

# REGENERATING, RENEWING, REVIVING THE HEART OF HUMAN SOCIETY

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## Summary

Human beings, breathless, with arteries clogged, heart beat faint, await scientific renewal from outside of them. Natural regeneration, the renewal of life within, is forgotten. With paint and photography the myth of Genesis is examined for relevance to forests made into moonscapes by miners' chemicals, the "right to know" and its application in the world today, and the lessening of importance and a lack of peace in the relationship of man and his beloved companion, woman. Fear, abandonment, resentment are toxins that smother life.

Unless debits are let go, society breathes death into its relationships with one another and into the environment in which they subsist together. The intelligence, the skills of society die without love, just as the fish die in our lakes without oxygen. Peace flowers with the sun of good intentions. It will only give its fruit in partnership; – with other human beings, with the environment which gives life. To begin anew we look at the heart of the body of people we call society. The heart is the union, the oneness, or being between the man and the woman. They are created anew in the cup of forgiveness, peace and harmony.

## 1. Introduction

The steady rhythm of the heart is the life signal for human beings, animals, birds and fish. The flow of blood, spilling through a body bringing food and protection from disease, makes the different parts of the body whole. In this, the new millennium, the image of the heart making the body whole can be applied to the Planet Earth. We have to accept that the environment is part of us, we breathe it in, we drink it, we eat its fruits, it flows in us with our blood every moment of every day. The heart of the environment is the energy that brings in the seasons. But we are noticing that just like human beings with heart disease, the seasons are not as ordered as they were. The stable rhythm has turned into things that could be almost called a heart attack, tornados and typhoons on the one hand, drought and suffocating heat on the other. The Environment is closing down on its bounty to human beings. If we can attribute that closing down to actions from world societies, those systems whereby people live together in organized communities, we have to turn back the toxins from communities that foul the air, the sky, the rivers, and the earth. Societies, also, need an energy within them to make sure that the resources of communal life are available to all. The original life of the communities, wherever they are situated on planet earth, come from the genetic seed of the human man and the human woman coming together and making a new “whole” – more than the sum of its parts. The recognition of wholeness arising from the many parts communicating with one another and enabling a larger vision, a whole that is more than the sum of its parts, comes from the ancient knowledge of synergy. This new life is then socialized. Each new whole, each new human being is taught how to mix with the others in the group, and over the distant times past, this has brought forth another whole, – language. Language has enabled the sharing of ideas and together with memory, these ideas has been handed down from generation to generation.

One of the very far distant memories, enclosed in an exciting story, is still with us, the story of Genesis. The narrative is set in a Paradise, the Garden of Eden, with a human man longing for a partner. The great beyond in the ever present, (every community has a different name for this), heard his cry. A woman, cloned from the rib that encased his heart, was to be his beloved partner, and they were to increase and multiply and fill the earth, but, they also had to look after the animals, birds and fish as well. . The story turns dramatically on an issue that is kept taboo. We do not know what happened, only that the woman, alone, was seduced into turning herself into the ‘beyond in the ever present’ by eating the fruit of knowledge of good and evil. She in turn, seduced her partner, Adam. The woman, Eve, blames the serpent who seduced her. The man, Adam, blames Eve. The punishment from the great beyond in the ever present was constriction. The environment, constricted, could not give abundance for life, and life itself, coming from the woman, was to come with great pain. The man was to dominate the woman. The role for the woman and the man to be in command of the whole earth was restricted – as they themselves were restricted. Their hearts were not whole any more. They were wounded.

The journey to begin to regenerate, to renew, to revive our hopes for human beings to be in peace with themselves, and in peace with others is a long journey. The myth of Genesis takes us from nakedness to clothing, from loneliness to partnership, and from partnership to break down and blaming. Break down in relationships and blaming of

people and communities runs through the history and memories of all human beings, as they have worked their way into more and more complex communities. The attributes of the exodus from the Garden of Eden can be recognized today. Loneliness, hope, isolation, a wanting to know all, blaming when a person cannot have or know all, constriction, the spiral of blame clogged with injustice and fear are all known to us. Individual people have violent heart attacks, communities become powerless and explode, the environment is an image of our human relationships, it is degenerating.

The inhabitants of Planet Earth now know that we share the earth together, that different cultural understandings of the great beyond ever present have to be negotiated. What human beings of the Earth are in themselves, and how they are to live, has been brought about by war succeeding war, atrocity succeeding atrocity, and the pooling of war knowledge to the extent that this knowledge could, if used, destroy the whole planet. Space travel is with us physically. The dream of paradise, of men and women living together in peace, with the harmony of a planet alive with bird song, leaping fish and springing rabbits is in our memories. To live in peace both with our own self, and with others, we need to allow the peace of our relationships within our selves and without ourselves to flow with life in harmony. The resources to keep the heart pumping and the blood moving are at the centre of human dissension. The fruits of the land and the sea are under the dominance of the human being and their societies. Human experience shows that dissension arises, and negotiations not worked through, when the needs of others are not addressed. The wanting to know, the right to know, as it is expressed today, is unlimited. There is always something new, something different. But the right to know has to be balanced with the right of the species. Human genetic material is now under threat. The independence of woman from man, perhaps very like that new creation of Eve, has come with a price. Woman has been seduced again into a dead end. She has given away, for the first time in the history of humankind, the power of her own body. She given up her genetic material to be used, at will, by men other than her partner. Life for some of their genetic material will be in a test tube, or in someone else's body – so that it will have no choice at all, but be completely dominated by the host body. The love bond has been broken. The heart of our common life, our community life, has been broken. The bond of our common life with the environment is broken.

A series of paintings was conceived to show how the Genesis Myth applied to our life today. *Genesis Yesterday and Today* begins with Adam in Paradise longing for, and obtaining a partner. The partner, a woman, is cloned from his rib, which encases his heart. She is now the human encasement of his heart love, his energy, his pulse for life. The “Temptation in the Garden” was seen in a nuclear manner. The woman is totally alone. The tree of good and evil was painted in with images of nuclear power as well as apples. Most knowledge is only good or evil in the way it is used. The fish die, the sprit flies away, as the fruit of the tree is consumed into the blood stream without the intent of obedience to a higher power, the beyond ever present, in whom future people will die from nuclear explosions, or be cancerous because of its radiation. Adam and Eve fall from the wholeness of the beyond. Adam rages after his fall from being in relationship with this wholeness in “The punishment – the death of a relationship” and Eve gives birth in pain. The narrative goes on to image “The crucifixion” which shows the giving of a new heart through sacrifice. From a Christian point of view this giver of

a new heart is Jesus Christ. The using of a new heart by man and woman to recreate the world in obedience to wholeness is the next image, “Marriage under the protection of the cross,” and in the final image, “The continuing presence of Jesus in community.” the community, recognize the beyond ever present and surrender their hearts to be constantly renewed. The community is supported by The Spirit of a Dove, peace, and below them, in the darkness, the Adam and Eve of today are trapped in their television sets, facing, not one another, but their own TV screens. They are open to mind control by whoever has the power of agenda in the media. When they take the media messages into their memories, there is the possibility that their memories will be manipulated by thoughts and emotions that come from faceless, unknown people, looking for world domination.

The scientific community has left “myths” behind them as they are not considered to be the concrete truth. Myths deal with ideas or beliefs about the early history of a race. Human beings are now laid over with concrete knowledge, and it has been the writer’s endeavor to show how ancient truths, imaged in powerful narrative, are being relived in our present world.

## 2. Genesis Relived

Genesis is written into the planet. The *Genesis Relived* story for the writer evolved through a wilderness experience. She took a photograph of gross environmental damage caused by toxins coming from a copper mine in Tasmania, Australia. The image forms the heart of this essay. The original photograph is of the King River in West Tasmania. Layered on to it are paintings of an Adam and an Eve, a weeping woman, and a vision in the water of a savior. This image, *Genesis Relived* tells the viewer, without words, how it is today on planet earth. It is going to take 600 years to regenerate the soil in Lake King, with the help of both the Federal and State Governments of Australia. It cannot be done of its own accord, but with help – in 600 years it will regain its capacity of life and renewal of life.



Figure 1: Genesis Relived

The King River system on the west coast of Tasmania, Australia, has received a total of 97 million tones of fine grained sediments (“tailings”) from the Mount Lyell Copper Mine in Queenstown. It was during the period of 1916 to 1994 that these sediments were discharged, and only today is the dead moonscape” being regenerated. More than \$11 million in state and federal funding will go towards reducing heavy metal pollution and improving water quality. In addition to 1.4 million tones of smelter slag there is also an estimated 10 million tones of topsoil. Of the total tonnage of sediments discharged into the river system, an estimated 3.4 million tones are in sediment banks and a maximum of 10 million tones are in the river bed in the last 8 km of the King River, raising the river bed by as much as 9 meters. This is the damage that human managers, without the care and respect of the environment, can do. If the discharge of toxins can make a river into a moonscape, can the toxins that come from wounded human relationships contribute to a culture of death?

The slag and death from conflict is within us and without us. Some of these conflicts can be mediated, others have deep roots in history and they have grown wild in societies. Partnership is required for peace to flourish. Knowledge, not only of inanimate things, but of the self and of the other transforms into a culture of life with good intention put into action with the help of partnership. Once we could see and touch everyone. Now, our neighbor is both our own self, the neighbor next door to us who can be touched, and the discarnate neighbor who we know from our mass media. One of our closest neighbors, often neglected, is our environment.

Human beings have choices when they gain knowledge. With intent, purpose and partnership, knowledge can be used not for the acquisition of money and power, but for the good of humankind. The energy to do this comes from hearts beating in unison with neighbors. Certainly from the Judaic and Christian understandings, the human person is chosen, is baptized into and is loved by the God that is beyond and ever present. Other religions also show us the light of the divine can be attained with self control and contemplation. The memory that God loves us will be revived when human beings love one another.

The hearts that will beat together to bring back the hope of love will have to discern the problem of the world today.

## **2.1. Definition of the Problem**

There is complexity and dynamism in defining the problem. We are living with the results of science. Material things obey us. A footstep is enough to make a door open. We turn on a switch and we have heat and music, but there is no switch to turn on the heart. So far our scientists have not been able to make a mechanical thing to give us a happy heart. Sometimes the mechanical things will make us happy for a while, but they do not kiss us good night, and welcome us to the light of day next morning. The switch that turns on the heart of a human person is another human person. Instead of spending time with our neighbor we extend the right to know about material things with the right to know about what is happening in the world. Our newspapers and television stations have turned this right to know into an entertainment. The whole world now knows the genre of the newscast – something unusual, something violent, something that causes

dissension leads into sporting and entertainment idols of the day. We are beginning to live in a discarnate dream world. Wish fulfilling material is contained in both dreams and television. What television shows and dreams have in common is that both are fantasies. The qualities to be found in both, illogical, visual, symbolic, wish fulfilling, apply to any fantasy.

And if we are actually living a fantasy what has our fantasy come to replace? We know it in our hearts. Television viewing displaces other diversions, like sport, outdoor activities. Our children are becoming obese. Television viewing replaces socializing, and it also reduces sleep. Television producers are competing for our vague longings, which become more acute every day. What television producers are actually doing is competing with our dreams. Our visions of what is, and what could be, that which we dream about at night, are being replaced with the visions and narratives of unknown shadowy people. They are winning the battle as each person in the world is sleeping 15 minutes less each night.

While we sit passive viewers of life presented from a TV producer's point of view, the social structures in many countries are losing their life. Some countries, such as Spain and Australia, are not able to even reproduce themselves. There is accumulated anxiety and tenseness, about the ability to survive a war, about the dread of hunger in economic necessity, about the unstable environment that makes it difficult for farmers to produce. In Victoria, Australia, one sixth of the land has gone to salt, and is not able to be farmed. The vision of freedom and the pursuit of happiness is tattered around the edges. The bounty of life, the fullness of life, the community joyously together with food, song and dance, is not everybody's reality today. The world today is not heart centered, it is head centered. A cool, logical head centered way of living is not for our convenience, but for the profit of other people. Management of large stores, offer little service, no seats, but promises of ever lower and lower prices. Customers walk around interminably to find their purchases, having spent a long time, and generally some money, trying to park our car. For others, even the thought of a large store and a car is just a dream – they are walking and walking just for water, and not always is it clean water. They are working in the field, but the rains don't come, or come with vengeance, bringing death instead of life. The abundance of the fields lies dead and buried, either in water, or in dry dust. It is evidence of rational thought abandoning the prompting of the heart. The heart will always beat for life, not money.

Peter Gay understood that the Enlightenment writers brought in this modern kind of living. Rational control came from a fusion of a fashionable anticlericalism and scientific speculation, a truly coherent modern view of the world. These writers moved into scientific mythology and materialist metaphysics, political economy, legal reform and practical politics. They wanted to secure rational control of the world and freedom from myth. Diderot in his *Encyclopedie* wanted to change the general way of thinking. But they changed thinking back, instead of forward, back to classical antiquity. Back to heathen mythology, back to the Greek thinkers. Their exaltation of Greece contradicted boldly and deliberately, the traditional view of history. The new millennium bears the fruit of their thinking. And there has been much fruit. A global scientific community has come into being which is bringing us into the universe outside of us, and into the universe inside of us – they can now decipher human DNA. Australian scientists are asking researchers of the world to come to do research on their free Mel 1 embryonic

cell stems. There is honor and money to be made. But something has gone and communities can feel the absence. Gone is the love thy neighbor mentality. As it fades away, so does the dancing, and the feasting and the love of life.

The Planet Earth has been recreated so that it is the image of the scientists – men who want to be rational and change the way of thinking, which means that we will change our way of living also. Observing and putting into practice the new knowledge that came from scientific analysis has become the flagship of our economies. It's knowledge that progresses very quickly. Steam from a kettle pushed it's lid up and was observed. Then the same steam was multiplied and it pushed a train along. This was progress, as the wind energy that powered our great sailing ships would not come on command. Now, the human being did not have to wait for the wind. Steam can be conjured up by heating water, and used at will. Electricity, long known about, but not able to be used, was harnessed and so was gas. Human beings began to control the forming of electricity (with brown coal, with rushing water, with nuclear fuel) and then the use of that electricity. As each wave of knowledge came and was used, there appeared certain attributes that did not bring life, but death to human beings.

The air in London was so full of smoke from coal burning fires that the residue came out from the orifices of the human body, and caused breathing problems. Nuclear facilities have dangerous radiation, and if they break down it means catastrophe to human inhabitants. It has happened to a community in Russia. Even the testing of atomic bombs for research causes a lot of dangerous radio activity. Go to Tahiti and ask questions about human mutations. Listen to the women of the Marshall Islands. When a mother there gives birth sometimes it is to a pulsating lump that looks like colored jelly, with no resemblance to a human being.

As every step is taken to control the life and environment of earth, another wound appears. Electronic communication, radio, television, the computer and now the internet means that everyone wants not only the right to know, but the right to communicate. The boundaries of the separate countries so bloodied after so many wars are invisible on the net. Almost in the blink of an eye, and almost unknowingly, human kind has become discarnate. Humankind has always been in the process of becoming discarnate since the beginning of the written word. You could read a book and the writer was not in the same space as you. The writer could even be dead and buried. Now that we extend ourselves on the internet, we have become more discarnate, without flesh. We communicate with words and images, but not with the five senses. The wound this time might be hard to see because it involves the memory of every human being on this earth.

The wholeness of genesis is far from the intention of many world societies today. Rational control is hard hearted, and economically centered. The right to know accelerates until its fruit invades the very material of life and mutates it to a living "thing" whose only message is pulsation. The revival of the human heart, by shock, from mutation and fantasy, will bring back memory of the person and neighborhood. Truth, the right to know, becomes an entertainment when it is manipulated for economic gain. Truth, ascertained by the whole body, with other bodies, will allow human beings to start to think together of what is, and what could be.

## 2.2 Human memory holding the history

Identity comes from memory of who you are and where you have come from, the history of your life. The ‘*Wired in Woman with a Broken Heart,*’ an aluminum construct, illustrates the loss of personal memory. The *Wired in Woman* grows an antennae on her head. Her hands grasp the electronic world and its knowledge, but her interior communication system suffers as she puts her nervous system outside of her. She is in the process of becoming discarnate of actually translating her nervous system into electronic circuitry. and interfacing with media messages of the world. The structure was built to materialize the theories of Marshall McLuhan. He saw clearly, in our information age, that it was not the message that was traveling at electronic speed, it was the sender who was being sent, and the sender was minus a body. As memory, and other aspects of the mind, are stored over a large portion of the nervous system, our memory becomes outside of us, public, not private. The *Wired in Woman* gains a mass media mind, but loses her uniqueness, her private value. Human identity is becoming closely tied up with our electronic environment. The global memory of the world is being reproduced discarnately, without the ability to test the truthfulness of the text and images. On the other hand, the body memory of each person, the individual person’s power to remember who they are and where they have come from, based on the input of the five senses, is fading. In electronic circuitry we are far away from the supportive environment of water, sun and earth.

McLuhan discovered that all media and technologies have a fundamentally linguistic structure. Not only are they like language, but in their essential form they are language, having their origins in the ability of man to extend himself though his senses into the environment. For him the meaning of meaning was relationship, and in this relationship we make sense not in cognition, but in replay, representation, not replica. Families are systems of relationships, and religions are a system of relationships. A relationship is a state of being connected and can indicate a strong emotional association. Both the left and right cortical hemispheres of our brain need to work together so that we are not so captured by the rigidity of a fixed point of view, of objectivity, that we fail to give equal time to the reconciliation of opposites. We are to be critical, just as the enlightenment philosophers wanted us to be, but also we are to take in patterns, and rhythms and poetry and emotional vibes for a full life.

When a people move into the forgetting of their own memories and relationships, and become one with a media mind, cultural memories are lost. It can be said then, that communities become culturally illiterate.

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## Biographical Sketch

**Hilarie Roseman** worked in television advertising before marriage, both in Australia and in London. After marriage she trained as a Family Life Educator with Marriage Guidance Victoria, Australia and was also an interviewer for Catholic radio and television programs. BA, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1988 Chisholm Institute of Technology, Melbourne Australia. MA 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2000, RMIT Melbourne, Australia (Communication research). Diploma of Visual Arts, 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2003, East Gippsland Institute of TAFE. Hilarie and her husband John have eight children and eleven grandchildren.