



Call To Earth

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From the Editors:

Not quite a year ago Professor Kenneth Liberman from the University of Oregon challenged environmental philosophers to a dynamic dialogue, between what might be called “phenomenological” and “postmodernist” earth-thinking. We decided to let this issue of *Call to Earth* be the forum for this dialogue.

Gary Snyder says that “we’re an active part of nature and interacting with it all the time.”* Does that mean that there is no wildness, no nature, as source for our thinking? Snyder describes language as “wild,” as “something that is almost self-creating, is self-maintaining, self-determining, goes by its own rules, has a complexity we can’t intellectually describe, and is able to do its work without ever understanding it.” Then he says: “That sounds like wild nature!”

The keys that open up this domain, Snyder says, are: self-awareness and silence – “an awareness of self that leads past ego, self-centeredness, and makes one appreciate larger connections and larger interactions and be sympathetic to the world. And then language comes alive.”

The intention of this issue is to engage in this dialogue, to make it *alive*. All members of the International Association for Environmental Philosophy were invited to send in a response to this challenge from Professor Liberman. His initial essay as well as all responses that we have received appear in this issue.

Kenneth Maly
Ingrid Leman Stevanovic

*All quotations from Gary Snyder are taken from “Gary Snyder Interview,” *Wild Duck Review*, I, 6 (September 1995), 4-6.

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