

## BOOK SEVEN CHAPTER ONE ANIMA MUNDI

A communication was sent to every living being on planet earth: bird beings, canine beings, orangutan beings, feline beings, human beings. Though lengthy and detailed, the message would be remembered.

Animal dignity. The power of simplicity and the solitude of leadership. A dark yellow Labrador named Marcus had a transformative effect on five young people: Shilli (Namibia), Emilie (Denmark), Asha (India), Julian (United States) and Samuel from Lebanon. What he taught them quickly spread across boundaries, attracting many to dedicate their lives to make changes: seek out people with different ideas, embrace constructive conflict, avoid willful blindness, speak up, don't be afraid of thinking differently, tolerance of other points of view. Perseverance. Marcus taught the five youngsters how important it was for them to recognize the difference between perceived and actual, between unintended and unimagined, that danger is different than fear. Shilli, Emilie, Asha, Julian and Samuel knew they were part of a puzzle, one that would only fit together when the latest outage ended.

Whatever the adversity, Marcus always stood courageously for his beliefs. His patience, maturity and knowledge of human nature served him well. Once he'd engaged and excited the energy of young people he knew the ongoing momentum would never end. When he was killed, many lives, minds, hearts and souls had already been positively impacted by his wisdom, teaching, and most importantly, his example.

Marcus' spirit's communication was clear. "Not living in harmony with the natural world, humans are doing what no other species has ever done, poisoning and destroying their own habitat. Nature's designs are there to guide, all humans had to do was look and notice. Understanding that change is best introduced slowly and carefully, nature has brought to light what was needed, but few have paid attention. Warning after warning has been ignored. For any human to think they can control the natural world is arrogance, just one point of failure, among many, that has led to this day. The growing demands of the human species are changing the planet faster than many realize, deforestation, poisoning the oceans, mining, drying water sources, melting ice. Carbon dioxide emissions now cover the majority of the earth. No human can say they are surprised, they didn't know. Many vertebrate species will not exist much longer. In the last forty years, half of the earth's wildlife has disappeared. The natural world has been left with no choice but to intervene.

Marcus continued. “What it has taken humans hundreds of years to discern, nature can do in a day. The earth will no longer orbit around the sun, seasons will cease with no variation in temperature. Plant life will thrive as normal. One of your species knows a “bubble of vacuum expanding at the speed of light could destroy the universe.” That will not happen. . . for the time being. Dark energy, dark matter comprise ninety five percent of your known universe. The natural world now has no choice but to question the results of human privilege.

Homo sapiens hasn't begun to scratch the surface of the learning tools nature has left, fossils one of many. Obvious patterns will emerge quickly. Shared interests will slowly begin to predominate, many happy accidents occurring. Communication does not need language; experience with unspoken language will intrigue. Electromagnetic interaction between brains is not the only process to send a simple message, one being to another, thousands of miles apart.

The natural world is both resilient and forgiving, willing to forgive humans for the pain and suffering they have inflicted. Forgiveness and reconciliation are not the same. The psychological dissonance of your species is rampant - knowing one reality and denying it at the same time. Nature's actions do not need written laws to be understood. We do not conform to patterns created in the minds of the human species, yet humans continue to believe this to be true. One billion of your species are hungry. The time has come for cultural norms to be questioned.

Human's exploitation of nature and treatment of one another has brought us to a time of possible devolution. What is about to happen was the only way the natural world knew to get humans' attention. Many are suffering as nature is destroyed around them. What your species has done is repairable but the process must begin now. Undoing the damage will not take the time many believe. What is referred to as conventional wisdom is about to change. Beings learn from their mistakes at different speeds. Some have to repeat the same errors again and again until the pain, suffering and loss (increasing with each instance) gets their attention. The natural world has answers to questions your species hasn't yet asked.

Does one life matter? One animal, flower, bird, human, tree, ocean? Near forgotten memories of your species will resurface, multiple unknowns discovered.

Your first lesson will be an easy one. The paper you call money will drop from the sky, as will pieces of gold, sapphires, diamonds, collecting in piles like gravel and sand, no toxic waste from excavation. How long will it take to realize the futility of collecting what you once valued? What you now see as important is the capability to resolve what needs to be changed for survival.

Humans will no longer need to protect themselves from one another. The person most unlike you, most different from your beliefs, will be living and working with you. Whatever challenges and tasks are to be accomplished, simple issues to analytically difficult problems, you will have no choice but to collaborate. Cultural beliefs travel with you; they are not a defense against prejudice, ignorance and violence. The behavior of those who will become leaders will be contagious, engaging others to follow. Solving community crises before they ignite and spread is where the task begins. The current “tyranny of technology” will not be at play. Technology and nature must work together as equal partners. Artificial intelligence is no match for the natural world. These are the very early days of the human species’ shift in thinking. What you knew as conventional is over; thrill seekers won’t be disappointed with what is about to happen.”

Marcus the dark yellow Labrador appreciated irony. “Our choice was no coincidence. Chloe, a three toed, long armed sloth with a greyish brown coat and hook like claws, will lead the way, impacting the minds, hearts and souls of many of your species. Standing apart from a misleading reputation of sluggishness and indolence, implying the neglect to do good, Chloe is unique. Rather than fifteen to twenty hours of daily sleep, she needs only three, preferring to do so right side up, not upside down, enjoying having her feet on the ground to tree top living. Far from slow and clumsy, Chloe is fast, her hind legs just one of her many strengths. Able to outrun any human, sedentary she is not! Chloe’s wisdom, teaching and example will help your species take advantage of the opportunity to arrive at a balance between the natural and material world. Every human who has become a better person because of their relationship with an animal will make their unique contribution, inviting others to be part of a dawning consciousness.