

Beauty, Wonder and the Divine in the Simplicity of Nature

Wangari Maathai

Wangari Maathai is the winner of The Nobel Peace Prize of 2004 and Founder of the Green Belt Movement that has mobilized thousands of women to planting more than 30 million trees as a means of conserving the environment and improving their quality of life. In December 2002 Professor Maathai was elected to parliament with an overwhelming 98% of the vote and subsequently appointed by the president as Assistant Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife in Kenya's ninth parliament (2002-2007).



I want to first thank *The Ecozoic* for dedicating a special issue to our dear friend and mentor Thomas Berry. I continue to be greatly inspired by the intellect and depth of Berry's work. In the course of years, he has appealed to all of us to have a special understanding and relationship with nature: to be its custodians.

He continues to be a towering inspiration in my own work where I am often reminded of the need to find beauty, wonder and the divine in the simplicity of nature. As a man of faith, Thomas Berry helps us find the God in each one of us and the role we must play as custodians of the creation. It has always been a privilege to call Thomas Berry my friend and it is my great privilege to express my love and admiration to him in this journal that is devoted to his great works.