

Compassionate Action

Knowing what to do without acting upon it creates an imbalance. If we continue to deepen our understanding of the suffering of the Earth Interbeing without acting to further life on Earth, our knowing what to do collapses into ignorance. At the root of this imbalance, we find the hidden influence of the sacred.

We naturally have compassion for the suffering of life and Earth. Because we have investigated the causes of suffering, we know that the Western culture of capitalism has the largest responsibility for the ongoing destruction of other cultures, life, and the Earth. This critically imbalanced situation requires extraordinary measures to rebalance the forces in play.

Life on Earth cries out for relief from its suffering. Yet we fearfully refrain from acting upon knowing what we must do. We who cause the suffering hide behind our pitiful excuses and rationalizations for our inaction. Our unwillingness to give up the inequality of our privileges and imagined liberties to consume as much as we can binds us to the omniscidal ways of capitalism. We cannot know how to rescue the Earth Interbeing from collapse if we persist in viewing the world through a Western mindset and treat others, life, and the Earth as disposable objects.

The compassionate take responsibility for their contributions in causing the suffering, as miniscule as they might be. Thus, before we respond to suffering, we first remove how we have contributed to causing the other to suffer. Only by living the sacred ways of humbleness, respect, and caring can we compassionately bring into life the knowing of how to act out of our inner sacredness. The compassionate vigilantly guards against harming others and vow to further life on Earth.

Once freed from their willingness to harm others for self-benefit, we can more clearly discern how to reduce the suffering of others. We no longer seek to protect our self-interests, that which obscures knowing what to do. Instead of responding in ways that impose self-centered values upon the other, our compassion acts in ways that bring the sacred values to life and then take responsibility for our actions.

Our actions go beyond what Western culture considers normal, yet they clearly point to relieving the suffering of life and Earth. If our actions hit the mark of our intentions, then we can persist in that direction. If our translation of what we know into action does not meet our intentions, then we learn from our mistakes by making needed amends, deepening our spiritual beings, and trying again.

To be in accord with the time, the compassionate offer themselves to transform the trajectory of our time because of the grave consequences if we do not. We must resist the dangerous temptation to stay within the apparent safety of knowing without acting on what we know. Only movement will get us out of this critically imbalanced time. By doing nothing or not enough, we lose all the fruits of our knowing. Though great, the compassionate have the capability of smallness and the flexibility to fulfill their responsibilities of caring for the Earth Interbeing.

We stand tall in not yielding to the temptations of our self-cherishing or self-righteousness. The compassionate have the strength to stand alone and fearlessly bear the disapproval of others. We follow the sacred and not the crowd. In the time of compassionate action, nothing but firm inner strength will do.

The compassionate further life on Earth fully knowing that it will change their lives to do so. We make the leap from knowing into compassionate action because of our faith in the sacred knowing. Certainly, great temptations urge us to turn our back on the uncertain consequences of our actions and to the apparent safety of our known circumstances. However, to succumb to such urges would spoil all the fruits of our past endeavors on the sacred path. We sacrifice our reluctance to change to attain the enormously worthwhile goal of furthering life on Earth.

We need to courageously show the world what we have learned. The wise bring to the world the sacred ways and do not worry about the reactions of those who have not yet freed themselves from their self-centeredness. If blocked from action by our inner fears, we will come to regret having missed the opportunity to fulfill our duty to care for the sacred Earth Interbeing. We must have faith in the transformative power of caring for others, life, and the Earth upon ourselves and the world. Just do it!

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