

The World in Which My Heart Chooses To Live

Heloise Bloxsom Lynn

Heloise Bloxsom Lynn is a hydrocarbon professional who has worked for thirty years with her husband, Walter, in the oil and gas exploration and development industry. Raised Episcopalian and Hindu and now a Unitarian Universalist, she writes from the Gaia concept (James Lovelock, 1986) and spends as much time as possible outdoors, preferably on horseback.

The Ecozoic is a worldview that describes the world in which my heart chooses to live. There are not many people who could say: “Through the ideas that I was inspired to write down, a new and better worldview is arising.” Thomas Berry is clearly one of those very blessed souls. His writings are inspiring many other articulate intelligent people to think and write, such as Bruce Sanguin, Michael Dowd, Connie Barlow, and many more. Others, like Ken Wilber, offer further insights.

I was very lucky to be able to meet Thomas Berry and speak with him. I’ve often thought: “If I could choose any person to meet, living or departed, who would I choose?” Now I know the answer—I’d choose Thomas Berry. On the occasion of his 93rd birthday, I was lucky enough to join the birthday festivities in his hometown.

I know that our world is evolving, changing and becoming more complex. Life in general keeps experimenting with new and different ways of being, in order to cope with the constant change of climate, air, water, soil, etc., conditions that are present in the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere. The biosphere contains all life on planet earth which evolves or dies. The rocks are littered with past life forms which are no longer here: of all life forms known to have existed on planet earth (from the rock record), over 95% have gone extinct. I interpret this as the dance of life, wherein atoms and molecules are weaving in and out of life forms, like the dance of Shiva, or the dream of Earth.

We are living in the post-hydrocarbon age—even though most people are in massive denial over this fact. The most carefully analyzed and insightful statement of our current condition with regard to world oil production is found in the article by Prof. Christopher Liner (University of Houston), “To peak or not to peak” (*The Leading Edge*, May, 2008, p. 610-612). *The Leading Edge* is a trade journal of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists. Professor Liner shows that plateau oil is 2008 to 2020, wherein the average daily global production of oil from conventional reservoirs will hover sustainably at about 83 million barrels per day (a barrel is about 42 gallons). The world oil production has hovered sustainably at about 83 million barrels per day for the last several years. In about 2020, world oil production should be expected to slowly decrease. Humans can deal with just about anything, so long as they know it is coming. The largest part of the challenge with oil production hitting a plateau is NOT just that global production of oil from conventional reservoirs has plateaued, but that the demand for oil is continuing to increase. This will have the result of increasing the dollar value of oil, which will make the renewable resources (wind, sun, tidal, geothermal) more possible economically. As

my son, Justin, keeps saying, the market forces will shift our civilization onto renewable energy (as in “Mom, there are forces in motion to move us to where we need to be”).

Our sustainable future is to be found in renewable resources as well as buying locally and generating one’s own electricity. We are in the process of shifting our civilization’s power off hydrocarbons to renewable energy. In this process, we *really* need to think carefully about a mutually beneficial, mutually enhancing relationship with all life on planet Earth, as well as with the air (atmosphere), waters (hydrosphere), and soil (lithosphere). My academic training in earth sciences (Ph.D. Geophysics, Stanford Univ., 1980) has enabled me to be a part of the hydrocarbon industry for the last 33 years. By shifting my lifestyle off hydrocarbons as fast as is economically possible, I welcome the opportunity for change in order to be in the vanguard of those living sustainably and renewably. I’m using petro-dollars to build the infrastructure of my post-hydrocarbon-age with the hope that I can demonstrate that this low-carbon lifestyle is sensible, economically prudent, and desirable.

The rising of the world’s oceans due to ice-melt will require rebuilding our cities inland and higher up (at least 300 ft). This is our golden opportunity to build smaller communities that are sustainable, renewable, and manifesting the Ecozoic understanding of how to live well.

Thomas Berry is able to call forth a vision of how things could be. It is rare for one to see so clearly in order that others may see too. Good on you, mate! We are grateful that you so engagingly communicated your vision of how things could be.