

Water – God’s Precious Gift of Life

Introduction:

Thomas Berry once said that the environmental disasters we are now experiencing are a result of our disconnection with nature: “We not talking to the rivers, we are not listening to the wind and the stars. We have broken the conversation.” When Hildegard de Bingen conversed with nature, she heard that “every element has a sound, an original sound from the order of God” and that “all these sounds unite, like the harmony from harps and zithers.” We need to listen to what water is telling us, we need to hear her sound. Awakening to a new consciousness about this life-giving element will bring us into harmony with all of life.



Let us listen to Water as it speaks to us ...

I, the surprise of the snowflake and the blessing of the babbling brook, reflect your inner beauty and magnificence. We vibrate with the same energy. Help us attune to that energy.

Response: ***We are listening, show us the way***

I, the ancient liquid of the stars, precious, pure and holy, am a limited resource. I am asking you to treat me as a rare gift, to use me sparingly with respect and reverence.

Response: ***We are listening, show us the way***

I, who am the delight of the soul and nourishment of the body, will be contaminated with pollutants which carry disease, deformity and death. I am pleading with you to listen to the wail of my weeping.

Response: ***We are listening, show us the way***

Asking Water for forgiveness ...

Water is a source of life for all of creation. Jesus promised living water ‘If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me! Let the person come and drink who believes in me.’ (Jn 7:19). It was often used by Jesus in his healing ministry. Jesus instructed the blind man ‘Go wash in the pool of Siloam.’ (Jn 9:7). The Sheep Pool in Jerusalem was a place where people came to be healed in its water. (Jn. 5.) Water has rights too and we now ask WATER for forgiveness...

Response to each petition: ***Forgive us and show us the way***

- For our carelessness and waste of water, causing a scarcity in other countries
- For the ways in which we pollute pure water
- For our use of pollutants and chemicals
- For our carelessness about water safety
- For our misuse of huge volumes of water in fracking the earth
- For our failure to recycle water from home to garden and to collect rainwater
- For our over use of showers and sprinkler systems
- For our failure to consider the needs of the underdeveloped world in our political decisions around water
- For selling water as a commodity for profit rather than seeing it as a human right for all

Blessing:

*May the ancient wisdom of water well up within us! **AMEN***

*May the holiness of water heal our land! **AMEN***

*May the cleansing power of water wash away our guilt! **AMEN***

*May the cosmic power of water capture the imaginations of decision makers! **AMEN***

*May the majesty of water inspire us to live in a way that enables the full flowering of all beings. **AMEN***

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