

“In My Own Words” — NATURE IS SACRED

by Alick Bartholomew

Many years ago, when I was doing my army National Service, I was stationed in the Scottish Highlands near Inverness, where the minister of the High Kirk was a remarkable man called Rory Murchison, an untypical highland churchman. We would go walking on the Speyside hills. Rory inspired me with his profound knowledge of how all of Nature is filled with the spirit of God, from the immovable rock to the deer roaming the hills, and the clouds above our heads. I realised that I knew this in my heart.

I seemed to be born with a purpose to reconcile knowledge of the natural world with spiritual experience. Not such a strange thing, for in years not so long ago, the priest was also the scientist. It is only the last 400 years that have seen the great schism between thinking and experience, between the head and the heart. And with this split came our final separation with Nature, with our real community and the source of our being.

Most of the books I chose to publish seemed to relate to the search for truth about ourselves and our world being really a spiritual journey. It was in 1979, well on in my publishing career that I was given a book in Swedish about the extraordinary life and work of the Austrian naturalist Viktor Schauberger; here was something special I had to publish. *Living Water* is still many people's favourite introduction to his Science of Nature. As a result of this book, Callum Coats contacted me; he had spent three years in Austria studying with Viktor's son Walter.

I commissioned Callum to write *Living Energies*, a major book on Viktor Schauberger's work, which took 18 years to write and which was followed by the *Eco-Technology series*, four volumes of Viktor's own writing, that Callum translated and edited. Twenty-three years after my first contact with Viktor's work, I realised that his insights had to be made available to a wider audience, so my own book *Hidden Nature* was born.

Viktor's research began by studying the fast flowing streams in the unspoilt Austrian Alps, where he worked as a forest warden. From his insights into water as a living organism, which he called “the blood of the Earth” came his nickname “the Water Wizard”. He became a self-trained engineer, eventually learning through the implosive or centripetally moving processes that **he discovered** Nature uses (which we don't!), how to release energy 127 times more powerful than conventional power generation.

Bellamy and Attenborough love to illustrate their tv documentaries with descriptions of the intricate interdependencies of an insect on a plant, of one animal on another, and the essential playfulness of Nature, so you think ‘that can't have happened by chance!’? What really excited me about Schauberger's science is it's uncompromising explanation of this as a sacred process.

Viktor describes Nature as purposeful, and evolution as the continual refinement of energies to promote greater complexity of inter-relationships, to facilitate the emergence, and to raise the consciousness, of higher life forms. All of creation is imbued with spirit, and you find that even a stone displays a living energy. Nature is the mirror of the supreme consciousness, and Schauberger recognised in her the kind of omnipotence that our religions ascribe to God. This is little different to what humanity has believed through 99% of our time on Earth, but its implications for our present civilization are enormous. We need to accept that we are indeed part of Nature, and subject to her laws.

This is so contrary to the scepticism of our current materialistic science, which has no room for meaning and purpose, though the winds of change are stirring. Science has begun to rediscover holism, particularly in quantum physics and holistic biology. Our science recognises certain natural laws which apply to the material world, but fails to see that they often become invalid

in a energy dimension higher than the physical. The Second Law of Thermodynamics, for example, says that all systems degenerate into chaos. Schauberger discovered that a system can in fact generate energy spontaneously, and once started, no further energy input is necessary. This was the basis of his 'free energy' machines.

Viktor was much influenced by Theosophical thinking, from which derives his hierarchy of energies and consciousness. We inhabit the physical, third dimensional level, and we can become aware of the greater insights of higher levels like the 4th and 5th, only by raising our consciousness. Viktor continually remonstrated that, in order to understand Nature, we have to "think an octave higher".

Schauberger describes how Nature requires a state of balance between species, between different qualities of energy and between environments. Yin and yang, negative and positive, feminine and masculine are always present in Nature's processes. For creative evolution to proceed, all processes should be weighted towards the yin or feminine. For the last 3,000 years, and increasingly in the last centuries, human society has been out of balance, operating in a predominantly masculine mode. There should be this weighted balance between chaos and order, egoism and altruism, quantity and quality (the last a particular confusion of our present society!) . . . and so on.

Life forms respond to each other by means of resonance, 'Gaia's glue'. It is the language of communication and response. Resonance is what holds Nature together; it is the law of attraction, bringing the lichen to the rock, the orchid to the tree, the butterfly to the buddleia. The quality of life is supported by vibrational energy. Schauberger showed how, when this energy is compromised, environmental decline sets in.

All life is in motion, the quality of the movement determining whether a process is life-enhancing or for breaking down or recycling. Temperature is Nature's catalyst: small changes in temperature, and whether falling or rising, also determines quality enhancement or degeneration.

Water is like a magnetic tape; it can carry information that may either enhance *or* degrade the quality of organisms. Passionate about trees, he warned that deforestation would deplete the world of water and destroy fertility, causing deserts and climatic chaos. It is the medium that supports, maintains and regulates life. *Natural* forests are the cradle of high quality water; loss of forest means loss of water. Our failure to understand the need to protect the quality of water is the principle cause of environmental degradation on this planet.

There is no morality in Nature, whose evolutionary imperative is part of the Divine Master Plan of creation. Similarly, Nature's cosmic face, Gaia, is required by the Plan to ensure the most favourable environment for life on Earth, despite the Sun's inconsistent output of energy. The Divine experiment to grant humans free will, self-reflection and a moral sensibility seems to have required periodic visitations by emissaries of the Supreme Intelligence to keep us from straying too far from a path of moral rectitude.

Schauberger's insights into how Nature works are essential to show us where we have gone wrong and to indicate the way ahead. "How else should it be done?", he was often asked. His answer was straightforward and uncompromising — "Exactly the opposite way that it is done today!"