

Quotations and Reading Reaction

Reading Notes, Part 1: quotations

Chapter 1: "Anthills and Aardvarks" from *Wild Law* (Cullinan, 2011)

Cullinan argues that well functioning communities are often based on working in harmony with the universe rather than on complex decision-making hierarchies (p. 26)

The market, focusing on what should be done to increase profits, drives most societies today; this is inappropriate because it ignores knowledge, wisdom, and the how and why of doing things (p. 27)

Focus of *Wild Law*: Cullinan reiterates his central hypothesis here: "there should be a [strong?] correlation between the regulatory system and what's being regulated" (pp. 27-8); in other words, we need to draw guidance and inspiration from natural systems that have evolved over millions of years

Focus of *Wild Law*: we must re-conceptualize our governance systems from a biocentric, earth-centered perspective (p. 29); governance systems' purpose "should be to support people to play a mutually enhancing role within the community of life on Earth" (p. 29)

Focus of *Wild Law*: playing such "a mutually enhancing role within the community of life on Earth" (p. 29) will require us to consciously foster wild law

- Wild law is a way of being and doing, rather than a branch or collection of law, it is law that "creates the freedom for all members of the Earth community to play a role in the continuing co-evolution of the planet" (p. 31)
- Wild laws include bills of rights that protect against discrimination, for example, respect wild diversity, and allow for all to flourish (p. 31)
- Wildness is "another name for the creative life force of the universe" (p. 31)
- Current governance systems tend to suppress and stifle wildness

Reading Reaction, Part 1: 178 words

In the preface, the author tells us that the focus of his book will be on how our species can be mutually beneficial to the web of life and the planet. The introduction, written by Thomas Berry, self-described Geologian and inspiration for the Earth Jurisprudence movement, decries the U.S. Constitution, arguing that it "authorized an assault on the natural world" by exalting the property-owning citizen without concomitant rights "to any non-human mode of being" (p. 18). In the book itself, Cullinan argues that humans must re-conceptualize our governance systems from a biocentric, Earth-centered perspective and that the purpose of governmental systems "should be to support people to play a mutually enhancing role within the community of life on Earth" (p. 29). To do this requires us to implement wild law, basically laws that allow all beings in the earth system to "play a role in the continuing co-evolution of the planet" (p. 31). For Cullinan, "wildness is... the creative life force of the universe" (p. 31), a force that is being suppressed and stifled by contemporary governmental structures.