding Earth down  
Wearing it down  
To sand, within a pair of sneakers.

.....  
...  
.

===== Thoughts =====

This was written in an exaggerated poetic flourish to illustrate that economically and realistically our footsteps do add up to much more than two feet. Action and lifestyle do matter; even seemingly small choices as buying a pair of shoes are reflected across an entire planet. The friction of these actions burn the very Earth: Earth is on fire. Look at the pictures from space, our little planet burns with the light of our own living fires!

To be alive is to be within this chain of life. Life pushes life about; life jostles; Life consumes, life devours life...

*Is it wrong to kill? ...*

The ideas of right and wrong are moral choices, subject to the whims of each individual life. Life consumes energy and life is energy, so its no surprise the chain of life reuses itself in consumption of expression.

... *Or wrong to change the world?*

Each and every life changes the world. Life is fire, to burn by action means to consume and change the surrounding world. The importance in Taoism is to understand when changing the world all actions of change echo back into ourselves.

The modern material culture is not in balance with nature. It might be economically cheap to use a slash and burn style of manufacturing<sup>1</sup>, yet the hidden overhead price will be a burden of waste and disease. Adding to the problem is humanities habit of creating vast estates of toxic dumping grounds: simply by tossing trash<sup>2</sup> about. Unfortunately we are seeing the effects of this in our health today as it reflects back to create toxic human bodies. The roots of our cancer are directly tied to the lack of respect people show to the world and life around us.

Know nature always has a balance.  
Nature's accountants never use dollars in its balance sheet.  
Nature's currency is life itself.

For this reason all life is equal.

It's possible to find a balance (even in a material culture), but without respect, humans live no differently than bacteria<sup>3</sup> trapped in a Petri dish: doomed to consume all resources and then perish within the waste by-products. So know the choice isn't life itself, but our choice is one of lifestyle, expressing ourselves with or without respect.

To be alive means accepting involvement within the web of life. Removing ourselves from this web removes us from the basic interconnections which form our fundamental physical natures.

===== Paths =====

In the near future the most powerful will be those able to live simply.

- 1) Modern natural resource management: mines, strip mines, clear cutting, when you take something out of the land, the disturbance ripples out and affects *all the life* in the surrounding area. Each and every product a consumer buys will result in the death of some life somewhere on Earth, this is part of the price of getting that consumer product built and delivered for personal use. This statement is neither right nor wrong, it's simply fact. We are all consumers, life touches life, life consumes to be alive and often times it's harsh.
- 2) This habit is an expression of power, or marking territory. A person littering: throwing a bottle out over the river is saying I have the power to throw my trash over you. Humans and trash are of a similar nature as a wolf piss marking a tree.
- 3) Humans are animals, and the second a person thinks humanity is higher than other life, becomes the defining point for a person to lose parts of their own human nature. Sadly bacteria tend to live in more natural harmony than the average human, which is why bacteria tend to kick our butts around when we get sick.

