

Earth Is the Primary Giver of Law

Liz Hosken

Liz Hosken is co-founder of the Gaia Foundation and recipient of the Jameson Award, the Schumacher Award and a One World Award for media work on biodiversity related issues. Born near Johannesburg, South Africa, she was active both environmental issues and the anti-apartheid movement and was exiled to the UK in her early 20s.



Dear Thomas,
Since the day I met you in 1996, you have been a prophet for me—speaking for the Earth, awakening people’s consciousness to the tragedy that has numbed so many of us humans to the heaven that is Earth. Through your unique poetic language you are able to express your profound understanding of both our awe-inspiring planet and our role within the larger Earth Community. As an elder from the heart of the USA, you have been able to articulate the depth of thinking of shamans from around the world, and drawn attention to the vital role indigenous traditions play in showing us the way back home—to Earth.

Your teaching that those who have forgotten Earth is the primary giver of law need to re-learn how to govern ourselves according to her laws is beginning to resonate as we experience the consequences of breaking these laws in the multiple crisis we now face. Your term for this—Earth Jurisprudence—has provided indigenous traditions with a concept to describe the principles underpinning their governance systems, as well as a way forward for the industrial world.

Dear Thomas, your piercing diagnosis of the problems we face and your poetic wisdom and guidance for the way out of this are inspiration and affirmation for so many people from different traditions around the world.

With love and deep gratitude for your presence in the Earth now.