

## Ecozoic Stuff

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A friend recently wrote a note asking if I would be doing any “Ecozoic stuff” in the spring. She was referring to the Spring Equinox as an Ecozoic event. With that language, she sparked more thought about the meaning of using the words together. When I think of stuff, objects and items come to mind. Bits and pieces of possessions, and piles of paper in my office are my stuff. I am, in fact, making effort to *release some stuff* from my life. My friend’s question encourages the inquiry: What is Ecozoic?

As an elementary educator for many years, teaching children about “root words” was a priority.

The etymology of words fascinates me because it contributes to my understanding of early linguistics, transmission of language, and the popularization of new words. First heard from Thomas Berry, the word *Ecozoic* was another addition to an eco-vocabulary. Reflecting on its Greek origin, *oikos*, as the household of nature, and *zoikos*, translated to mean living beings, I welcome imagination about humanity becoming our best selves in relationship to future generations of all species, all life forms, and our connection to the cosmos.

There is no certainty that an Ecozoic era will be formalized and be equal to the acknowledged geological periods of history. I believe, however, the term represents the unknown future into which humanity is evolving and emerging. Participating in the Great Work of telling Earth’s story as our story is essential for this transition. Being attentive to and responding to rapid planetary changes demands an unprecedented shift in thinking within the human spirit that impacts all life source systems and all human systemic structures.

What is the stuff of Ecozoic? For me, faith in Divine Presence affirms creative energy within humanity.

I am called to contemplation and action regarding choices that affect future life on Earth. A cosmic worldview qualifies as foundational to scientific and spiritual insights that assist me in being part of evolutionary human consciousness. Total transformation in relationship to

all that has come before, all that exists now, and all that has potential to come forth in the future will be possible only with a radical change in attitude and behavior. Simple, sustainable living is preparation for an Ecozoic future. Dreams and possibilities of sustainable land use, production and consumption of healthy food for wellness and holistic health, renewable energy, purchasing practices, and other lifestyle decisions become realistic criteria for the stuff of Ecozoic.

I consider a spirit of humility as essential to envisioning Ecozoic potential. Humility with its root word, *humus*—the organic part of soil—holds the heart of a new way of being that offers hope for the future. Humility has become more than a virtue for me. It is deep within my spirituality as a Catholic and as a planetary pilgrim. Humility rests at the core of Ecozoic stuff. It is a way of life that speaks of cooperation and partnership rather than domination and manipulation. A humble stance includes a way of relating with reverence and respect toward all life communities, recognizing that all life is sacred.

Entering a process of becoming humble is motivated by a spirituality that promotes right relationships for the common good. For me, a spirit of humility welcomes intimacy permeated with Divine Love. I consider humility as an entry point that identifies justice as a core principle. In my observations, humility involves a sense of vulnerability with the possibility of being changed. As the opposite of arrogance, humility offers a unique contribution to Ecozoic possibilities.

Ecozoic stuff is already within and around us. Perhaps we are experiencing it without knowing it as we seek ancient wisdom as well as technological advances. Pondering what life will be like in an Ecozoic era needs to be balanced with what life will be like if the present path of continued consumerism and devastation of Earth prevails.

The initial question from my friend will continue to nudge me. I think each day contributes to a transition from the Cenozoic into the future. My friend and I, and each of us is urgently called to learn more of Earth's interconnected, self-sustaining, waste-less ways—called to be and do Ecozoic stuff!