

ECONEWS

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THE POWER OF EARTH'S STORY

What's your story? We all carry a story in our heads, whether we are aware of it or not.

How else do we answer those troubling questions – Who are we? What are we doing here? Why is life sometimes such a struggle? And why are we making such a mess of things?

In the olden days, your story might have been about how raven flew down from the sky, and created the world.

Today, more than ever, we need a new story, for we are rushing somewhere at a mighty great speed, killing the fish, cooking the sky, and clearing the forest - but does anyone know where we're going?

Some hide, inventing a story through comic book heroes, drugs, or Second Life. Most people, however, choose one of five stories.

The First Story

A Holy Book tells our story, sent by God to guide us. For some, it is the Koran, the Bhagavad Gita, or the Talmud. For others, it is the New Testament, which tells how God so loved the world that He sent his only son Jesus to save us from our sins. Some hold that Jesus is about to return, and all true believers will be taken up to Heaven in the Rapture, leaving the rest of us to be destroyed.

The Second Story

We humans are muddling along, and not to worry, we'll get there in the end. We just need sound government, lower taxes, and a good business environment, so that the economy can grow and everyone can have a corner of the Earth where they can raise their kids in peace, and go fishing at the end of the day. Recessions come and go, and most environmentalists' concerns have proven to be wrong. If you work hard and lead a responsible life, this world is a great place to be. We should give thanks for it every day, and defend it hard against all who seek to destroy it.

The Third Story

Something's profoundly wrong with the way we humans live, taking what we want and just discarding our wastes. We're technologically clever and financially skillful, but ever since we took up the plough, we've been ecologically illiterate. Maybe it would be good if we became extinct – then we could leave this beautiful Earth to the beavers and the fir trees. We behave like a cancer, consuming the body we dwell on. We allow big money to ruin the Earth, and big corporations to rape and ransack it. No wonder elephants rage, and rainforests weep. Ours is not an encouraging story – for humans are not an encouraging species. Ecological collapse is inevitable.



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The Fourth Story

We live at a time of incredible challenges – but we should never give up. We have come a long way, and in spite of our cruelty, pride, and many foolishnesses we have made great progress. We have ended slavery in most of the developed world. We have overthrown kings and tyrants. We have created democracy. We have established human rights for many people, and abolished many of the sicknesses that used to plague our world. We have developed a scientific way of thinking, and created technologies that have helped us end poverty – not yet for all, but compared to the way our ancestors lived, for many. Now we face a huge new challenge, to learn to live in harmony

with the Earth, and all species. This will mean a complete turnaround in habits we take for granted, and ending the abusive power of corporations that are wrecking the Earth - but if we build a movement strong enough, as we have done before, we can do it. Earth's children *know* things must be different. Millions of people know it. Another world is possible. We *can* fashion a world without fossil fuels, in which all people have fulfilling work. We *can* craft treaties to save the oceans – but we have to work fast, for time is chronically short, and global warming is currently out of control.

The Fifth Story

As humans, we are the inheritors of all evolution. We live at the threshold of the most amazing breakthrough history has ever know. It is only 40 years since we saw our planet from space, and we are already becoming a global civilization. All around the world, human consciousness is evolving beyond religion, race, and nation. When we meet each other from the heart, it is clear that WE ARE ONE – all humans, all animals, all Nature. As long as we get engaged to tackle the present urgent crisis, which represents the collapse of the old, pre-unity approach to life, we will survive to become a species that cares for and loves the Earth. Compared to what lies ahead, our past has been our kindergarten years. We have urgent problems to overcome – but by working together as a planet we can create a world beyond poverty, beyond war, beyond ecological abuse. We hold the young buds of an astonishing future our hands. A new spirituality is being born, without the old religious bonds. When we embrace the new understandings about healing, quantum connections, and the power of intention, astonishing possibilities appear. The time is *now*.

Which is your story?

Guy Dauncey