

**Finding sources to live sustainably
How to live without our modern debt of significance and energy?**

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1. Crisis of material consumption for non-material needs

The current global social and environmental crisis is created by global elite's life of modern consumption.

This consumption, even though it is material consumption, is not based on material needs.

We could survive quite well materially without much of this material consumption, most of which is consumed for non-material needs. We destroy the world thus by material consumption which is not needed for material needs.

This material consumption wastes the sources of life's basic material needs becoming consumed for such needs for which one would not necessarily need material consumption.

The heritage of sustainable societies has uphold access of wide diversity of life to Earth's soil, forest, water, air and their biodiversity, the commercial control of which now however displaces and consumes away the access and regeneration of this sustainable diversity of life.

The commodification of land, forest, water, air and their biodiversity has reduced them to become measured and treated as mere chemical and organic processes, which are commercially controlled and exchangeable to energy they transfer for the commodity consumption.

2. What makes us to over-consume – as parasites of significance

What makes us to continue this needless and unsustainable material over-consumption ?

One cause is that people are given more rights to such wasteful consumption than to sustainable realisation of people's equal basic material needs.

But if people would feel life being adequately significant without such consumption, they would not need to waste time and resources for it.

We are however taught to live by consuming from the world significance as modified for the modern sense perceptibility and to depend on common consumption of such ready-made significance. We are not taught to live by creating, finding or bringing to the world wider new significance.

To be proper for common decisions, things are required to be controlled by modern senses, clarified as perceptible and ready for being consumed by them as exchange valued properties.

Modern common sense is set to treat things as proper thus as commodified for being sensed in modern ways - clarified for and controlled by our modern common affairs' decisions.

Modern social life depends thus on consumption for its common sense perceptibility and understandability even where there is no material need for such consumption. Consumption is demanded for the social needs of significance being transferred from others for the life of global elite:

How we can grab things easily to consume them as clarifying for our modern senses, makes often things just more difficult for more sustainable other ways of life. Thus something significant is taken from the sustainable life of others to be consumed to such significance for our modern senses, which is set as a condition for treating things of other heritages in modern public consideration.

The material consumption functions as the means to exploit that significance of world's life, which has been created by others – as we prefer not to make our life significant by our own efforts.

The modern world is constituted by our debt of significance and energy. Making things clear and easy for our modern senses and measures has treated and consumed the Earth and its life as chemical/organic energies and has displaced life's sustainable diversity's access to its sources - of land, forest, water and air.

3. Energy as a source of modern inefficiency

The way how the modern world and its 'science of nature' understand and treat the Earth and its life as physico-geological and bio-chemical processes of energy to commodify them, has led to a widening planetary crisis.

How is it that world's only culture or practice, which has led to global environmental crisis, is this prevailing modernity, even though it has its major scientific measurements on nature, biology, ecology and on their relation to energy of the organic and chemical processes ?

Through applied measures of natural science, not only significance but also energy which majority of world's peoples has widely used to more sustainable life, are counted as void or without any value in themselves - while this significance and energy are however transferred by global commodification to be consumed for significance and purposes of our privileged modern senses.

After being transferred for purposes of our modern senses and purposes, the significance and energy are again authorised to have high value of being consumed by us. We should pay back this our debt from consuming the significance and energy of other people's sustainable life for the wasteful over-consuming elitist purposes and senses of our modern life.

Earth makes energy for maintaining life available for all beings through endless sunlight, growth of plants & trees, flowing streams, winds, rains, etc. But the life, livelihood and work which all this sustains by energy, is however counted as zero 'energy production' as far as it is not commercially controlled.

Calculations of energy required to produce each thing we need, do not usually mean all energy needed for the things. Only such energy which commodifies the surrounding world to be consumed according to commercial control is currently measured and counted as energy produced.

How is the modern treatment of the commodification of things as 'energy' related to our debt on significance of life and to the overall global crisis ?

People used to live quite sustainably by vast amount of energy of endless things which are now displaced by different modes of so-called 'production of energy' (coal, gas, oil, dams, biofuel plantations, etc.). If we take into account the energy of all things which people could have used to live and which would have been there, but which each power plant displaces, so each power plant transforms a lot of energy away from various practices, how the energy would have been useful for sustainable human life.

The more directly people can find all things they need for their life from the energy of Earth's own regeneration, the less that can be calculated as commercially profitable energy – since why would anyone pay for anything which everybody can find available from surroundings without payment.

But when such energy is made unavailable for sustainable life through commercial control which restricts the energy to become available only for the needs of the few, who can pay for it, only that becomes calculated as valuable 'energy production' – even though it would provide less energy for sustainable life.

There does not exist much verification whether or how much so-called 'energy production' really produces any energy and how far it rather just transfers energy into more commercially controlled form in which less people can use it to live sustainably.

We would need to count not only the energy under the commercial industrial control of commodity production but equally all energy utilised and sustained for things and needs of human life also in other practices of subsistence.

4. Mitigating adaptation to the crisis supports profiting by the crisis

Modern culture and its 'science of nature' have developed most measurements and methods to understand how we should treat and save the 'nature' - and still with all this, it is this culture which has brought most global destruction of the environment.

With all its data it seems unable to stop its continuing destruction of the Earth and searches even the solutions only from options of continuing to expand the technical measures of commodification - which have created the crisis.

So to act on global climate change crisis, now even the air is commodified under the commercial control – with measures which claim to restrict emissions but which do not factually restrict the emissions-causing consumption, which is the only source of man-made climate change.

How emissions rise in reality “is dependent on emissions from ... imported goods being counted” while “at the moment they are excluded under the internationally-agreed system for carbon accounts.” So “the production has shifted to countries where manufacturing is more carbon intensive”.

"The UK's apparently virtuous carbon cuts have only been achieved because we are getting countries like China to do our dirty work" "this allows them to be blamed for increasing their CO2 emissions on our behalf." (BBC, 31.7.08 on 'delusion' over emissions: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7536421.stm>)

The responsibility from the emissions of our consumption is shifted away from our shoulders, who cause the emissions.

Through rich countries' emission quotas and climate trading, the emissions-causing consumption is not restricted but the emissions-causing polluting industries are just made to be more competitive to be located to the South to produce to the North.

There is "an increase in the volume and diversity of products being imported." "Under internationally agreed methodology, emissions from international... imports are not included in a country's greenhouse gas statistics". UK's " consumer-based GHG emissions are 49% higher than... Kyoto-reported emissions" (BBC, 31.7.08:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7536421.stm>)

The crisis keeps on just growing by such correcting measures of adaption to that what creates the crisis and by public funds financed 'mitigation' of the impacts of pollution caused by the private-profiting. This makes the pollution even more profitable.

Why should we keep on searching the solutions only by continuing the same commodification approach which has brought this crisis ?

Why should not we rather aim to search the solutions from those ways of understanding and treating the Earth and its life which have been indigenously adapted to sustain the regeneration of Earth's life ?

5. How to learn on sustainable life

People who have most modern education on 'science' of 'nature', on biology and ecology are consuming the most and destroy environment the most.

But people who do not have such modern knowledge of ecology or biology are able to live more sustainably in practice.

Other cultures have lived more sustainably without the modern ways of understanding, treating or preserving the environment.

How are their ways of understanding and treating Earth's life different - and more sustainable than our modern ways ?

For our modern culture, the wild forest and the culture are opposites: Homes are not forest but exclude the forest; the wild growth of forest is the opposite of the home.

Similarly for us also agriculture means displacement of the wild growth of plants and forests and re-organising the land to grow what is planted there.

So wild growth of forests, plants, etc. is something from which our home, cultivation and human culture in general, separate themselves.

But many other peoples treat the wild forest as their home, cultivating within the wild growth of the vegetation.

Earth's regeneration as growth of wild biodiversity has been displaced by modern homes, cultivations, production and culture but not by indigenous homes, cultivations, subsistence production and culture as they are adapted to live with wild biodiversity.

They build the human culture as an integral part of the regeneration of wild forest and have been living thus for millenniums in a sustainable way. We could learn from those different heritages who

have been more self-sustainable.

What are the sustainable less-consuming alternatives for the current overconsuming of land, forest, water and air by commercial ownership control, energy production and commodification by technically authorised treatment of the Earth ?

6. Living by finding - within Earth's regeneration, without commodification

People have around the world lived indigenously with Earth's wild growth and life by sustaining and coaxing it to regenerate so that people can find how to live within it - without displacing Earth's life for production.

When Earth's life can be coaxed to regenerate in a way from which people can find things which signify something by which they can live, how much do such things require energy ?

As far as people find such things by which they can live from that how Earth's life regenerates itself, so far one could say that no energy is needed to produce these things by which people live, as such things already grow on Earth.

But as those things have raised up as a result of all what has happened in the world, thus quite infinite energy of all what has happened in the world has influenced those things to raise up exactly in the way they did.

World's various heritages which have been sustainable as indigenously adapted to live in dialogic relation with the land, forest, water, trees, plants, stones, etc., bring to these some significance from themselves. They live less dependent on commodified consumption of energy.

Cultures which are indigenously adapted to Earth's life, show to us that people can live more by significance which they bring to (be found in) the world and not by what they consume from the world.

What people can find in surrounding Earth's regeneration as renewable source for what signifies their life - is life of their land in a sense how they belong to the earth, to the life of that land, rather than in a sense of owning the land. The way how land is their own land, means that how they belong to that land rather than that how land would belong to them as their commercial property.

People can thus live more by finding what signifies something livable surrounding them - rather than by controlling, owning, producing or consuming things as property. People can contribute to the significance of Earth as common source and home for all what grows upon it and for how all things live together upon it. For each place where something can grow, people can find and build significance as a source and home of life of what grows there. People can build also their own life in relation to that how the Earth opens up as living space for all beings, each finding its place upon the Earth, to grow as and where they grow.

People can give thus something to that how the mountain is mountain, how river is river, how stone is stone, etc. bringing more livable significance to become found in the surrounding world.

Our modern understanding and its 'science of nature' prohibit this - saying that the stone is what it is and you cannot and should not add anything from yourself to that how stone is what it is.

We have thus denied the tasks how we should bring some significance to land, forest, water, stone etc.. So we just consume the significance which is there as already available on Earth as inherited from our ancestors, but we do not give anything back.

The ways how the world around us is targeted for being observed, sensed and acted as initiated by our ancestors, have left the traces to that how it can be observed and acted today. In this how the world remains targeted for being observed, sensed and acted, our ancestors continue to signify in our surrounding environment. They help the Earth to grow in such ways that we can find upon it what we need.

Many indigenous peoples have lived by Earth's own regeneration of its life of plants, trees, waters, animals treating these as their sisters, ancestors or otherwise equal beings, not displacing or exchanging them to artificial products like commercial modern world does.

But commercial production and consumption lives by displacing Earth's own life of wild biodiversity regeneration, to which people's less commercial life has indigenously adapted itself. Now the monopoly of determining the significance of environment is given to applications of science by technology and markets. This way how modern understanding treats the Earth, has led to global destruction and we need to learn from more sustainable heritages of Earth's life.

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