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To: [ECY RE SWOS](#)
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Mother Earth will survive and thrive, that is not the concern. she will evolve into a different place after eliminating the invasive species we have become. She will spin on, after the human experiment has burnt itself out.

Naomi Klein asks, "What is wrong with us?" in her recent book. Although the word 'absolute' is rarely in my writing or thoughts because it means "a value or principle that is regarded as universally valid or that may be viewed without relation to other things" and I find little 'universally valid' or 'without relation.'

Pondering the question posed, a possible answer woke me in the middle of the night with the notion of 'absolute greed' as the driving force behind the recalcitrant, intransigent actions related to continuing, in the face of catastrophic changes already upon Earth, burning carbon. We continue to drill, dig, frack, and by any means obtain fossil fuel. We burn increasing amounts of biomass. [This is certainly not a complete exegesis—add your own issue or concern.]

We are evidencing hatred of the biophilic, distracted by the latest post, the most recent atrocity, our navels...

Despite the urgent need, in order to protect an environment in which humans can function [certainly not the one we now know to be transforming at a fairly rapid clip] to make a 180-degree pivot in how we live, this is not universally happening. One person, even one million persons transforming from a fossil-fuel-based life will change very little. We have claimed ignorance and gone too far toward destroying the human-viable atmosphere of our planet.

The children suing local and federal governments for clean air and water, for "not doing all they can do to protect our future," is such a sad comment on our greed-based humanity, ever further from origins and sustenance and balance within the Gaiaic systems that nurtured our evolution.

A human life is brief, merely a moment in time, no matter how long we live. Perhaps this brevity is one way we have moved so far from our place on the planet so rapidly that we disconnected from Earth as anything but potential profit.

The masses of people—billions of us—where are our heads and hearts? Are we medicated? Religion as the opiate, although some would have it be television or social media or whatever numbs and nulls us. We dance about the head of a pin while Rome burns. Perhaps it is my own ignorance... but this is a rabbit warren of conjecture. Whatever obscures the reality, we are simply not making the radical, as in to the root, changes required. There is no compelling narrative of focus or transformation of the dominant paradigm which is subversive to life.

This apathy is making me crazy, so beyond making changes in my personal life [which are totally inadequate to the need] I am compelled to give voice to the anguish I feel as grandchildren are born. Beautiful beings, old souls, innocent of the rape of Earth but certain to live and die in the consequences.

The urgency is palpable. We are melting, storming, drying, flooding, quaking—Earth is offering messages, alerts, warnings—and there are many who heed. We are, simultaneously [as we burn, drill, dig, and frack] re-learning how to forage, grow our own food in the circular nature of Demeter, clean our water, re-center community, power our own movement [e.g., bicycles], turn to air and sun and water for biophilic energy, heal without violating, add your own contribution here.

I once had a teacher who taught that the actions of one was revolutionary and significant—and

contributed to changing the world. I no longer believe that the quiet, solitary, changed life will change the world. Too many people are living that life, or as close to it as they can get, and the world is not changing. We no longer have the luxury of each one teach one.

Entire systems of government, industry—all the complexes working in concert to extract evermore; maintenance of fossil fuel-based economies; the focus on 'growth' at any cost; the "free" markets—which are supported and rigged so as to no longer actually be anywhere close to free; the obsession for the profits of making war; the fractured "health care" system; [enter your own concern here]—Earth and our continued existence [in some type of very altered, but supportive to human life environment] need all this to change in rapid fashion, in response to the emergent messages we are getting that we have gone too far.

What will it take? Or, as Jennifer Berezan asks, "How far will we go?" I'm not sure I want to know.

What I do wish to be sure of is that Washington does not permit lawful fouling of fish and shellfish..Washington currently has the weakest water quality standards in the nation, due in large part to an outdated fish consumption rate of just 6.5 grams per day.

The proposal put forth by Governor Inslee and Ecology changes that fish consumption rate and certain other elements of the equation. But by raising allowable cancer risk tenfold statewide, from one in one million to one in 100,000, the end result remains largely the same. If this draft proposal is approved, it will leave Washington fish consumers without adequate protection and allow many potent neurotoxins and cancer-causing pollutants, including mercury and PCBs, to remain at their current levels.

This is not progress. The federal Clean Water Act requires states to protect their citizens from unsafe levels of pollution in locally-caught fish and shellfish. What cowardly actions for the governor and his minions...

It is time, dear people, to act in the interest of ecosystems rather than profit.

With gratitude,

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Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?"

— [Mary Oliver](#)