

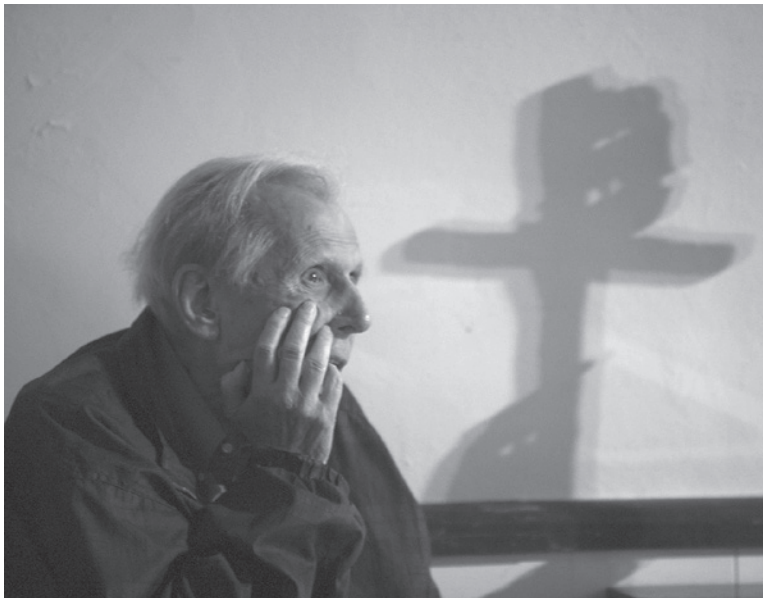
An Embodiment of Profound Intellect and Deep Spirituality

Satish Kumar

It was an honour to have Thomas Berry teach at Schumacher College for a week. His presence at the College was a source of pure inspiration as he shared his vision, his commitment and his wisdom with the participants. He was not only a great intellectual and an effective communicator, he was also a sage. He was humble, approachable and available to everyone at any time. His teaching was not about himself for he did not want any followers. He offered hands of friendship and generosity to everyone.

He was an embodiment of profound intellect and deep spirituality. He was neither driven by doom and gloom, nor involved in perpetuating fear or insecurity, rather he sowed the seeds of love for the earth and for all living beings upon it. He put his message in a nutshell: "The earth is not a collection of objects, she is a communion of subjects." He expanded and collaborated this fundamental sutra during his discourse at Schumacher College although he visited the College only once, but the spirit and the vibes he left behind permeate the College through time and through memory. We are fortunate to have had the joy of Thomas Berry's presence at Schumacher College.

At nine, Satish Kumar renounced the world and joined the wandering brotherhood of Jain monks. Dissuaded from his path by an inner voice at the age of eighteen, he left the monastic order and became a campaigner for land reform in India. He undertook an 8,000 mile peace pilgrimage, walking from India to America without any money, through deserts, mountains, storms and snow. In 1973, he settled in England and became Editor of *Resurgence* magazine, a position he continues to hold. He is the founder the Small School in Hartland, a pioneering secondary school, and he teaches at Schumacher College in Dartington, both of which bring into their curricula ecological and spiritual values. He is the author of his autobiography, *No Destination*, and other books.



Thomas at Schumacher College, UK, 2003; photo by Jason Houston.

