

Hope is not wishful thinking. It's not a temperament we're born with. It is a stance toward life that we can choose . . . or not. The real question for me, though, is whether my hope is effective, whether it produces results or is just where I hide to ease my own pain.

What I strive for I call honest hope. And it takes work, but it is good work. It is work I love. I began this book suggesting that it starts with getting our thinking straight. Since we create the world according to ideas we hold, we have to ask ourselves whether the ideas we inherit and absorb through our cultures serve us. We can only have honest, effective hope if the frame through which we see is an accurate representation of how the world works.

The good news is that we face this historic challenge just as our understanding of life's rich complexity, and human nature itself, is expanding exponentially. I am pretty sure, for example, that I'd never even heard the word "ecology" until I was in my twenties. And that was only because I was fortunate enough to marry one of our country's most brilliant ecological thinkers, the late Marc Lappé. Now we are realizing that ecology is not merely a particular field of science; it is a new way of understanding life that frees us from the failing mechanical worldview's assumptions of separateness and scarcity.

So here, in this final chapter, is an invitation to explore what it means to think like an ecosystem. Since ecology is all about interconnection and unending change, creating patterns of causation that shape every organism and phenomenon, "thinking like an ecosystem" for me means living in the perpetual "why." It's keeping alive the two-year-old mind that accepts nothing simply as "the way it is" but craves to know how something came to be. It's understanding that all organisms emerge with specific potential, including the human organism, but its expression is enormously shaped by context.

So, if we want life to thrive, we keep foremost the question, What conditions enhance life? And, more specifically, what specific conditions bring out the best in our species? My hypothesis is that three conditions — the wide and fluid dispersion of power, transparency, and an assumption of mutual accountability — are at least a good part of the answer. An eco-mind is also able to see that our own species' thriving, through our consciously creating the essential context for that thriving, determines the well-being, even the continuation, of other species and whether key dimensions of our wider ecology remain conducive to life. (...)

The article:

<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/essays/thinking-ecosystem>

About the book:

<http://smallplanet.org/books/ecomind>

http://www.perseusbooks.com/perseus/book_detail.jsp?isbn=1568586833

Sull'argomento:

<http://www.internazionale.it/news/economia/2011/10/11/democrazia-nel-piatto/>

<http://www.internazionale.it/news/economia/2011/10/11/l%e2%80%99orto-di-michelle/>

Inchiesta sul consumo di "cibo spazzatura" in USA:

<http://www.ilfattoalimentare.it/new-york-times-cibo-spazzatura-salutare-risparmiare-mcdonalds-americi.html>

<http://www.ilfattoalimentare.it/fast-food-studio-americano-abitudini-famiglie.html>

Basic information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frances_Moore_Lapp%C3%A9