

# Thomas Berry

## Quotes

*Earth, Community, Spiritual, Nature, Life, World, Moving, Environmental, Stars,  
Expression, Space, Self, Integrity, Wind, Peace, Future, Creativity, Animal,  
Reality, Religious*

Teaching children about the natural world should be seen as one of the most important events in their lives.

~Thomas Berry

The divine communicates to us primarily through the language of the natural world. Not to hear the natural world is not to hear the divine.

~Thomas Berry

We lose our souls if we lose the experience of the forest, the butterflies, the song of the birds, if we can't see the stars at night.

~Thomas Berry

The destiny of humans cannot be separated from the destiny of earth.

~Thomas Berry

Gardening is an active participation in The deepest mysteries of the universe.

~Thomas Berry

We are not lacking in the dynamic forces needed to create the future. We live immersed in a sea of energy beyond all comprehension.

~Thomas Berry

The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects.

~Thomas Berry

As humans we are born of the Earth, nourished by the Earth, healed by the Earth.

~Thomas Berry

The environmental crisis is fundamentally a spiritual crisis.

~Thomas Berry

The greater the diversity, the greater the perfection.

~Thomas Berry

The universe is the primary revelation of the divine, the primary scripture, the primary locus of divine-human communication.

~Thomas Berry

Our fulfillment is not in our isolated human grandeur, but in our intimacy with the larger earth community, for this is also the larger dimension of our being.

~Thomas Berry

Diversity is the magic. It is the first manifestation, the first beginning of the differentiation of a thing and of simple identity. The greater the diversity, the greater the perfection.

~Thomas Berry

If the earth does grow inhospitable toward human presence, it is primarily because we have lost our sense of courtesy toward the earth and its inhabitants.

~Thomas Berry

We will go into the future as a single sacred community, or we will all perish in the desert.

~Thomas Berry

Vegetarianism is a way of life that we should all move toward for economic survival, physical well-being and spiritual integrity.

~Thomas Berry

All human activities, professions, programs, and institutions must henceforth be judged primarily by the extent to which they inhibit, ignore, or foster a mutually enhancing human/Earth relationship.

~Thomas Berry

The reduction of the earth to an object simply for human's use/ possession is unthinkable in most traditional cultures... the earth belongs to itself and to all the component members of the community.

~Thomas Berry

The Great Work - the work of ensuring a just, healthy, beautiful, and sustainably life-giving world for future generations of all species.

~Thomas Berry

In our totality we are born of the Earth. Our spirituality itself is earth-derived... If there is no spirituality in the earth, then there is no spirituality in ourselves

~Thomas Berry

You cannot have well people on a sick planet.

~Thomas Berry

From a large planet of overwhelming magnitude, unlimited resources and endless mystery, the Earth has suddenly become a small planet, thoroughly explored, limited in resources, and reduced in mystery.

~Thomas Berry

The real skill is to raise the sails and to catch the power of the wind as it passes by.

~Thomas Berry

Once you adopt and communicate a quality policy, stick with it, live it, and protect it. You get only one chance!

~Thomas Berry

Everything is integral and interacts with everything else. This means that nothing is itself without everything else. There is a commonality, an integrity, an intimacy of the universe with itself.

~Thomas Berry

The present urgency is to begin thinking within the context of the whole planet, the integral earth community with all its human and other-than-human components.

~Thomas Berry

We see quite clearly that what happens to the nonhuman, happens to the human. What happens to the outer world, happens to the inner world.

~Thomas Berry

We must now understand that our own well-being can be achieved only through the well-being of the entire natural world around us.

~Thomas Berry

Survival in any meaningful sense is the key issue of our time

~Thomas Berry

Scientists have suddenly become aware of the magic quality of the Earth and the entire universe.

~Thomas Berry

Even as regards Earth we are more committed to history than to geography, more committed to time than to space. History is endless. Place is limited.

~Thomas Berry

The success or failure of any historical age is the extent to which those living at that time have fulfilled the special role that history has imposed upon them.

~Thomas Berry

Because of this erotic bond, the earth becomes luxuriant in its every aspect.

~Thomas Berry

It is false to say that humanity is the most excellent being in the universe. The most excellent being in the universe is the universe itself.

~Thomas Berry

The earth will solve its problems, and possibly our own, if we will let the earth function in its own ways. We need only listen to what the earth is telling us.

~Thomas Berry

Of all the issues we are concerned with at present, the most basic issue, in my estimation, is that of human-earth relations.

~Thomas Berry

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