

## 2021 Harmony with Nature – Theme: Earth Jurisprudence

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### **1. What would the practice of Holistic Science look like from an Earth Jurisprudence perspective? How is that different from how Holistic Science is generally practiced now? And, what are the benefits of practicing Holistic Science from an Earth Jurisprudence perspective?**

The practice of Holistic Science from Earth's Jurisprudence perspective is something that Humanity has been long aware of since ancient times. However, from today's modern perspective, it has come to be considered a vision which has fallen into oblivion. Such a whole and organic view of the universe can be found in both Eastern and Western philosophies. Buddhism also has a holistic view, and we can find similar thoughts to organic holism in 'Middle Way' and 'The Book of Change'.

Similarly, in the West, this perspective can be seen in Aristotle's study of Metaphysics and Alfred North Whitehead's Philosophy of Organism. According to Whitehead's Philosophy of Organism, Nature is not just a collection of fixed laws and phenomena, but a continuous evolutionary process, where the world is a reality and a process, a prolonged system in which real beings become the cause and effect of creation and extinction. I believe that the holistic view of Nature reflects this idea.

However, our way of thinking has historically been fragmented through processes of differentiation. Academic fields have been differentiated and divided into specific categories and social systems, such as political and economic systems, have been divided into specific types as well. Throughout this process, it became more difficult to see and understand Nature as a whole, a holistic system in which constituents closely and constantly interact and influence each other. The idea that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" has long been accepted as truth, but we've lost this way of thinking through the process of differentiation in history.

Moreover, humans on Earth now hesitate to answer the question of whether humans are part of Nature. It is also not easy to answer whether viruses inside humans are part of Nature or not. At some point we became used to limiting Nature as something that we are protected from or something that we must protect, rather than accepting it as a holistic system in which we are a part of.

Human beings are but a constituent of the entire Earth and the life of every constituent of Earth are bound to be affected and influenced by the existence or behavior of other constituents. The welfare of each constituent of Earth is thereby inevitably linked to Earth's whole welfare. Implementing Holistic Science from Earth jurisprudence level would provide a holistic approach to determining mankind's position within the holistic system of Earth, as well as to how its action and behavior affect other animate and inanimate constituents of Earth.

**2. What promising approaches would you recommend for achieving implementation of an Earth-centered worldview for Holistic Science? (Note: depending on the discipline, approaches could also be theoretical, although practical approaches should be prioritized).**

I think it is necessary to change from individual-oriented thinking to systemic thinking and from fragmented thinking to organic thinking in order to realize the Earth-centered worldview for Holistic Science. Furthermore, I think we must also promote the understanding of Earth as a complex system.

Besides, it is time to break free from narrow visions set only on the present and shortsighted thoughts regarding the future that limit the organization of our educational, political and economic systems. We require a great transition, shifting towards an Earth-centered space-time scale thinking from existing anthropocentric space-time scale thinking based on economics and politics, recognizing mankind as an organic constituent of Earth, as well as its place in the history of planet Earth.

Such transition must first begin in the field of education and politics. Education is a path that can deeply plant a shift in perception and lawmaking in the field of politics is the tool to put it into practice.

International solidarity among nations is also important in the global society that we live in, as it will draw the attention of all citizens when this matter rises as a core task for the global community. It would serve as an essential foothold for a shift in awareness and perception and the effects of said shift must consecutively reach our economic systems.

We must also remember our task at hand. There are currently hundreds of international environmental agreements. Nonetheless, environmental pollution isn't decreasing, one of the reasons being that there are many international economic agreements and related organizations that work against them with much greater influence. The transition to a systemized Earth-centered thinking is bound to encounter adverse reactions and resistance from existing economic systems, which will be incomparably greater to those encountered with environmental treaties and conventions.

Truth be told, worries and doubts exist regarding whether mankind could get through it. However, the inhabitants of this planet are already standing at a critical point and the range of choices that they can make at the edge of a precipice have been narrowed down to two.

**3. What key problems or obstacles do you see as impeding the implementation of an Earth-centered worldview in Holistic Science?**

As I see it, some of the main obstacles hindering the take of an Earth-centered worldview in Holistic Science are; firstly, the human species that produce, consume and discard waste to satisfy their 'relative needs' as opposed to the rest of species, secondly, the existing anthropocentric shortsighted economic system, and thirdly, the political and social perceptions supporting that system.

One could wonder whether mankind would be able adopt an Earth-centered worldview given these facts. They could possibly do so, or it could simply be that it is too late should things have surpassed the tipping point. Whatever the case may be, the transition towards

Earth-centered thinking is bound to occur, as mankind thinks of turning from their ways when it reaches a cliff. I believe that point to be now.

Earth has been in strong conflict for hundreds of years with a single species, humans, that caused unparalleled changes in global environment compared to any other species that appeared in its billion-year long history.

Be that during the Industrial Revolution, the implementation of massive production systems, or the emergence of capitalism, which is a significantly short time compared to Earth's history, the enormous human impact on Earth has reached from pole to pole, affecting the entire globe and destroying the ozone layer several kilometers above. And what is more, certain air polluting substances from man-made airframes stay in the atmosphere for thousands of years. This isn't the only thing that escapes our generation's span of control. Several other wastes, including plastic, are now turning now into fossils and scientists are having their voices insisting on the Anthropocene matter.

**4. What are the top recommendations for priority, near-term action to move Holistic Science toward an Earth Jurisprudence approach? What are the specific, longer-term priorities for action? (Note: give 3 to 10 priorities for action).**

For near-term measures, we must, first, prioritize informing the public about unfamiliar topics of Earth Jurisprudence and Holistic Science. This must be planned as both near-term and long-term programs. On one side, YouTube and Instagram are rather good ways to propagate information near-term; on the other, there is a need for long-term educational programs to widen means of approach to Earth Jurisprudence, focusing on formal elementary and secondary education.

Secondly, efforts should be made within the political sphere. As a near-term strategy, we must have politicians to consider including these in their propagandistic agendas, while continuing in the search for ways to comprise lawmaking in the long term. Our current legal systems are anthropocentric, which could be said to have caused the present environmental crisis. Therefore, it is vital to either inform and persuade politicians to consider the Earth Jurisprudence approach, or find political aspirants who are already willing to do so.

Thirdly, there is the near-term option in which the United Nations concedes the opportunity of active advertising to business firms with an eco-friendly mindset. I believe this method could contribute to changing the perceptions of the global society.

Fourthly, ways in which Earth Jurisprudence and Holistic Science can be reflected in economic activities must be sought in order to see a dramatic effect in the long term. Regarding this, the feasibility of an economy in a 'steady state' that emphasizes qualitative growth could possibly become a fundamental challenge.