



Introduction to Gaianism

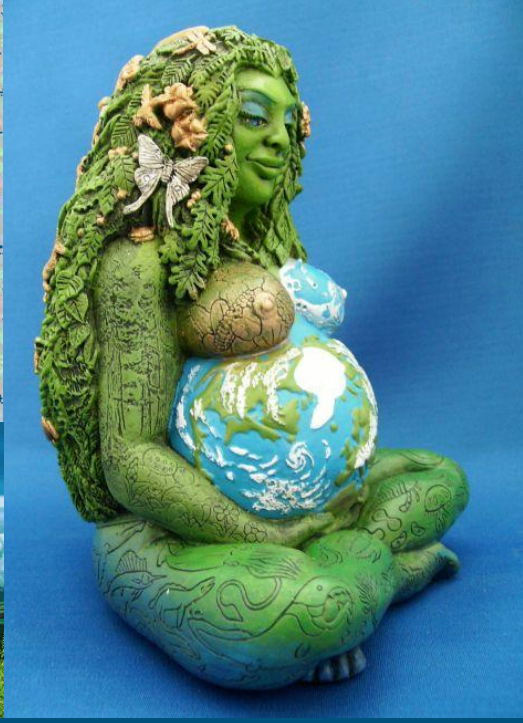
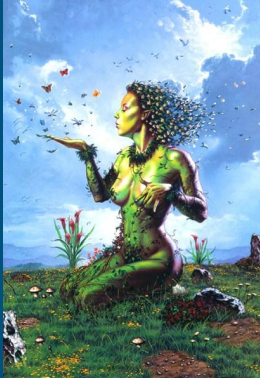
by Ziggy Tolnay



What is Gaianism?

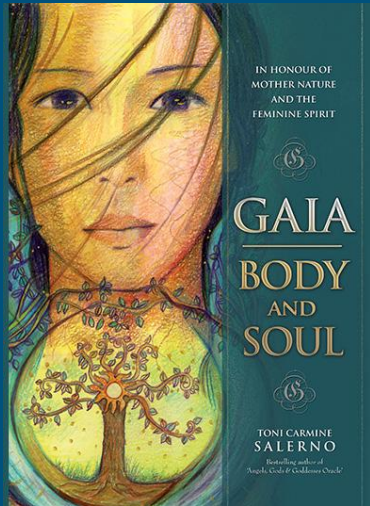
- There is no definition yet, it is a notion currently in development
- Different groups and people have their own unique understanding
- Also referred to as *Gaian Religion*, with an offshoot termed "*New Age Gaian*"
- Commonly related to either James Lovelock's *Gaia Hypothesis* in his book "*Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth*" (and others that came after), or directly to the notion of Gaia (Greek Goddess of Earth)
- Wikipedia: "*an earth-centered philosophical, holistic, and spiritual viewpoint*"
- We're free to create and define what the term *Gaianism* mean to us

New Age Gaian Artwork



Other Gaianism movements out there

- A plethora of Neo-Pagan and New Age groups
- Often referred to as *ecospiritual* or *earth-based* groups
- Gaian Times Eco-Spiritual Magazine



• Pure, Feminism, Feminine Spirit
• Products and brands



Ecocide

- Ecocide is the destruction (extensive damage) of ecosystems, to such an extent that peaceful enjoyment by the inhabitants gets severely diminished
- We've caused the Holocene extinction (aka the Anthropogenic mass extinction, or Sixth extinction)
- We've destroyed many ecosystems around the world
- All of the world's remaining ecosystems are either in crisis or in grave danger
- It began 12,000 years ago; sharply increased since the Industrial Revolution
- How did we get to this state? What can we do to revert it?
- How can we claim to love our planet (or each other, or our children) while at the same time we're active participants in its destruction?

THIS IS A LIST OF PEOPLE



**WHO RECOGNIZE THE ROOT CAUSES
OF OUR GLOBAL PROBLEMS**

Objectives of Sydney Gaianism

Succeeding in promoting a culture
(along with behaviours and actions)
that manage to restore our Biosphere (Gaia)
back into its natural balance
in time to prevent
the impending ecocide we're headed towards

Core Principles of Sydney Gaianism

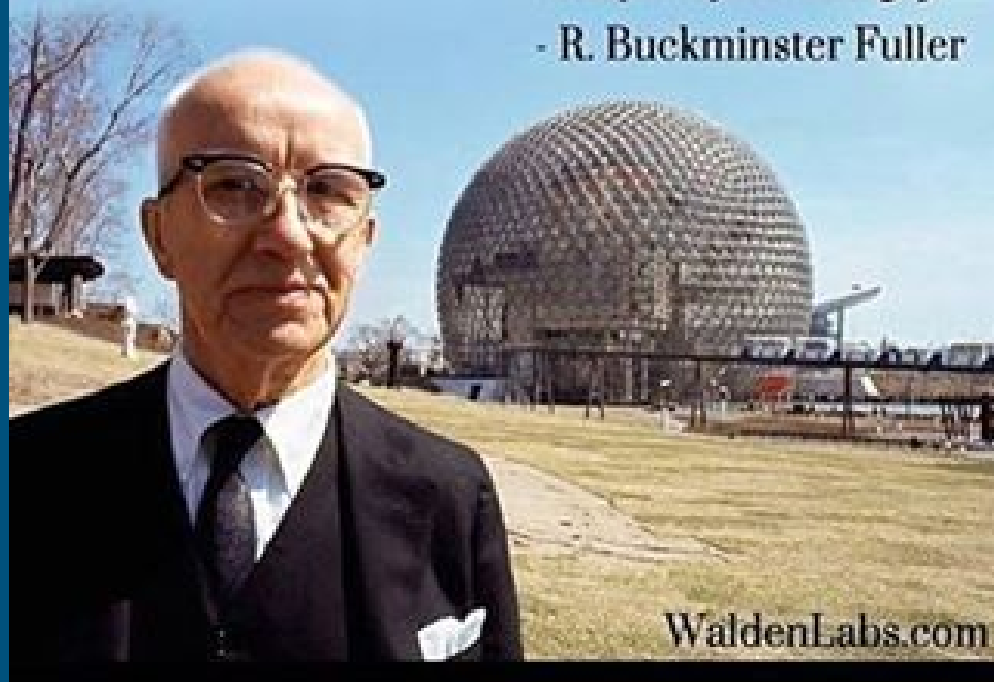
- Sustainability: *“the capacity to endure over time”*
 - Personal
 - Physical Health (body)
 - Intellectual Health (mind)
 - Emotional Health (spirit)
 - Interpersonal Health (relationships)
 - Social
 - Community Health
 - Future Generations
 - Environmental
 - Ecosystems Health
 - Biosphere Health

Core Principles of Sydney Gaianism

- Consistency: *“that which does not contain a contradiction”*
 - Reliance on scientific principles, e.g.
 - Empiricism (knowledge or source of knowledge acquired by means of the senses, particularly by observation and experimentation)
 - Scepticism (any questioning attitude towards unempirical knowledge or opinions/beliefs stated as facts)
 - Rational Enquiry (consciously making sense of things, applying logic, establishing and verifying facts)
 - Reproducibility
 - Logic
 - Personal alignment: *“talking the talk, walking the walk”*
 - Adopting aligned practices, values, principles and standards in our personal lives
 - Promoting alignment in our relationships and communities
 - Giving it importance, priority, and seriousness
 - Setting example, inspiring those around us, making waves

"It is now highly feasible to take care of everybody on Earth at a higher standard of living than any have ever known. It no longer has to be you or me. Selfishness is unnecessary. War is obsolete. **It is a matter of converting the high technology from weaponry to livingry.**"

- R. Buckminster Fuller



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Challenges of Sydney Gaianism

- Expose and help modify unsustainable cultural and traditional behaviours
- Find the weaknesses and cracks in our own personal belief systems
- Adopt this nascent value-system as we would a spiritual/religious practice
- Deepen our own understanding of the dynamics of Gaia (our Biosphere)
- Develop supporting belief systems and behaviours
- Strengthen this community, and actively help it expand and mature
- Reach out to similar organisations, movements and groups

Value-Systems

- In ethics, *value* denotes the degree of importance of something or action
- Broad preferences concerning appropriate courses of action or outcomes
- There are two types of values:
 - Instrumental/extrinsic: *“means towards getting something else that is good”*
 - Intrinsic: *“worth for itself, not as a means to something else”*
- Personal values provide an internal reference for what is good, beneficial, important, useful, beautiful, desirable and constructive
- Values generate behaviour and influence the choices made by an individual

Dominant Value-Systems

- Evolve over time and through generations
- Mostly inherited from past generations, shaped by their beliefs and needs
- We carry, today, values that are thousands of years old
- We generally don't think about values or their origin: we accept them as true
- Religion and commerce are the two most influential elements
- Mostly out of touch with today's needs and knowledge
- Plagued with inconsistencies: deeply reliant on beliefs no longer popular

Gaianism as a Value-System

- Aimed at *replacing*, in our own lives, *inconsistent and obsolete values*
- Create, in non-religious people, a spirit of *trust* and *love* often seen in religion
- Develop a *holistic* spiritual practice, consistent with what we trust and value
- Produced via *hacker ethic*: open, grassroots, democratic, *open sourced*
- Assist with the process of *trust*, and enable *conviction* and *certainty*
- Simplify our thought processes involved in maintaining consistency

Example of Proposed Gaian Values

- Egalitarianism (*a trend of thought that favors equality for all people*)
- Transparency (*openness, honesty, authenticity, accountability*)
- Conservation (*an ethic of resource use, allocation, and protection*)
- Positivism (*knowledge is derived from sensory experience, interpreted through reason and logic*)
- Optimism (*expect future outcomes to be beneficial*)
- Responsibility assumption (*non-blaming; substantial or total responsibility for the events and circumstances that befall us in our personal life*)

