

Letter to World Citizens

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When first in India in 1956, I heard the phrase, "Water is God on earth." Years later, a French scientist, Henri Spindler, gave me Theodor Schwenk's book "Sensitive Chaos" (Rudolph Steiner Press, 1965) outlining his famous water experiments at the Goethe Institute near Basel, Switzerland. Through rigorous scientific experiments involving photographs of the final configurations of drops of water from numerous sources, natural and municipal, Schwenk had proven that water "died" when piped or bottled. It not only lost its oxygen content, he claimed, but its vital "interfaces," as he called them, where life energy or "prana" as the Hindus called the life force, were stored.

I was then a Culligan distributor for the Haut-Rhin, France with offices in Mulhouse. Water treatment was my business. I also sold water softeners in famous spas in the Vosges: Vittel and Contrexaville. Ironically, while their factories were filling and shipping millions of bottles of heavy mineralized water to all parts of the world, the mayors of both towns along with many of their fellow citizens softened their household water with Culligan appliances.

Spindler had developed a machine for re-energizing water with high voltage current and gold and mercury filaments as well as sterilizing it with ozone. As 75% of communicable diseases are transmitted by water, I helped him develop it hoping eventually to manufacture and sell it worldwide. We called it the Planetron.

These activities opened my eyes to water's sovereignty on earth. The fact that the earth's surface is over 70% water and our bodies contain approximately 70% water is perhaps no mere coincidence. One can not think of a more universal and uniting fact except maybe Life itself.

Water "rights" have been the subject of disputes and even wars from ancient history. The pollution of rivers by one group - the Rhine is a classic example - is condemned by all groups downstream whatever their nationality, religion or color. Disputes over water, for instance, rank high on the agenda at the Mideast peace meetings. World Bank officials believe that both Jordan and Israel will exhaust their renewable water resources by 1995. Turkish dams control the Euphrates River which supplies water for Syria's Assad Dam. Syria, meanwhile, draws water at Jordan's expense from the Yarmuk River.

Water and peace are closely related. Both "belong" to humankind. Both are global in character, supply and service. They can only be dealt with globally for the good of each and all. The sages of old referred to water as "the Ancient One." And baptism in both East and West is a water ritual. Our planet is blessed as no other planet we know.

"The health of the global water system rooted in the ocean is vital to the future welfare of our planet" wrote Jacques Costeau in Random House's Atlas of the Oceans. While pointing out that the rate of environmental devastation is alarming, and that "we who love the sea...do not command the money or the power of even a single major multinational corporation," Costeau confidently contends that "to stop this stupidity" "we can wield the formidable power of our numbers, the strength of a great unified crowd of citizens of the planet"

So citizenship and water are now dynamically linked as both are global in concept, service and power. In Utopia or Oblivion, Buckminster Fuller called both the pirates and whales the "first world citizens."

If indeed "Water is God on earth," then it is blasphemous to pollute or waste it. It is wise instead to revere it as a priceless heritage without which neither you nor I nor humanity nor indeed any species can survive much less prosper.

Without its blessed water base Planet Earth itself will "die."

We humans then will be literally cosmic murderers.

Only global management can prevent that unthinkable crime.