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## **Waking Up To Holistic Investment**

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“We are each a strand in the web of life”

Chief Seattle 1806

Two kinds of investment (consuming, savings)

This great Native American's words are as pertinent to today as ever. Now that we are in the Aquarian Age and quickly approaching the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium, it is time to grow up as a society and take responsibility for our place in the world. I am prompted by the recent National Geographic which states that we are entering the 6<sup>th</sup> mass extinction. The uniqueness of this one is that it is human caused. It is truly time to wake up and notice the world we are creating. Don't give away your power and right to be conscious and awake. wake UP! Listen to the warnings. Some are obvious > the water, air, noise, speed of life, quality of life, are all eroding. Others like radiation, chemical pollution, electromagnetic pollution, are more subtle. Diseases are taking the form of chronic system break downs shown in immune suppression, cancer, chronic fatigue, depression, et cetera caused by lifestyle and environmental quality. But don't let fear rule you.

We have created systems here that have separated the consumers from the producers by many levels so that one does not explicitly feel the slavery and suffering often involved in creating the products (which are often produced in other countries). This combined with stimulus overload through the compromised media has left us both insulated from reality and overwhelmed with disinformation. Is this the path we want to follow?

Our money system has many tiers to it which complicates things and its flow is pooling in the hands of the wealthy who dictate the directions of

life. The working class is held in place by debt (10 – 80 %) and the necessity of providing the basics of survival for their family. The affluent are held in place by wanting to maintain the lifestyle they have grown used to (5 – 40%).

Is what I am saying what you've heard before? Is there something you can relate to in your life? What about in the lives of your family and loved ones. Answer this, where do you invest your savings? (Stock Market? IRAs? Work Retirement Plan?) Where do you spend your money?

What corporations are you giving money to and what are they doing with it? It's as simple as that. What products are you buying with your money? Where was it made, what's it made from? What processes were used to make it? When you buy something, you are supporting the path of those who made it and brought it to you. Who are you giving your savings to? The angle of the stock market has always been one of guessing which stocks were going to give the greatest return on investment. Investors, if they think about it, assume this all occurs in a vacuum. But it's time to look around. Those corporations with your money are movers and shakers of this world. Countries answer to them, our politicians answer to them, and they expect you to trust them to look out for our best interests.

But they assume "best interests" means "highest interest" on return at any costs to environment, treatment of other beings and quality of life. A corporation does not understand other meanings of best interest because it is not human. It is up to its human investors, employees and consumers to keep it in check.

I wish I were wrong about this. All I ask is that you look around. Take the time to feel and understand what I am talking about. It seems to me that we as individuals, as communities, as nations, and as one world need to stop and reflect and decide what path we want to walk. There is slavery and death and misery generated by our current path. Continuing on as you have been, if that is the choice you're making, opens us all to the consequences. For Chief Seattle said, we are all interconnected. Your choice affects us all.

I am not asking you to drop everything and live the life of a monk, I am asking you to begin to make changes in how you consume and what you consume. Look at investments of savings in a different way. Instead of simply trying to get the greatest return on your money (or having the bank investors or stock market brokers do it for you) add to the criteria who to

invest in, social and environmental responsibility. Look for local opportunities to invest in.

Seek out companies that are needing investments for sustainable fuels and goods (such as solar energy and hemp), holistic health care. It is a fallacy to believe that investments have to harm us to profit us.

What i'm asking is not easy. It takes becoming more than just self – oriented, it takes connection to others. Feeling a connection to the world. To make this transition it takes trust and faith. Realize that security is not something that comes from the outside, it comes from within. All the money, wealth, power and prestige mean little if you are not secure within yourself. If you are content even our worst fears have no power over us. I know I'm asking a lot. But stay open to change and Keep Trying. Don't give up. Together we (all of us > humans, nature, earth, universe) are. Everything you do (and don't do) affects all of us. KEEP TRYING.

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