

DEAR PEOPLE OF THE WORLD,

WE HUMAN BEINGS STILL THINK WE'RE SO SUPERIOR. OUR MIRROR CAN'T BE BIG ENOUGH. EVERY MORNING, WE INJECT OURSELVES WITH A HEARTY DOSE OF PEP TALK. "RISE AND SHINE", JUST TO BE SURE. WELL, I CALL IT A NARCISSISTIC PERSONALITY DISORDER. I DON'T WANT TO BE HUMAN ANY LONGER.

OUR MIRROR REFLECTS OUR PAST AND PRESENT, OUR NEVER ENDING GREED. I LOATHE THE DAY WE BECAME THE DOMINANT SPECIES AS WE SEEM UNABLE TO HANDLE THIS POWER. WHEN I WAS 16, AND IN MY HORMONAL TEEN YEARS, I NEVER FELT 'HUMAN' AND I NEVER WANTED TO RELATE. I WAS LOST. AS I WAS BULLIED THROUGHOUT MY YOUTH ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, PEOPLE BECAME 'DUMB-FUCKS' TO ME. SO, I ENDED UP READING A LOT.

MAINLY SCI-FI, ANOTHER GALAXY WAS A NICE FORM OF ESCAPISM. BUT I ALSO READ THE 'BORING' ONES: SCIENCE, RELIGION, LIFESTYLE... TODAY, I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND MY PLACE IN THE SOCIETY I'M LIVING IN.

CIVILISATION, AS I SEE IT, GATHERS CLUSTERS OF IDEAS TOGETHER THAT WE THINK ARE TRUE. WHEN PEOPLE GET TOGETHER, I NEVER FOLLOW THEIR ROAD, I TAKE THE ROAD OF LOVE. LOVE THAT CONQUERS ALL, NOT THE NARCISSISTIC AND EGOCENTRIC ONE... THE ONE THAT COMBINES CONNECTION AND COMMON SENSE. CALL IT NATURAL INTUITION. IT IS THE FEELING-INTELLIGENCE THAT KNOWS FOR SURE THAT MOM IS AROUND IN THE SUPERMARKET SOMEWHERE, ALTHOUGH YOU DON'T SEE HER, YOU'LL FIND HER. DOES THAT CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE'S LOOKING FOR YOU WITH THE SAME PERSISTENCE AS YOU ARE LOOKING FOR HER? - NO

SO NOW - AND I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT - I HEAR MOTHER EARTH IS SHRIEKING UNDERNEATH MY FEET. SHE CRYING OUT FOR HELP. CAN I PROVE IT? YOU IGNORANT DUMB-FUCK, NO.

CAN YOU CALL ME A HIPPIE BITCH?

YES.

THEN PLEASE THROW MY LETTER IN THE BIN.

YOU COULD ALSO JUST GIVE IT A CHANCE AND CONTINUE READING. IT'S CALLED 'FREEDOM OF CHOICE' - 'FREEDOM TO ACT.' I HOPE I'LL BE ABLE TO CONVINCED YOU THAT ALL INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH SHOULD HAVE THAT RIGHT. IN PARTICULAR THE ONES WE'VE UNGRACEFULLY PLACED BENEATH US.

THOSE STILL WITH ME, THANKS A LOT, I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE :)

AT SOME POINT WE'LL GET ON THE RIGHT TRACK. AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I HOPE: THAT WE'LL HAVE THE GUTS TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THE EARTH AND ALL ITS INHABITANTS, HUMAN OR NOT.

AND THAT WE TRY TO MAKE UP FOR THE DEVASTATING MISTAKES MADE BY FELLOW-HUMANS IN THE LAST TWO CENTURIES. WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THESE MISTAKES, AND CREATE A CODE (OF CONDUCT) TO TREAT OUR FELLOW INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH IN THE SAME WAY WE WANT TO BE TREATED OURSELVES. CONNECTION AND COMMON SENSE.

I WAS BORN IN A SMALL TOWN IN BELGIUM IN 1993,
THE ELDEST IN A MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY. I'M IN MY
TWENTIES NOW AND I CAN'T AFFORD ANYTHING.
MAYBE I JUST SUFFER THE BLUES OF MY AGE OR IS IT MY
'UTOPIAN THINKING BEHAVIOR' THAT'S MAKING WAY
FOR 'BITTER EXPERIENCES'?

WRITING THIS, I KNOW HOW FOOLISH IT SOUNDS. MY
BELLY IS FULL, I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED TO BE HAPPY
AND I HAVE TIME TO CONSIDER THINGS, TO WRITE
THINGS, TO CREATE. BUT I HAVE A HARD TIME, SIMPLY
BECAUSE I HEAR THE SHRIEKING OF OUR EARTH.

AND I NOTICE THAT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE
HEARING IT TOO. ALL THAT PLASTIC IN THE OCEAN,
SWALLOWED BY SEABIRDS, WRAPPED AROUND
UNFORTUNATE TURTLES AND DOLPHINS. WHEN SUCH A
DOLPHIN OR TURTLE IS SET 'PLASTIC' FREE BY A DIVER

MANY PEOPLE ARE DEEPLY MOVED. I'M MOVED BY THE DOLPHINS INTUITIONS. DESPITE THE FACT THERE'S A HISTORY OF MISTRUST THE DOLPHIN DECIDES TO TRUST THE DIVER TO COME NEAR HIM WITH A KNIFE AND CUT HIM LOOSE.

IT JUST SHOWS HOW IGNORANT AND SHALLOW WE ARE. WE USE MAJESTIC CREATURES TO ENTERTAIN IGNORANT FAT DUMB-FUCKS STUFFING THEMSELVES IN DOLPHINARIA AND ZOOS AROUND THE WORLD TO DISTRACT THEMSELVES FROM THEIR UNFULFILLING LIVES. IT'S SO SAD THAT ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY DON'T GET TO HAVE A LIFE. THEY DON'T HAVE THE SPACE TO GET THEIR HEARTBEAT UP. THESE ANIMALS ARE OUR MODERN SLAVES. SO PLEASE, UNHAPPY WESTERN SPOILED PEOPLE, STOP LYING TO YOURSELF! IT'S NOT KIND TO THE CREATURES WE SHARE THIS PLANET AND CONNECTION WITH.

SORRY, I LOST MY TEMPER HERE.

ANIMALS ARE NOT ONLY CUTE. THEY ARE INTELLIGENT AND HAVE THEIR OWN FEELINGS AND THEY ALSO FEEL PAIN. THEY SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF OUR PLANET. WE ALL SPOKE IT WHEN WE WERE BABIES AND TODDLERS. WE JUST SOMEHOW UNLEARNED IT WHILE BEING TAUGHT THE LANGUAGE OF GREED.

WE'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO BE AND WORK TOGETHER WITH NATURE. WE RAISE OUR CHILDREN AS LITTLE PUPPETS IN CASTLES AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO EARN STUFF TO DISTRACT THEMSELVES BASED ON GOOD BEHAVIOR. BY REWARDING OUR KIDS WITH STUFF, WE TEACH THEM THAT YOU CAN MEASURE SUCCESS THROUGH STUFF. A LOT OF STUFF REPRESENTS VERY GOOD BEHAVIOR. WE ARE TAUGHT TO CONNECT STUFF WITH EMOTIONS. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS: STUFF DOESN'T LOVE US BACK.

I DID MULTIPLE JOBS. I WORKED IN GROCERY STORES AND FACTORIES, BUT AFTER A COUPLE OF MONTHS I GOT DEPRESSED BY THE MENTALITY OF THE CORPORATIONS. PROFITS ABOVE ANYTHING IN AN UNINSPIRING, DULL ENVIRONMENT. DARK AND DEPRESSING. MY FAVORITE OF ALL DISAPPOINTMENTS STARTED OUT AS 'THE DREAM JOB'. NGO FUNDRAISER. AN OUTDOORS JOB, LOTS OF VITAMIN D (SUNLIGHT), VARIATION AND GETTING PAID WHILST TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD BY COLLECTING AS MUCH MONEY AS POSSIBLE FOR NGOS.

ALMOST DAILY I COULD PERSUADE 3 PEOPLE TO SPEND 10 EUROS A MONTH ON THE NGO I WAS REPRESENTING THAT DAY. WE HAD TO REPORT BACK TO THE OFFICE, AND WE HAD A SPEED COURSE IN SALES. SALES IS TOO EASY TO LEARN. WHY, HOW, WHEN, WHOM? IT DOESN'T MATTER. GET YOUR NUMBERS STRAIGHT.

I STARTED OUT AS THE GOOD GIRL AND CAME HOME WITH A MEDIUM SCORE. THOSE THAT DIDN'T GET THEIR NUMBERS UP GOT FIRED. WE ALL HAD TO RETHINK OUR MORAL STRATEGY. TO GET OUR NUMBERS UP, WE COULD USE A WIDE RANGE OF SKILL-SETS, TO TRICK PEOPLE INTO THE IDEOLOGICAL LIE WE SPUN.

'SPEND MONEY, BE A DO-GOOD-ER.'

MY COLLEAGUES AND I, WE ALL FELL IN LOVE WITH THE SAME IDEOLOGICAL LIE. AN AWAKENING AFTER DISAPPOINTMENT. WHEN YOU'VE EXPERIENCED THE RAW TRUTH OF SALES, A LIFE BASED ON NUMBERS, YOU START THINKING; WHERE DOES OUR NATURAL EMOTIONAL BEHAVIOR FIT IN?

AND WASN'T FUNDRAISING ABOUT HELPING?

ONE DAY OF SELLING LIES, I REALIZED WHY THIS FELT FAMILIAR. I HAD COME ACROSS THIS DURING MY STUDIES ON THE RESTORATION OF BOOKS. MOST OLD BOOKS ARE RELIGIOUS BOOKS. BIBLES, BIBLES, BIBLES. IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES. IN A LATE 1860 BIBLE I FOUND LITTLE PAMPHLETS EXHORTING BELIEVERS TO 'FUND THE CHURCH.' IN THE REAL OLD ONES I FOUND LITTLE 'THANK YOU NOTES': 'THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT, GOD SHALL SET YOU FREE'. BLABLABLA. I HAD MOST LIKELY CONVINCED MYSELF THAT I COULD EARN INDULGENCES BY WORKING FOR THE NGO. NOPE. WRONG GUESS. INDULGENCES... SOMETHING OF ALL TIMES.

WE HAVE TO CONSIDER THAT WE ARE MASTERS OF DECEPTION, DON'T YOU THINK? I DON'T THINK I'M A LIAR, ALTHOUGH I HAVE LIED. THIS PARADOX WOULD INDICATE THAT I'M FAIRLY HONEST, AND I PROBABLY AM, BUT JUST BY WRITING THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE AFTER

THE ONE THAT CAME BEFORE, THE TRUTH IS OPEN TO INTERPRETATION. WHETHER I'M THE LIAR OR NOT, I'VE BEEN EASILY FOOLED.

I BELIEVE THAT DEEP DOWN, WE CAN ALL TELL GOOD FROM BAD. IT'S CALLED EMPATHY OR 'REVERSE SELF PRESERVATION'. IF YOU DON'T WANT IT TO HAPPEN TO YOURSELF, DON'T DO IT TO ANOTHER CREATURE, NO MATTER IF IT'S A HUMAN BEING, A TURTLE, A COW OR A BEE. THE EARTH IS OUR HOME AND WE ALL SHOULD FEEL AT HOME...

EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED IN OUR HOME AND IF WE DON'T TAKE CARE OF IT WE'LL ALL GET KILLED IN THE END.. TEMPERATURE CHANGES ARE KILLING MICROORGANISMS THAT ARE FEEDING CORALS. CORALS WHICH ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO TEMPERATURE CHANGES AND PROVIDE A HOME WHERE FISH FLOURISH.

FISH THAT FEED OTHER ANIMALS. US. SO THERE'S MORE TO IT THEN JUST A CORAL BLEACHING AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.

THE POPULATION OF BEES, FOR EXAMPLE, OF WILD ANIMALS AND OTHER BUGS IS SHRINKING BECAUSE OF THE POLLUTED AIR, MONOCULTURE IN FARMING, OUR LAWNS AND ERADICATING WEEDS WHICH ARE BASICALLY NATIVE PLANTS THAT LOVE THE AREA AND SOILS WHERE THEY GROW. WITHOUT BEES POLLINATING OUR CROPS THERE WON'T BE A LOT TO HARVEST.

OUR EXISTENCE...

WE ARE GOING FOR A MASS EXTINCTION IF WE DON'T ACT NOW.

A LOT MUST CHANGE AND IF WE WAIT FOR OUR POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND THE CAPITALIST MINDSET TO CHANGE, WE WILL INVOKE THE INEVITABLE. WE SHOULD RETHINK OUR WAY OF LIFE IF WE WAN'T A LIFE AT ALL. GO FOR HARMONY WITH ALL LIVING BEINGS ON OUR PLANET.

INSTEAD OF PUTTING UP FENCES, WE SHOULD BE TAKING THEM DOWN, SO THAT ALL ANIMALS CAN ROAM THIS EARTH LIKE MANY YEARS AGO. WE ARE ALL BREATHING THE SAME AIR. WE'RE A BUBBLE. WE, ALL FORMS OF LIFE, 'THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH' ARE LOST SOULS, TRYING TO BELONG.

IF I COULD JUST MAKE CLEAR HOW MUCH EASIER LIFE WOULD BE IF WE GOT PAST THE 'TERRITORIAL CAPITALISTIC DICK MEASURING OF OUR OH SO GREAT MAINLY MALE LEADERS.'

THE WAY I SEE IT? I WAS BORN IN A COUNTRY. I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE IN THAT MATTER. I WAS RAISED BY TWO LOVING PARENTS THAT DID THE BEST THEY COULD TO ENSURE MY FUTURE. UNFORTUNATELY, A FUTURE BASED ON THE RULES OF THE WORLD AS IT IS.

OH YES, I WAS THE LUCKY ONE. I WAS BORN IN THE WEST. THIS WESTERN WORLD, WITH ME IN IT, GETS TO EXPLOIT EVERYTHING. I THINK IT'S DISGUSTING. DO WE REALLY WANT TO 'KEEP GOING' AGAINST NATURE? IT IS A MASTER IN DESIGN, AS WE ARE A PRODUCT OF HER MAKING. AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

TAKING ALL THIS FOR GRANTED DOESN'T MAKE IT LESS SPECIAL. LOOK AT OUR BODY; AN AMAZING MACHINE THAT CAN REGENERATE AND HEAL ITSELF. WHEN IT DIES IT DECOMPOSES TO DUST. THEN LOOK AT THE SILLY POLLUTING MACHINES AND STUFF WE'RE MAKING.

HOW MUCH WASTE THEY CREATE, FILLING UP LANDFILLS AROUND THE WORLD. HORRIBLE. WE SHOULD COLLABORATE WITH THE GREATEST ENGINEER OF ALL: OUR EARTH AND ITS CREATURES. INSTEAD, WE PERSIST IN OUR CHILDISH INVENTIONS, OLD IDEOLOGIES AND THOUGHTS THAT HARM OUR HOME.

IF YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT, SHE'S PRETTY FAIR, OUR EARTH. SOMETIMES RUDE, BUT FAIR...

IF WE MAKE A MISTAKE IN READING HER INTENTIONS (FOR EXAMPLE PREDICTING THE WEATHER) AND NEEDS, THINGS MIGHT GO WRONG FOR US.

SO, WHO IS READY FOR SOME COLLABORATION WITH NATURE, WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE OUR MOTHER EARTH, THE NATURAL WORLD AND ALL LIFE?

ONLY FEW PEOPLE, FOR WE PRETEND THAT THERE'S NO PROBLEM. PEOPLE WHO CARE ARE EASILY PUT AWAY AS TREE HUGGERS OR ACTIVISTS. HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THAT YOU CAN TELL BY THE MOISTURE IN A TREE HOW LONG IT'S GOING TO TAKE FOR SPRING TO COME? TREES KNOW. WE CAN KNOW TOO, BY OBSERVING THE TREES. BECOME INTERPRETERS OF NATURE AND WORK TOGETHER.

I BOND WITH MY PLANTS. I TOUCH THEM, TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM. WE SHARE POSITIVE ENERGY. SOME PEOPLE MIGHT THINK IT'S A BIT SCARY. SOMETHING THAT'S THERE, THAT YOU CAN'T TOUCH OR SEE, A FLOW OF ENERGY. IT IS WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE THE FOREVER SEARCH FOR 'THE SOUL.' THAT SAME FLOW OF ENERGY JUMPSTARTED YOUR HEARTBEAT IN YOUR MOTHER'S WOMB. DEEP DOWN, YOU KNOW YOU BELONG. THINK ABOUT IT.

WE'RE GETTING TO A POINT WHERE WE CAN UNDERSTAND OUR BODY, WHICH IS BASICALLY A VERY CLEVER MACHINE BUT WE'RE STILL IN SEARCH FOR THE ENERGY THAT KICK-STARTS AND SUSTAINS OUR HEARTBEAT.

HAVE YOU SEEN 'AVATAR'? THE MOVIE? EACH OF THE ALIENS OF PANDORA HAS A 'FEELER' A BODY PART THAT ALLOWS THEM TO CONNECT TO EVERYTHING AROUND THEM. TSAHEYLU IS WHAT THEY CALL IT. THE FACT THAT WE CAN MAKE UP SUCH BEAUTIFUL FICTION MEANS THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHAT'S UP. WHO ARE TRYING TO MOVE AND TOUCH, WHO ARE BEGGING FOR CHANGE.

CHANGE THAT STARTS FROM WITHIN EVERY ONE OF US.
IN FREEDOM, IN FREEDOM OF CHOICE, IN FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND IN ALL KINDS OF LAWS TO PROTECT US...
BUT THEN AGAIN, IT'S A BIG LIE IN REALITY.
IT STILL DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU WERE BORN.

SOUNDS MEDIEVAL DON'T YOU THINK?
IT'S ALL BASED ON OUR CAPITALIST MODERN SOCIETY,
MEANING NUMBERS, POSSESSION AND PRESTIGE. THOSE
WITH THEIR NUMBERS UP, CAN DO WHATEVER THEIR
NIHILISTIC THINKING AND BEHAVIOR PRODUCES.

KILLING FOR SPORTS IS ONE OF THE RESULTS OF THIS
THINKING. I MEAN, FOR REAL? CAN'T YOU JUST SHOOT A
PICTURE? I DON'T WANT ANY OF IT, AND I DON'T WANT
TO BELONG TO THAT SPECIES. DEFINITELY. I WASN'T
GIVEN A CHOICE IN THE MATTER. MANKIND ISN'T KIND
AT ALL. THE WORD ITSELF WAS ABUSED SO MANY TIMES BY
WHITE MALE PRICKS - AMONG OTHERS - FOR THE COVERUP
OF THEIR HORRIBLE ACTS, THAT I NO LONGER WANT TO BE
ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

HISTORY KEEPS REPEATING ITSELF. I DON'T WANT TO LIVE
LIFE AS PRESENTED IN SO MANY SUCCESS STORIES.

IN PURSUIT OF SERVING THIS POLISHED LIE. A BOX IN A CITY, MY SOUL JUST AS DEAD AS THE WALLS WE SO CAREFULLY BUILD. POSSESSED BY MY POSSESSIONS...
WHAT A WASTE...

I WANT US TO REMEMBER THE CONNECTION WE HAVE TO NATURE, HOW WE CAN USE IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE IN PURSUIT OF HARMONY ON EARTH AND TO - ONE DAY - WORLD PEACE. AS CLICHÉ AS IT SOUNDS.

OPEN BORDERS, NO MORE INSTILLED FEARS OR PREJUDICES. WE HAVE TO INSTILL LOVE!

FEARS. I'VE HAD MY SHARE. ALL KINDS. TAKE ARACHNOPHOBIA. I HAD IT UNTIL THE MOMENT I REALISED IT WAS A COPIED BEHAVIOR OF A FAMILY MEMBER. SO, EVERYONE SHOULD TRY TO CONQUER THEIR

OWN FEARS TO MAKE SURE AS FEW AS POSSIBLE ARE PASSED TO THE NEXT GENERATIONS. LIBERATE YOURSELVES.

ARE WE SO FAR GONE? DO WE REALLY NEED HOUSES FULL OF STUFF TO BE HAPPY? CAN'T WE COLLECT WHAT WE NEED AND LET GO OF WHAT DOESN'T ENHANCE OUR LIFE?

HONESTLY; WHO WOULD YOU RATHER BE? THE NATIVE AVATAR, STRONG, RUNNING AROUND BAREFOOT, KNOWING WHAT TO DO BECAUSE OF YOUR CONNECTION WITH NATURE? OR HUMAN, BLIND IN ITS RAGE AND GREED, FUCKING UP, UNABLE TO SEE THE BEAUTY OF THE PLANET AS RICHES, SCARED AND INCAPABLE TO UNDERSTAND, INDOCTRINATED TO ITS CORE. TERMINATE NATURAL HABITATS TO MINE RAW MATERIALS, TO FEED AN OVERSTOCK OF LIVESTOCK, HARVEST PALM OIL, ETC ...

IT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING TO OUR EARTH. OUR HOME.

IF WE DON'T ACT NOW AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR ACTIONS, THERE WON'T BE A LOT LEFT TO SAVE. I WANT TO INVITE YOU PEOPLE, ALL THAT SHARE THIS EARTH, TO LOOK DOWN AT THE SAME EARTH WE ALL SHARE. LOOK UP TO THE SKY, THE FIRMAMENT, THE STARS OR GOD, BUT NEVER FORGET OUR EARTH. OUR HOME, A PLANET SHARED BY PLENTY. IF YOU BELIEVE IN GOD, IT'S FINE. IF YOU WANT TO BELIEVE THAT GOD, ALLAH, YAHWEH, SHIVA, BUDDHA OR WHOMEVER MADE YOUR PATH, FINE. JUST DON'T USE RELIGION AS AN EXCUSE FOR YOUR MISTAKES AND POOR BEHAVIOR.

DON'T DO TO ANOTHER WHAT YOU DON'T WANT TO HAPPEN TO YOURSELF. IT'S THE MOST BASIC RULE IN ALL RELIGIONS.

AND SINCE RELIGION IS SUCH A SENSITIVE SUBJECT THESE DAYS - SOMETIMES A SEARCH -, I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO RESET YOUR WAY OF THINKING. I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO SHARE MY PHILOSOPHY - AN ANCIENT ONE - OF HEALING OURSELVES AND THIS PLANET BY LOOKING DOWN.

WHILST LOOKING DOWN, WE'LL SEE THE EARTH, BUT ALSO OURSELVES.

I NEED YOU TO REALLY DETERMINE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS, TO TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LINK TO THE EARTH, YOURSELF. LOOK DOWN. ASK YOURSELF 'WHO AM I AND WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE WHEN I'M REALLY REALLY REALLY HAPPY.' IN MY EXPERIENCE WE'RE CLOSEST TO OUR TRUE SELVES WHEN WE'RE REALLY HAPPY. THEN WE FEEL LIKE WE BELONG.

IT'S THEN THAT OUR CONNECTION TO THIS EARTH BECOMES CLEAR. OUR GLOBE IS A BIG FIREBALL WITH A CRUST AROUND IT. I CALL IT AN ENERGY THAT WE SHARE. THAT'S WHY I ASK YOU TO LOOK DOWN.

I THINK THE 'GODLY' ENERGY WE ALL FEEL THROUGH OUR HEARTBEAT, RESIDES IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH. IF YOU PICTURE YOURSELF AND ALL OF EARTH'S INHABITANTS CONNECTED BY A LIFE STRING OF ENERGY, THEY ARE GOING TO CROSS AT SOME POINT.

'WHERE ARE THESE STRINGS GOING TO CROSS IF WE PICTURE OURSELVES ON THIS PLANET?'

IN THE CENTER OF OUR EARTH, I IMAGINE. IN THIS VERY HOT ENERGETIC 'LAVA-LIKE' CONDITION. IF YOU CAN PICTURE YOURSELF AND ALL LIFE-FORMS CONNECTED, YOU'LL FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG.

AND WE, EARTH INHABITANTS THAT ALL SHARE THAT LINK,
MIGHT FIND OUR PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS IN
THIS CONNECTION.

WHEN WE'RE IN OUR MOTHER'S WOMB, WE'RE PART OF
HER. THEN WE'RE BORN. THE CLOCK STARTS TICKING AND
WE'RE ALONE. WHILE MATURING, WE TRY TO FIND THAT
SENSATION OF BELONGING BY HAVING A SOCIAL LIFE,
FINDING A SOULMATE, ETC. BUT NEVER WILL WE FEEL
AS SAFE AND CONNECTED AS IN THE WOMB.

THE SENSATION OF BELONGING SOMEWHERE...

I FIND MYSELF WITH THE GREATEST JOY IF I CAN CREATE
SOMETHING THAT'S GOING TO BELONG. IN THIS CASE A
LETTER THAT HOPEFULLY WILL FIND ITS WAY AROUND THE
WORLD AND PASS ITS MESSAGE TO BE KIND, AN EARTH
INHABITANT, A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD.

HAPPY HOPPY HARMONY.

WHEN WE FEEL JOY WE ARE MOST PURE. THEN - AND ONLY THEN - WE FEEL FULFILLED. WE EXPERIENCE IT ONCE IN A WHILE BUT MOSTLY IT DOESN'T LAST LONG ENOUGH TO MY LIKING. INSTEAD OF TRYING TO CREATE INSTANT LITTLE LIES OF JOY, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH MATERIAL STUFF, I DECIDED TO TRY TO THRIVE IN A DIFFERENT WAY. I GAVE STUFF AWAY OR TOSSED IT OUT. BY DOING SO, I DISCOVERED NEW THINGS THAT SUITED ME MORE. I MET PEOPLE, BY TRYING TO GET AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE SECOND-HAND. I FOUND OUT THAT THE BEST WAY TO OBTAIN AND RETAIN JOY IS TO SHARE IT WITH PEOPLE. THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO ACCORDING TO OUR NARCISSISTIC MODERN SOCIETY.

JOY ISN'T BASED ON POSSESSION OR GREED.
IT'S BASED ON SELFLESSNESS.

I'M NOT PERFECT, BUT WHO IS?
THERE'S NO SHAME IN TRYING.
IT WAS SELFLESSNESS THAT SHAPED ME, SHAPES ME.
TIME AND AGAIN.

ME, SPENDING MY TIME TO HELP SOMEONE OBTAIN A
MOMENT OF GREAT JOY

OR

A FRIEND, SPENDING HER OR HIS TIME WITH ME,
HELPING ME TO ACHIEVE A MOMENT OF GREAT
HAPPINESS.

YES, YOU CAN THINK OF SEX TOO, BUT THE HAPPY ENDINGS WITH SEX HAVE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ECSTASY, RIGHT? WELL, I GUESS THAT WE FIND OURSELVES IN OUR GREATEST MODE WHEN WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR 'HAPPY ENDING' SIMULTANEOUSLY. SHARING IS A MOMENT OF HARMONY AND BELONGING TOO [I HOPE THE SEX THING SPICED UP MY MELANCHOLY TONE ;)].

TIME

BACK TO THE TICKING CLOCK AFTER OUR BIRTH. WE KNOW THAT WE ARE HERE, NOT HOW LONG. I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO FEAR DEATH. I WAS ONE OF THEM.

I WAS NEVER AFRAID OF DYING, BUT I WAS AFRAID OF THE LOSS THAT COMES ALONG WITH DEATH. AS A KID I ROCKED MYSELF TO SLEEP, ASKING 'GOD' TO KEEP MY LOVED ONES SAFE, BECAUSE LIFE WITHOUT THEM SEEMED LIKE A WORLD NOT WORTH LIVING IN.

A FEW YEARS AGO, I WAS FACED WITH DEATH FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE PASSING AWAY OF MY DEAR GRANDFATHER. I FELT HIS DEPARTURE BEFORE THE PHONE CALL CAME. I COULD REALLY FEEL HIS ENERGY. IT WAS LIKE A LAST GOODBYE. AT HIS SIDE, A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE, I TOLD HIM: 'YOU'VE HAD A LONG LIFE. IF IT'S TOO HARD TO STAY, THEN LET GO. I KNEW MY GRANDMOTHER WAS HIS BIGGEST WORRY, SO I PROMISED HIM TO DO WHATEVER I COULD TO MAKE HER HAPPY AGAIN. HE WAS MORE AT PEACE AFTER THESE WORDS. NOW, YEARS LATER I KNOW THAT SUCH A PROMISE IS HARD TO KEEP. MY GRANDFATHER TAUGHT ME TO BE WISE, THAT THE WORLD AND HUMANITY CONTAINS A WHOLE PALETTE OF COLORS AND THAT OUR THINKING PATTERNS SHOULD BE LIKEWISE.

"NOUS SOMMES DES DRÔLES D'ANIMAUX", HE SAID MANY TIMES. I TOOK MY TIME TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HE MEANT.

EARTH IS A COLORFUL PLACE. WE WESTERN PEOPLE WOULD MAKE EVERYTHING ALIKE IF WE COULD. GREY AND DULL. WE FORCE-FEED OUR PURSUIT OF STUFF AS A ROLLING MODEL FOR MODERN LIVING ALL AROUND THE GLOBE. HOW MANY PEOPLE SUFFER FROM DEPRESSION AND BURN-OUT THESE DAYS?

NO ONE CAN REALLY LIVE IN A BLEAK WORLD...

SOME MIGHT SAY: 'YEAH, YOU'RE JUST WEAK...'

WELL, I DON'T THINK SO...

TO ME AND MANY OTHERS, LIFE ISN'T ABOUT STUFF,
PRESTIGE, NUMBERS AND EATING PROCESSED FOODS,
TAKING A PILL WHEN FEELING ILL.

MORE THAN ONE IN THREE PEOPLE IS OVERWEIGHT.
I'M A CHUBBY HUBBY MYSELF, ALWAYS TRYING TO
MANAGE THE LOVE HANDLES... IT'S HARD FOR ME TO SAY
'NO' TO ALL KINDS OF GOODIES THAT WERE DESIGNED FOR
US TO LIKE. BUT I'M REFLECTING ON THAT.
REFLECTING AND TRYING TO LEARN.

AFTER EATING PIZZA, COOKIES, FRENCH FRIES, CANDY OR
OTHER MASS PRODUCTS, I HAVE ZERO ENERGY.
RESULT: I EAT TOO MUCH OF IT. AND I DO IT AGAIN
BECAUSE WE EAT MORE WHEN WE'RE TIRED. WE ARE TRYING
TO FILL THE HOLE IN OUR TUMMY WITH EMPTY FOOD.
NO FIBER, NO VITAMINS...

SOME WILL CALL IT 'RABBIT FOOD' [OH-OH-OH, SO CLEVERLY CONCEIVED] BUT IF I EAT A SALAD [A REAL SALAD!] OR OTHER VEGETABLES WITH NUTRITION THAT HAD A LIFE, I FEEL FULFILLED AND SATISFIED. MY BODY STRENGTHENS AND HEALS.

HAVING A HARD TIME ENJOYING GREENS AND VEGETABLES? THERE'S SOME GREAT CUISINE TO BE FOUND AROUND THE WORLD THAT IS MAINLY PLANT BASED. GET INSPIRED, SPICE UP YOUR LIFE. ;).

IN THE OLDEN DAYS, PEOPLE ONLY ATE MEAT ONCE IN A WHILE IN TIMES OF NEED, FOR EXAMPLE IN WINTER. THE ANIMAL THAT WAS CAUGHT BACK THEN WAS A NUTRITIOUS STOCKPILE OF VITAMINS AND FIBERS, COLLECTED BY THE ANIMAL THROUGHOUT ITS LIFE. NOW, OUR LIVESTOCK (MASS-CONSUMPTION) IS RAISED IN TINY DARK SPACES, THEY ARE FED GRANULES AND

ANTIBIOTICS, TO KEEP THEIR NUMBERS UP. JUST TAKE A LOOK AT A PICTURE OF A CHICKEN ON THE ANIMAL RIGHTS WEBSITE. A CHICKEN, A LIVING BEING, IS NOT MORE THAN A PRODUCT. DISGUSTING, DON'T YOU THINK? DO YOU REALLY THINK THE MEAT OF AN ABUSED CHICKEN IS GOING TO NURTURE YOUR BODY?

AM I A VEGETARIAN? YEZZZ.

A CHEATING ONE.

ALSO KNOWN AS FLEXITARIAN.

CAN WE LIVE WITHOUT MEAT? YES.

SINCE I HAVE BEEN EATING LESS ANIMALS (FISH INCLUDED), I HAVE LOST WEIGHT AND I THINK FASTER. MY ENDORPHIN LEVELS ARE UP (ENDORPHIN = THE HORMONE THAT SUPPLIES US WITH THE SENSATION OF JOY) AND I HAVE MORE ENERGY.

I CAN EAT AS MUCH AS I WANT AND EVERY MEAL FEELS LIKE I'M HAVING A LITTLE PARTY. SO, PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, DON'T YOU WANT THAT TOO?

IF YOU DON'T FEEL EMPATHY FOR AN ANIMAL, BECAUSE YOU ARE TOO FAR GONE IN OUR NIHILISTIC DECEPTIVE CAPITALIST WAY OF THINKING, CONSIDER THIS:

DO YOU WANT TO BE RAISED IN A LITTLE BOX WHERE THEY STUFF YOU WITH SO MUCH FOOD THAT YOUR LEGS BREAK BECAUSE THE MUSCLES CAN'T GROW FAST ENOUGH TO CARRY THE WEIGHT? MRS. CHICKEN KNOWS ALL ABOUT THAT. THE SAME MRS. CHICKEN YOU CAN BUY ANYWHERE FOR A COUPLE OF BUCKS.

IF EVEN THAT IMAGE DOESN'T EVOKE ENOUGH AVERSION IN YOU: LOOK DOWN!

CAN YOU SEE YOUR TOES?
DO YOU LIKE THE LEGS YOU SEE?
ARE THEY STRONG AND CAN THEY CARRY YOU WHEREVER
YOU WANT TO GO?
IF THE ANSWER IS YES, I REALLY HOPE IT MEANS YOU'RE
HAPPY AND PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE.
GOOD JOB!

IF YOU SAY YES, BUT IT FEELS LIKE A NO
(WE'RE MASTERS OF LYING TO OURSELVES): **CHANGE.**

IT IS WITHIN YOUR POWER TO CREATE A HAPPY GROWTH
MINDSET, TO CHANGE YOUR WORLD. AND BY DOING SO:
THE WORLD, THE SAME PLANET WE ALL SHARE.
EVERY TINY CHANGE MIGHT CREATE THE RIGHT RIPPLE.

HAVE I WRITTEN 'LET'S ALL BECOME VEGETARIANS AND
PUNISH THOSE THAT DON'T?'

No.

I'M SAYING 'IF YOU LIKE MEAT, THAT'S FINE'. THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO EAT IT ALL THE TIME. QUALITY OVER QUANTITY IS THE SPIRIT! [THIS QUALITY-QUANTITY THING GOES FOR A LOT OF TOPICS]. IF WE ALL EAT LESS MEAT, WE CAN GROW CROPS INSTEAD OF CORN TO FEED THE CATTLE.

THERE ARE A LOT OF HEALTH BENEFITS IN A MORE PLANT-BASED DIET. IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO FIND THE RIGHT BALANCE, FOR YOU TO COLLECT THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHICH PLANTS GIVE YOU ENOUGH ENERGY TO GET THROUGH THE DAY, BUT IN THE END YOU'LL FEEL BETTER!

WE ARE CIVILIZATION

WE ARE ON THIS PLANET TOGETHER WITH OTHER LIFEFORMS THAT ARE ALL UNIQUE IN THEIR OWN DESIGN, SYNCHRONISED TOGETHER, AND EACH DOING THEIR JOB ONCE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO ACT HARMONIOUSLY.

I THINK WE SHOULD INTEGRATE FLORA AND FAUNA IN OUR ARCHITECTURE, IN OUR CITIES... THINK ABOUT THE HEIGHT OF OUR BUILDINGS AND LIGHT HOLES SO THAT ANYWHERE, IN EVERY ROOM, A BEING CAN FLOURISH.

IMAGINE THE FEELING OF A GREEN HOUSE ON THE TENTH FLOOR... MAYBE WE CAN GROW GREENS AND FRUIT TREES IN THE STREET? THE INSECTS THAT COME ALONG ARE ASSETS AND NO LIABILITIES :) WE NEED GREAT INNOVATIVE MINDS TO WRITE A GLOBAL CODE OF CONDUCT, AND TURN THIS WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.

THESE GREAT MINDS ALREADY EXIST BUT AREN'T ALWAYS HEARD... THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW. I WON'T SUGARCOAT IT; YOU WON'T LIVE FOREVER... WHICH WORLD WILL YOU HAND OVER TO YOUR CHILDREN? ARE YOU READY TO TELL THEM THAT IT'S PROBABLY BEST THAT THEY DON'T GET CHILDREN THEMSELVES WITH ALL THE UPCOMING DISASTERS IF WE CAN'T STOP GLOBAL WARMING?

PLEASE, FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE WORLD,

WE NEED TO CHANGE.

IF EVERYONE HAS THEIR BASIC NEEDS MET AND CAN LET GO OF THEIR NEED FOR GREED, AND THE CRUEL PRACTICES THAT ARE A RESULT OF HABIT, IGNORANCE, BOREDOM AND FEAR, WE WOULD EVOLVE INTO SOMETHING WE COULD BE PROUD OF.

TEACH LOVE, EAT LOVE, SPEAK LOVE,

WITH LOVE,

A CO-INHABITANT OF YOUR HOME

MAUD BUYSSENS

P.S. YOU CAN FIND ME @MAUDSE.COM

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I STARTED WRITING THIS LETTER IN 2017 AND IT TOOK A LONG TIME FOR IT TO TAKE THIS FORM. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK A COUPLE OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE READ THIS LETTER AGAIN AND AGAIN AND HELPED ME TO TURN IT INTO ITS BEST VERSION. WITHOUT THEM IT WOULD BE STILL COLLECTING DUST ON A MENTAL SHELF SOMEWHERE...

HARO WADEN, WIENE FRANS, KAREL WELLEKENS, ANGELA EL MAALOULY, FRANK DE COSTER AND EDITH ULENS

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR JOINING ME IN THIS ADVENTURE.

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EDITH ULENS - THANK FOR YOUR WOMB AND FOR NOT GETTING TOO CRAZY IN THE FINAL EDITING.

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KAREL WELLEKENS - THANK YOU FOR READING, COMMENTING AND FOR BEING YOU.

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