

# Radical Consciousness—Rooted Connectedness—Readiness for Change

Gael Minton — UCOT. Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2024

Dedicated to Ty— my ecology mentor—

**This I Believe**—Radical consciousness, Rooted Connectedness & Readiness for Change

° Venus is too Cold—Mars is too Hot —Earth, the only one in our galaxy with temperature and water just right for life—all 5 kingdoms.

° Life — a living complex system— Gaia —regulating and maintaining itself and has for billions of years with diversity & feedback loops beyond knowing.

° How can I bear to be **radically conscious** of the vast ecosphere while being a member of the only species that separates itself from the whole? the “sentient symphony” in which “humans are a member of the orchestra and not the conductor.” Margulis & Sagan

**I cling to this awareness.**

° **Radical consciousness/knowing** is only bearable for me through **Rooted connectedness:**

—To rural life — to working with plants and animals including microbes (bacterial and fungal) — To knowing groups of humans around the earth, and here in Taos, who are rooted in their places, their local ecosystems, and in their cultures entangled with the living whole.

° “When we were gatherers and hunters, the ecosystem kept us in check.” Wes Jackson *Consult the Genius of Place* We have been unchecked for thousands of years.

° **Readiness** — Drastic change is happening — I feel fear, anger, grief and am complicit in the unlimited industrial growth society. We are damaging the sources of our human life— forests, oceans, fresh water, lands/soil and other-than-human lives. Gaia will survive with or without humans.

° Being **ready/preparing** for social and economic and environmental upheavals requires individual and collective preparations; being **ready** demands courage to let go of thoughts and actions that can make matters worse; being **ready** means being part of small inter-connected networks of people who are compassionate and aware that our lifestyles need to become integrated with the environment /local ecosystems we depend on.

° As change deepens, what do I want and need to keep— Tools, and what can I let go— excess travel and driving around. Voluntary simplicity will be necessary. The changes predicted are monumental. We know from human history that people come together and rebuild communities and social order. Re-connecting with the whole web of life is possible with three Rs — **radical** consciousness, **rooted** in place and being **ready** emotionally, physically and practically — give me courage and breath. I recommend the poetry of Pattiann Rogers especially her poem *There is a Way to Walk on Water*