

Quotations from the GreenSpirit Book Series



www.greenspirit.org.uk



We are the Universe, changing and renewing,
constantly flowing, enfolding, enriching, sustaining.

~ Joan Angus

Anthology of Poems for GreenSpirits, compiled by Joan Angus

www.greenspirit.org.uk



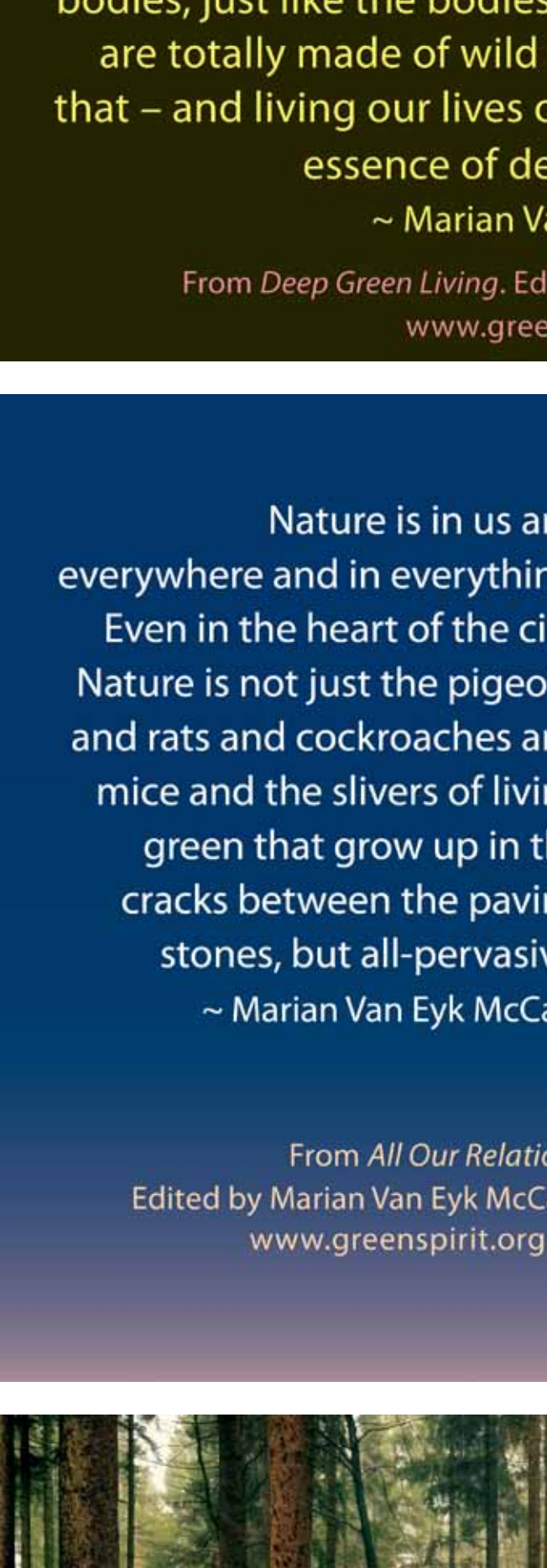
The power of Gaia's
love as it is expressed
in us is wondrous and
beyond imagination.

~ Sky McCain

From *Dark Nights of the Green Soul*
(expanded edition)

Edited by Ian Mowll and
Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)

www.greenspirit.org.uk



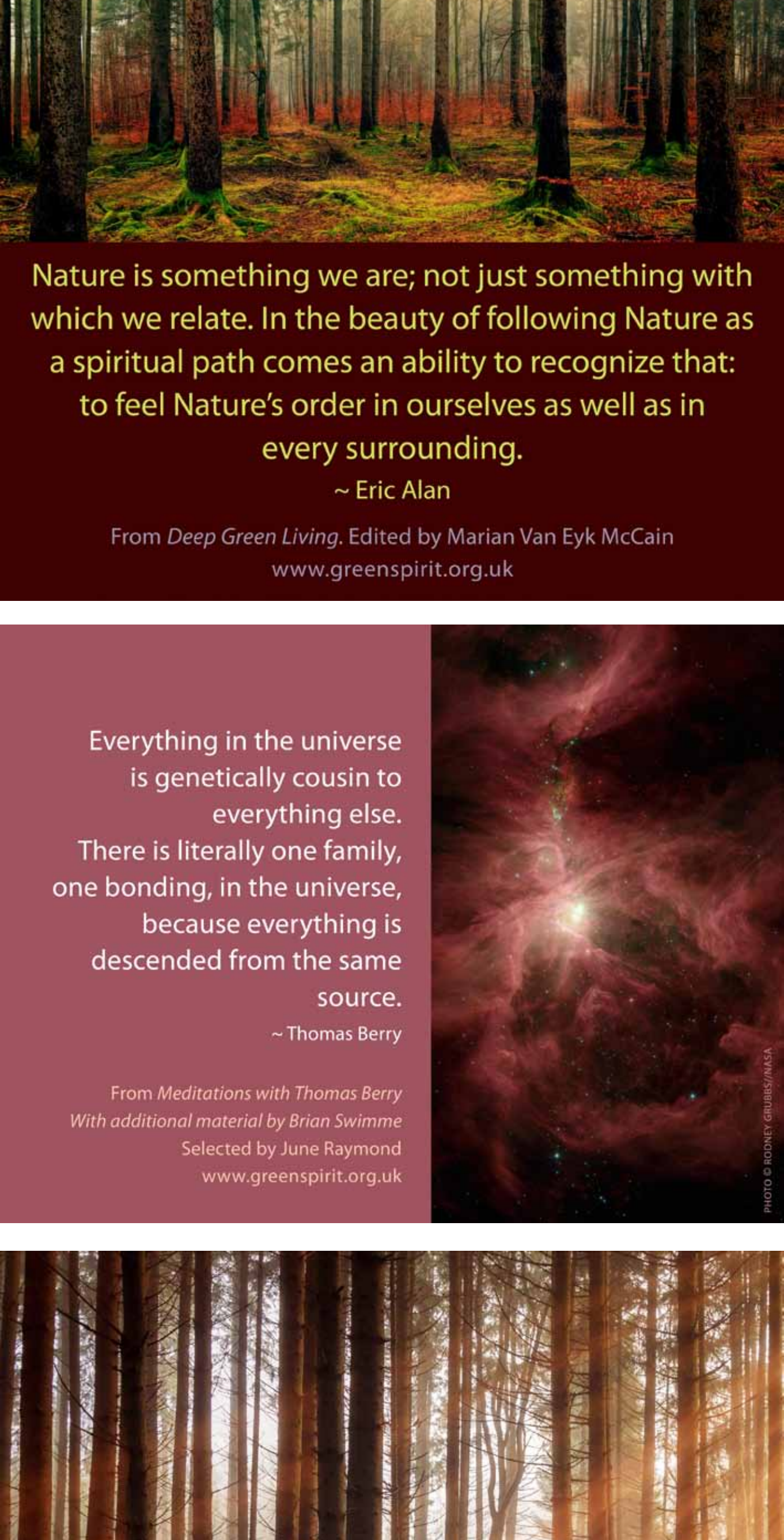
The universe is
a community of subjects,
not a collection of objects.

~ Thomas Berry

From *Meditations with Thomas Berry*
With additional material by Brian Swimme

Selected by June Raymond

www.greenspirit.org.uk



We, too, are an intrinsic part of Nature. Our animal
bodies, just like the bodies of all other living organisms,
are totally made of wild ingredients. Remembering
that – and living our lives out of that knowledge – is the
essence of deep green living.

~ Marian Van Eyk McCain

From *Deep Green Living*, Edited by Marian Van Eyk McCain

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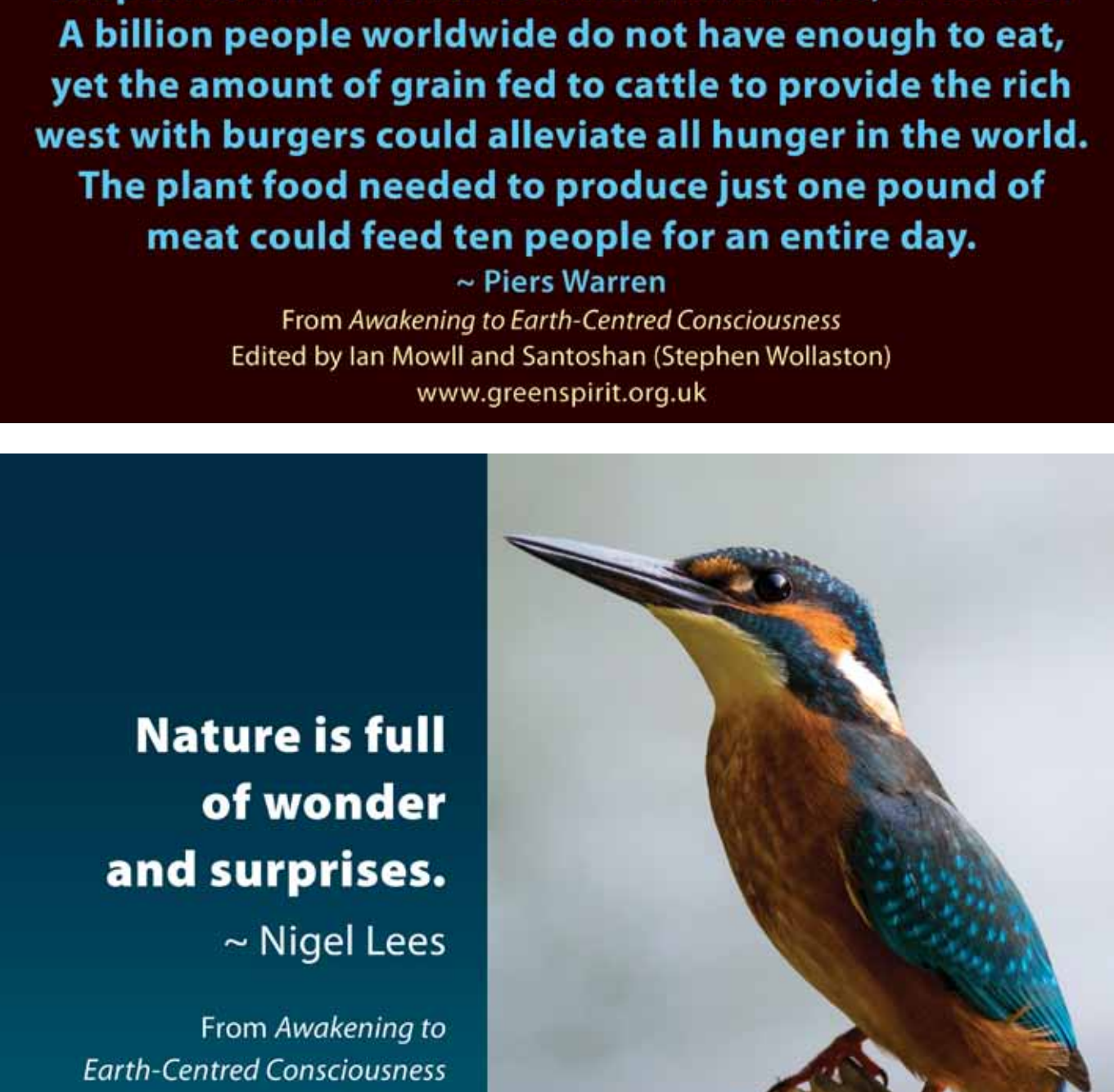
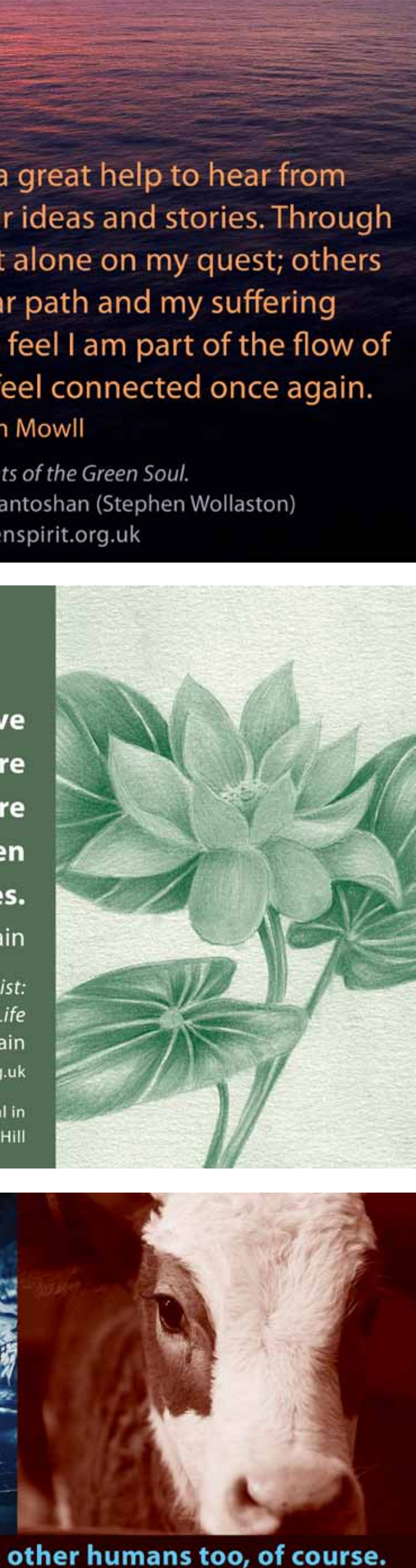


Nature is in us
and everywhere in everything.
Even in the heart of the city,
Nature is not just the pigeons
and rats and cockroaches and
mice and the slivers of living
green that grow up in the
cracks between the paving
stones, but all-pervasive.

~ Marian Van Eyk McCain

From *All Our Relations*
Edited by Marian Van Eyk McCain

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Nature is something we are; not just something with
which we relate. In the beauty of following Nature as
a spiritual path comes an ability to recognize that:
to feel Nature's order in ourselves as well as in
every surrounding.

~ Eric Alan

From *Deep Green Living*, Edited by Marian Van Eyk McCain

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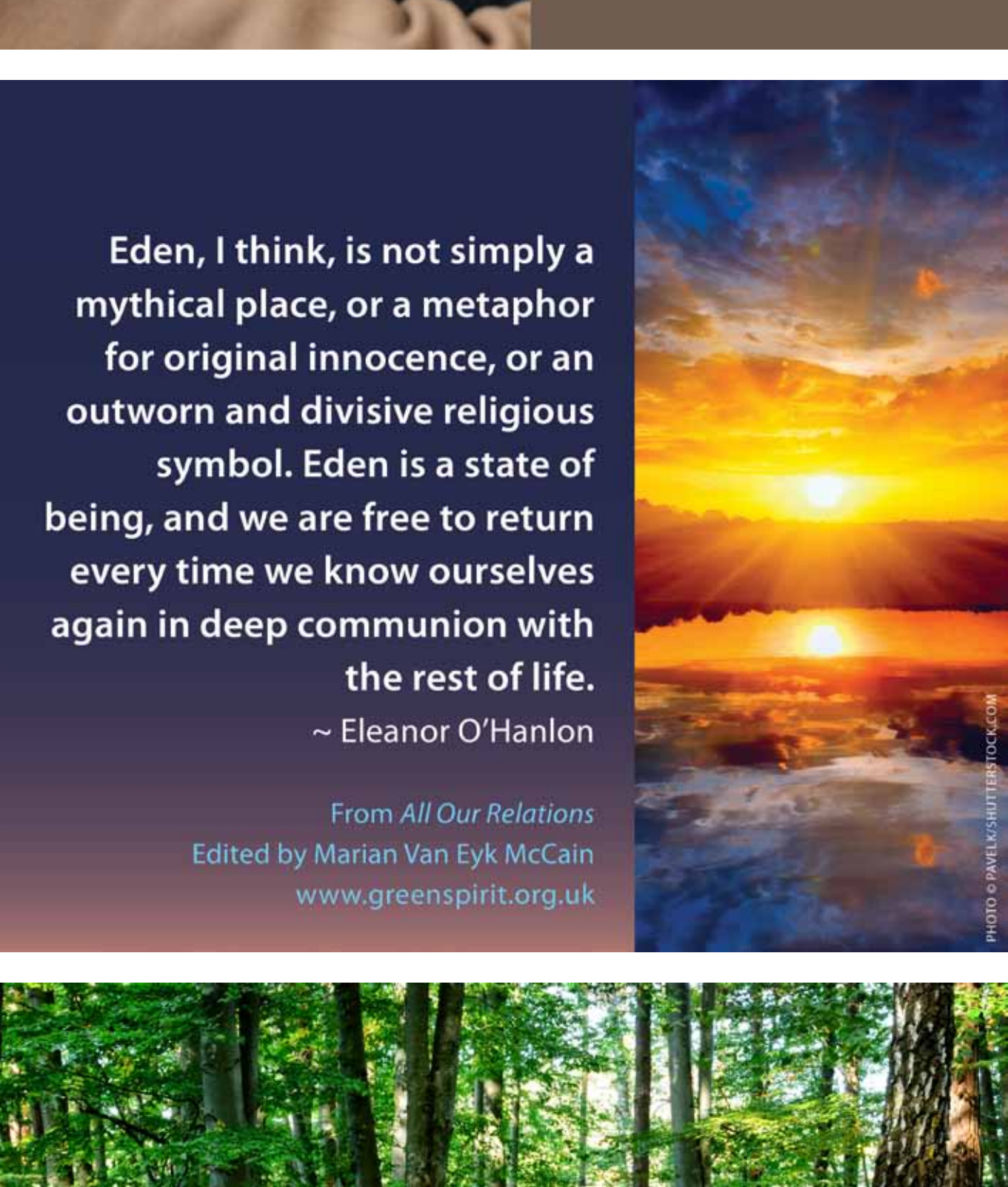
Everything in the universe
is genetically cousin to
everything else.
There is literally one family,
one bonding, in the universe,
because everything is
descended from the same
source.

~ Thomas Berry

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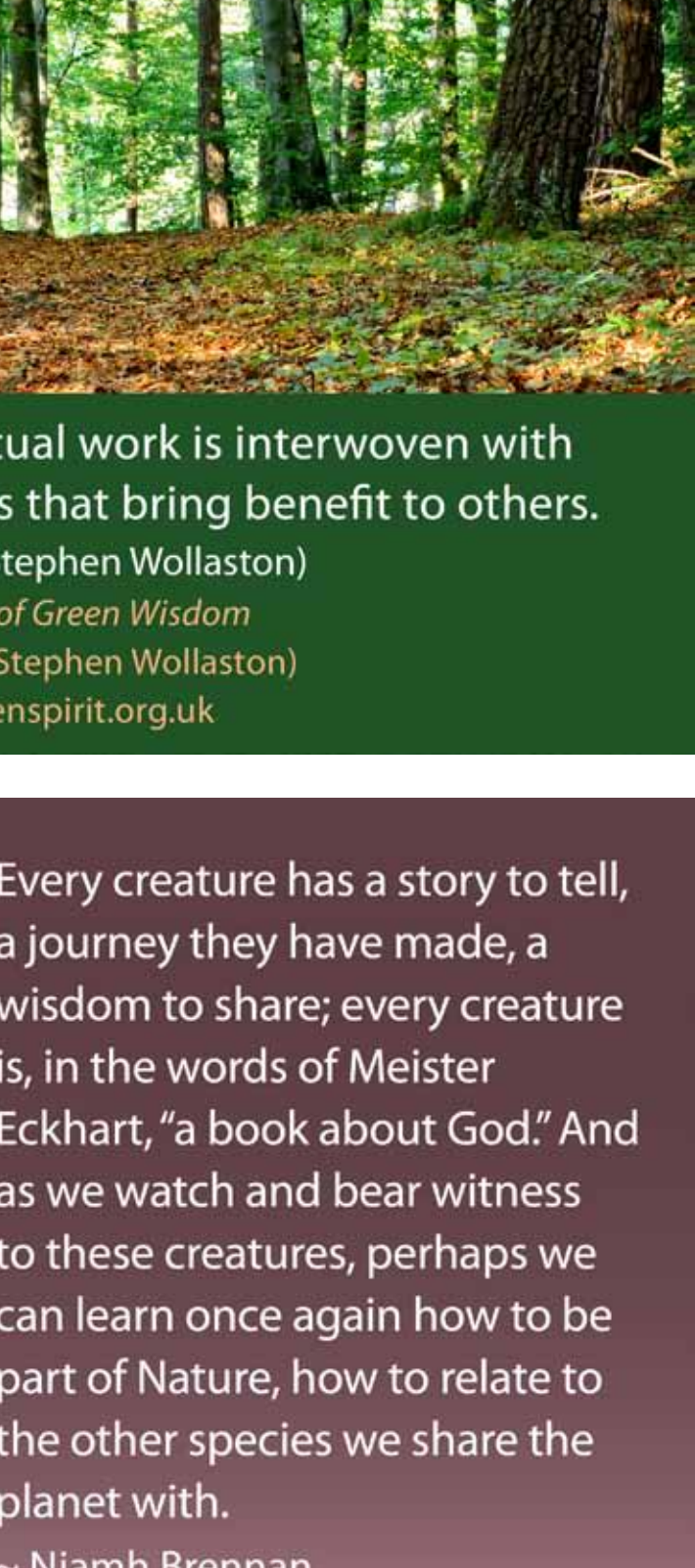
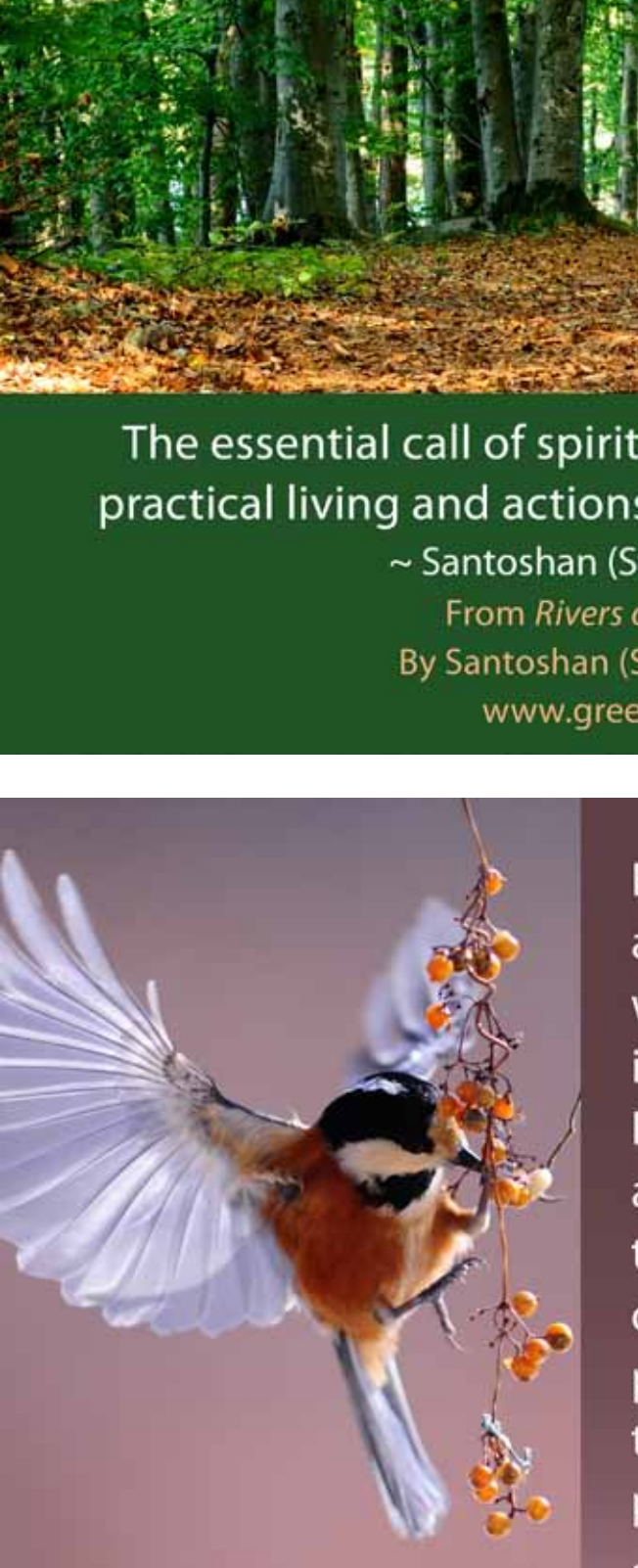


Authentic spiritual work is only truly
effective when it walks hand-in-hand
with exterior compassionate work.

~ Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)

From *Rivers of Green Wisdom*

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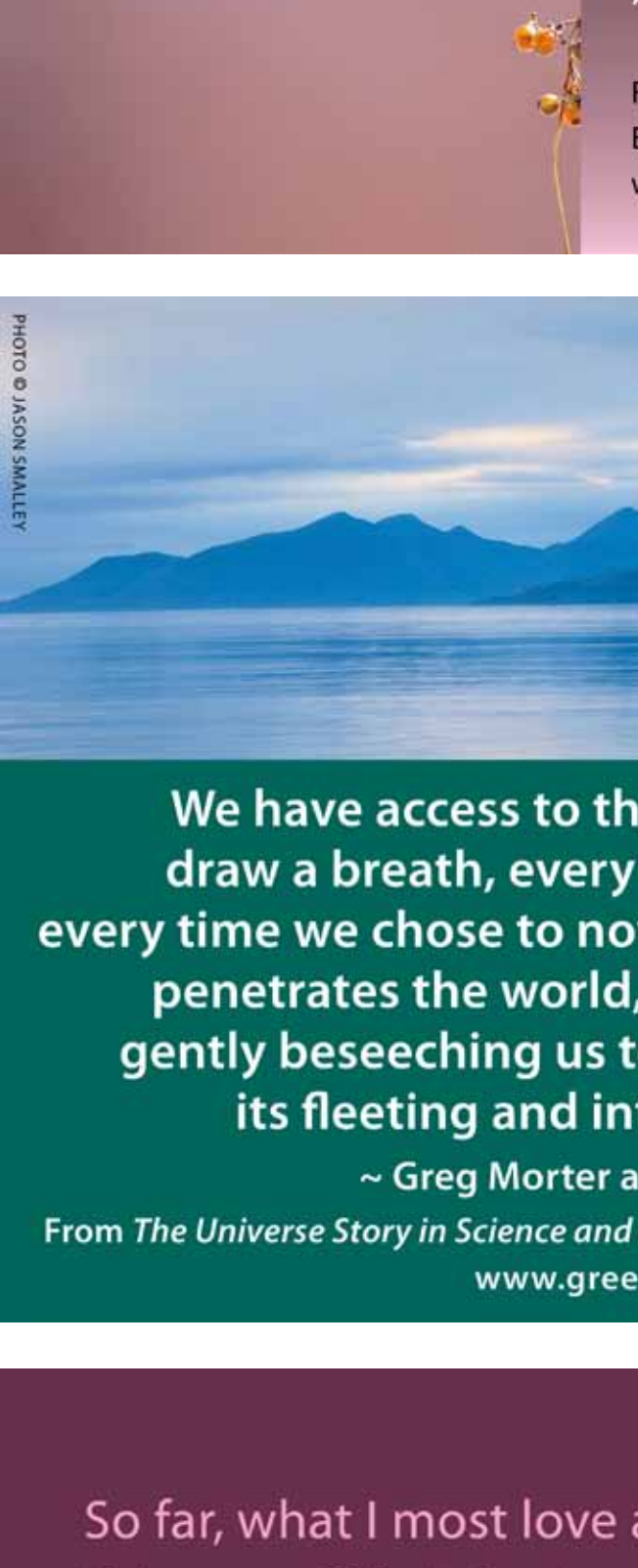
There is a wild and
creative energy that flows
through the universe
and that is our birthright.
We don't just live on the
Earth, the Earth lives in us.

~ Mary Reynolds Thompson

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[I]f *all* is a part of us
and we are a part of
the *all*, it then follows
that every creature and
species is a member of
our universal family.

~ Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)

From *Rivers of Green Wisdom*
By Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)

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Sometimes, it can be a great help to hear from
kindred spirits about their ideas and stories. Through
this, I know that I am not alone on my quest; others
have trodden a similar path and my suffering
becomes less detached. I feel I am part of the flow of
the spiritual river and I feel connected once again.

~ Ian Mowll

From *Dark Nights of the Green Soul*.

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The most creative
moments of our lives are
not only when we are
creating objects but when
we are creating ourselves.

~ Marian Van Eyk McCain

From *The Lilypad List*:
Seven Steps to the Simple Life

Edited by Marian Van Eyk McCain

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The illustration is one of several in
The Lilypad List drawn by Iris Hill



Respect for life extends to other humans too, of course.
A billion people worldwide do not have enough to eat,
yet the amount of grain fed to cattle to provide the rich
west with burgers could alleviate all hunger in the world.
The plant food needed to produce just one pound of
meat could feed ten people for an entire day.

~ Piers Warren

From *Awakening to Earth-Centred Consciousness*

Edited by Ian Mowll and Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)

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Nature is full
of wonder
and surprises.

~ Nigel Lees

From *Awakening to*
Earth-Centred Consciousness

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Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)

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Eden, I think, is not simply a
mythical place, or a metaphor
for original innocence, or an
outworn and divisive religious
symbol. Eden is a state of
being, and we are free to return
every time we know ourselves
again in deep communion with
the rest of life.

~ Eleanor O'Hanlon

From *All Our Relations*
Edited by Marian Van Eyk McCain

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The essential call of spiritual work is interwoven with
practical living and actions that bring benefit to others.

~ Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)

From *Rivers of Green Wisdom*

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Every creature has a story to tell,
a journey they have made, a
wisdom to share; every creature
is, in the words of Meister
Eckhart, "a book about God." And
as we watch and bear witness
to these creatures, perhaps we
can learn once again how to be
part of Nature, how to relate to
the other species we share the
planet with.

~ Niamh Brennan

From *What is Green Spirituality?*

Edited by Marian Van Eyk McCain

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We have access to the Divine every time we
draw a breath, every time we smell a flower,
every time we chose to notice the depth of beauty that
penetrates the world, fragile and mysterious,
gently beseeching us to see and teasing us with
its fleeting and intoxicating presence.

~ Greg Morter and Niamh Brennan

From *The Universe Story in Science and Myth*, By Greg Morter and Niamh Brennan

www.greenspirit.org.uk



So far, what I most love about
this way of life is having more
time, flexibility and autonomy
for the things that really
matter to me. For me this
has been as much a spiritual
journey and awakening as
anything else.

~ Sally Lever

on *Downshifting in the West Country*

From *The Rising Water Project*
Edited by Ian Mowll

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The earth will solve its
problems and possibly
our own, if we let the
earth function in its
own ways. We need
only listen to what the
earth is telling us.

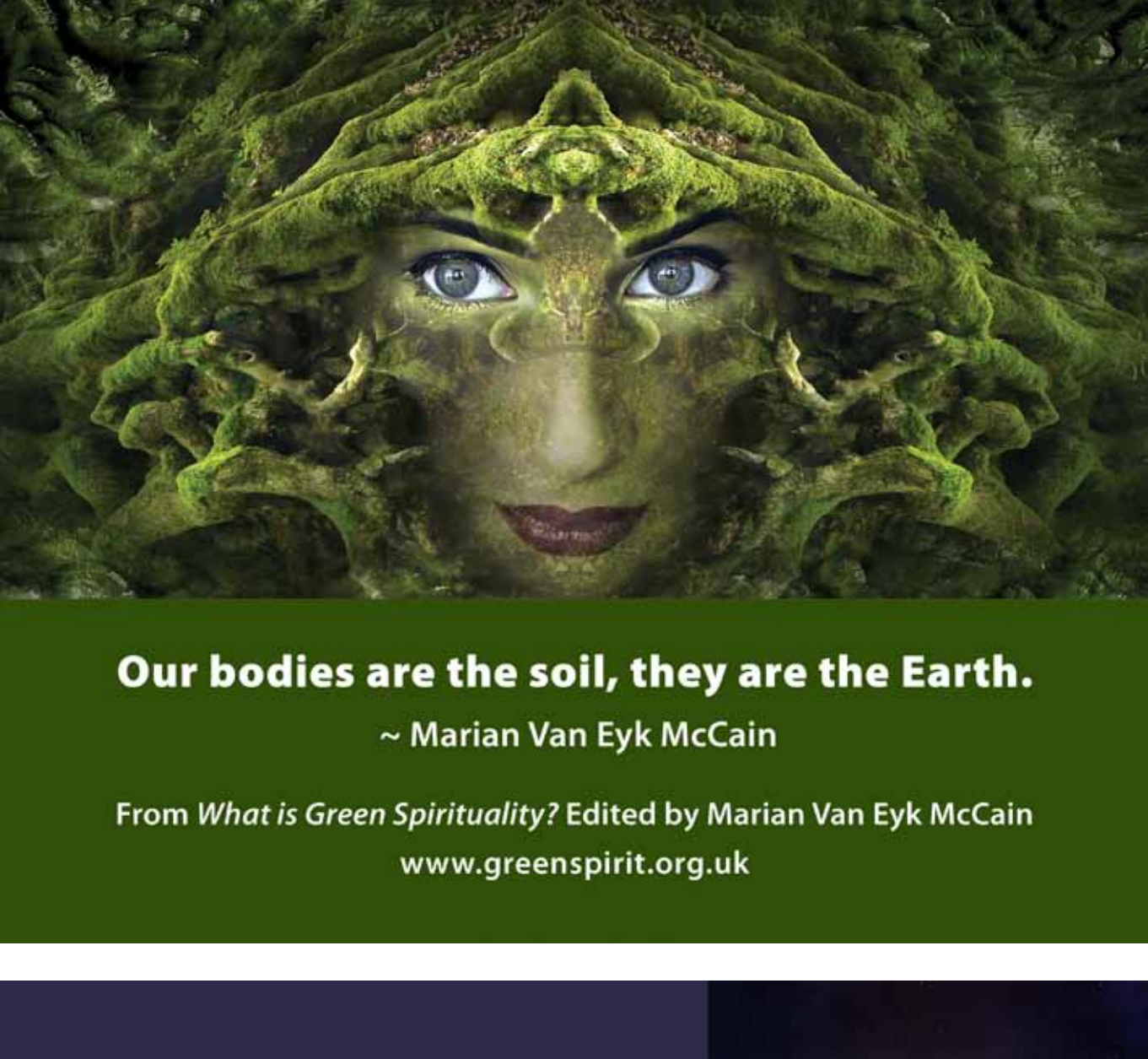
~ Thomas Berry

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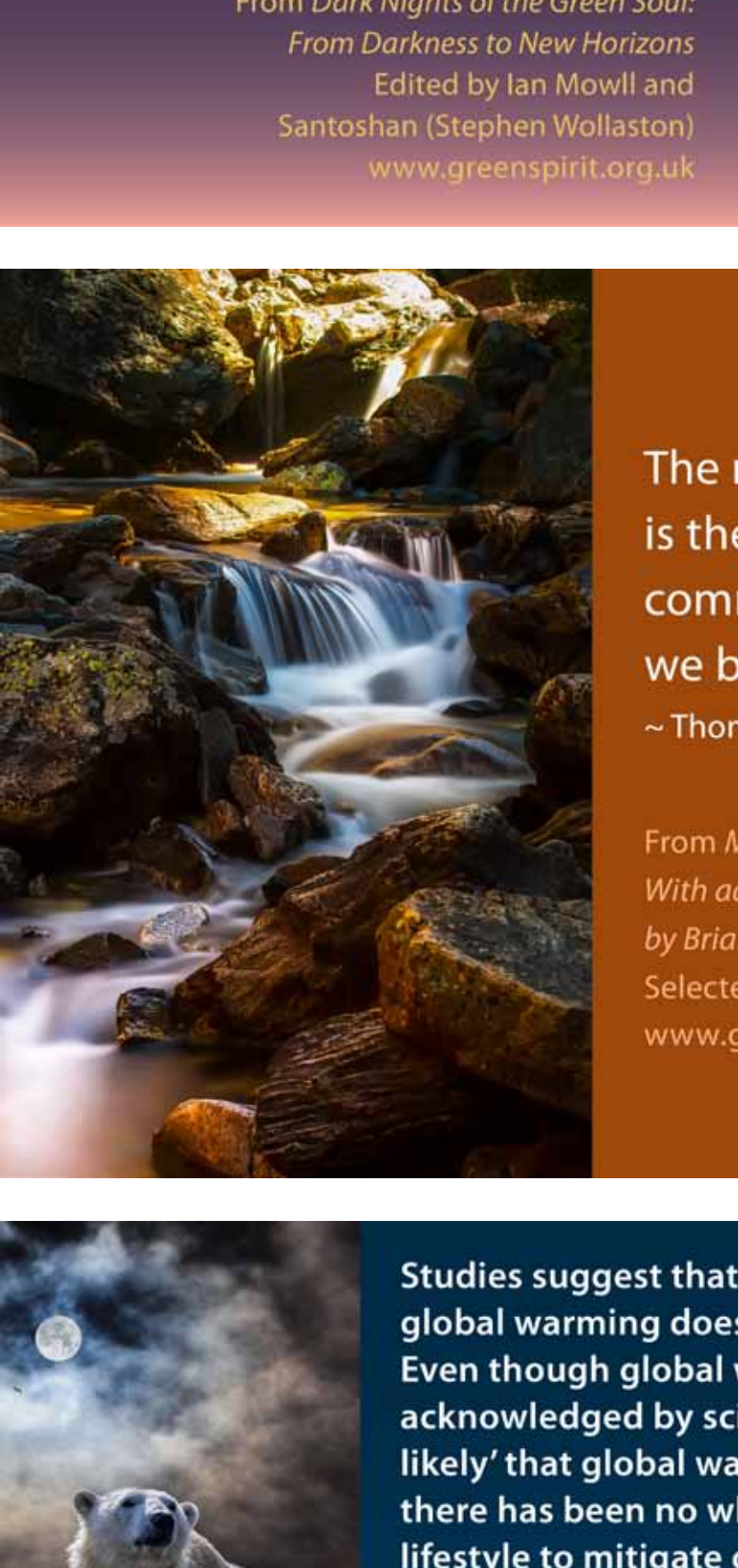




Our bodies are the soil, they are the Earth.

~ Marian Van Eyk McCain

From *What is Green Spirituality?* Edited by Marian Van Eyk McCain
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At every level our health is inextricably linked to our connection with the planet. Everything, physical, emotional and spiritual within ourselves resonates with qualities already within creation.

~ June Raymond

From *Dark Nights of the Green Soul: From Darkness to New Horizons*
Edited by Ian Mowll and Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)
www.greenspirit.org.uk



The natural world is the larger sacred community to which we belong.

~ Thomas Berry

From *Meditations with Thomas Berry*
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Studies suggest that explaining the facts of global warming does not change behaviour. Even though global warming is now irrefutably acknowledged by scientists and that it is 'very likely' that global warming is human induced there has been no wholesale change to our lifestyle to mitigate climate change.

So, how can change be effected? How can people be motivated to reduce their carbon emissions to make future flooding and climate change less likely? One way is to tell personal stories. Stories from people that we can understand, relate to, and learn from.

~ Ian Mowll

From *The Rising Water Project*. Compiled by Ian Mowll
www.greenspirit.org.uk



What if we fully acknowledged our total dependence on Gaia and her elements and came to the realization that Nature is not only around us but also within us and that we are cells in the body of a living planet?

~ Marian Van Eyk McCain

From *What is Green Spirituality?*
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Our sense of separateness was only ever a temporary illusion. Just as every wave is simply part of the ocean, we are each part of a greater whole. For Gaia is us and we are Gaia and there is no death, only constant change and transformation.

~ Marian Van Eyk McCain

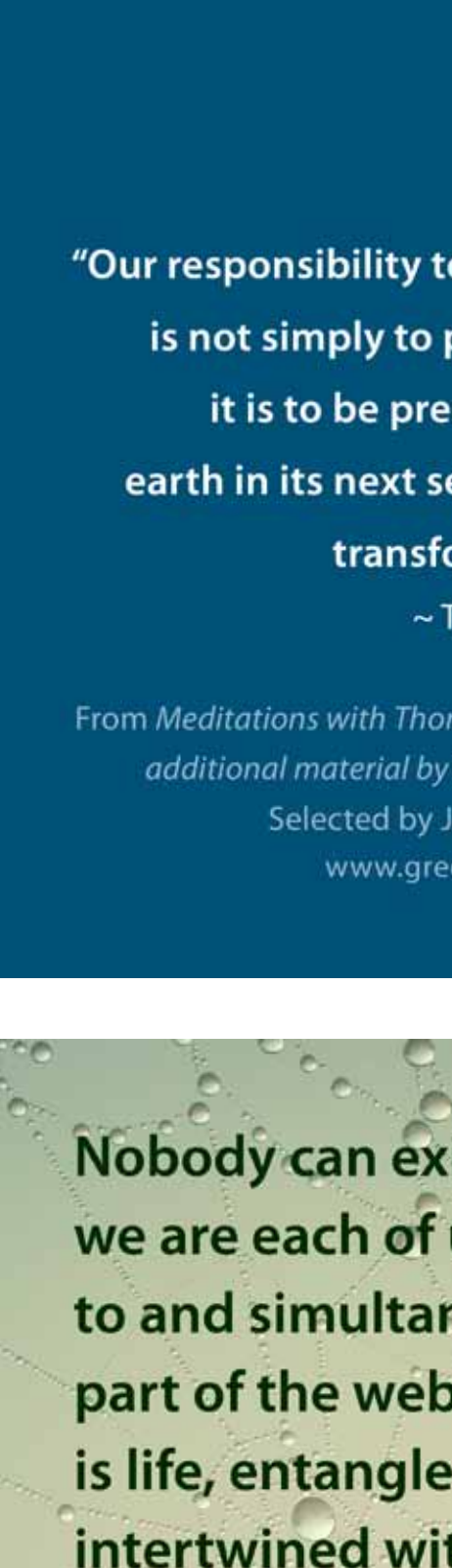
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The pleasure of being so near and in a strange way intimate with a wild creature of the air invokes a feeling of privilege. I feel honoured by such a presence.

~ Sky McCain

From *All Our Relations*
Edited by Marian Van Eyk McCain
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Thankfully, Nature-centred spiritualities have never been completely forgotten and are these days starting to become centre stage once again, as now, more than ever, there is a growing paramount need to revive and strengthen our kinship with Earth and to act justly, responsibly and wisely for our times.

~ Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)

From *Pathways of Green Wisdom*
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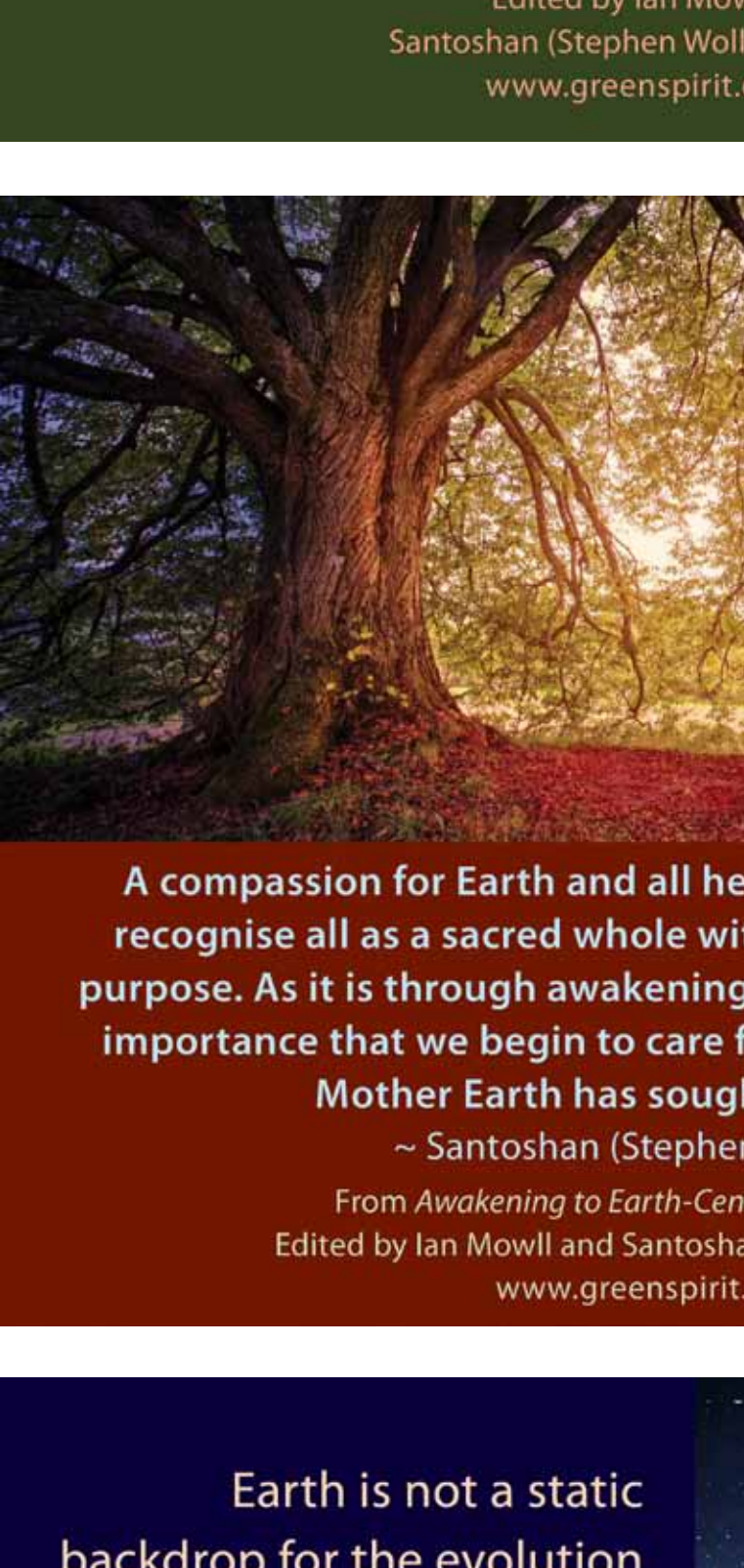


The first thing I have discovered about simplicity is that it grows from within, like a tree.

~ Marian Van Eyk McCain

From *The Lilypad List: Seven Steps to the Simple Life*
By Marian Van Eyk McCain
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The illustration is one of several in *The Lilypad List* drawn by Iris Hill



For me, GreenSpirit is about love and gratitude. Seeing the world as blessing, learning to love it and seeking to share it with others. The longer I live, the more I realise how privileged I am to be here.

~ Brendan Caulfield-James

From *What is Green Spirituality?*
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The water in your body contains primordial hydrogen that was created 13.8 billion years ago. The iron in your blood was created in stars that are at least 5 billion years old. All of time, all of evolution is carved into your body.

~ Greg Morter & Niamh Brennan

From *The Universe Story in Science and Myth*
By Greg Morter and Niamh Brennan
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As I acknowledge the web of connection, and open myself to what it is saying, my boundaries become porous to the world around me. I begin to connect at a bodily, material level with the world. I know myself as both an individual with the capacity for creative action, and also an integral part of a greater whole.

~ Chris Clarke

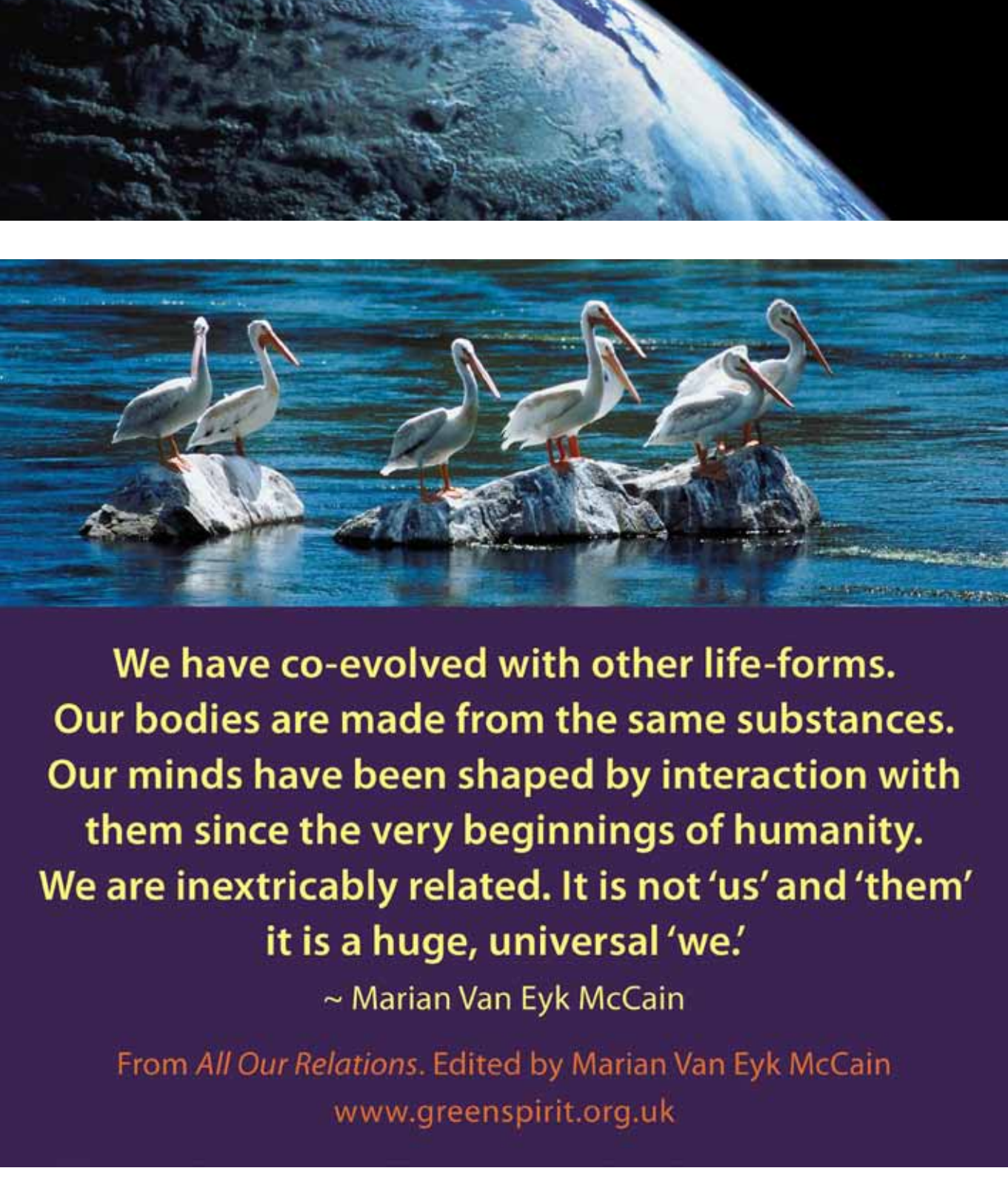
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"Our responsibility to the Earth is not simply to preserve it, it is to be present to the earth in its next sequence of transformations."

~ Thomas Berry

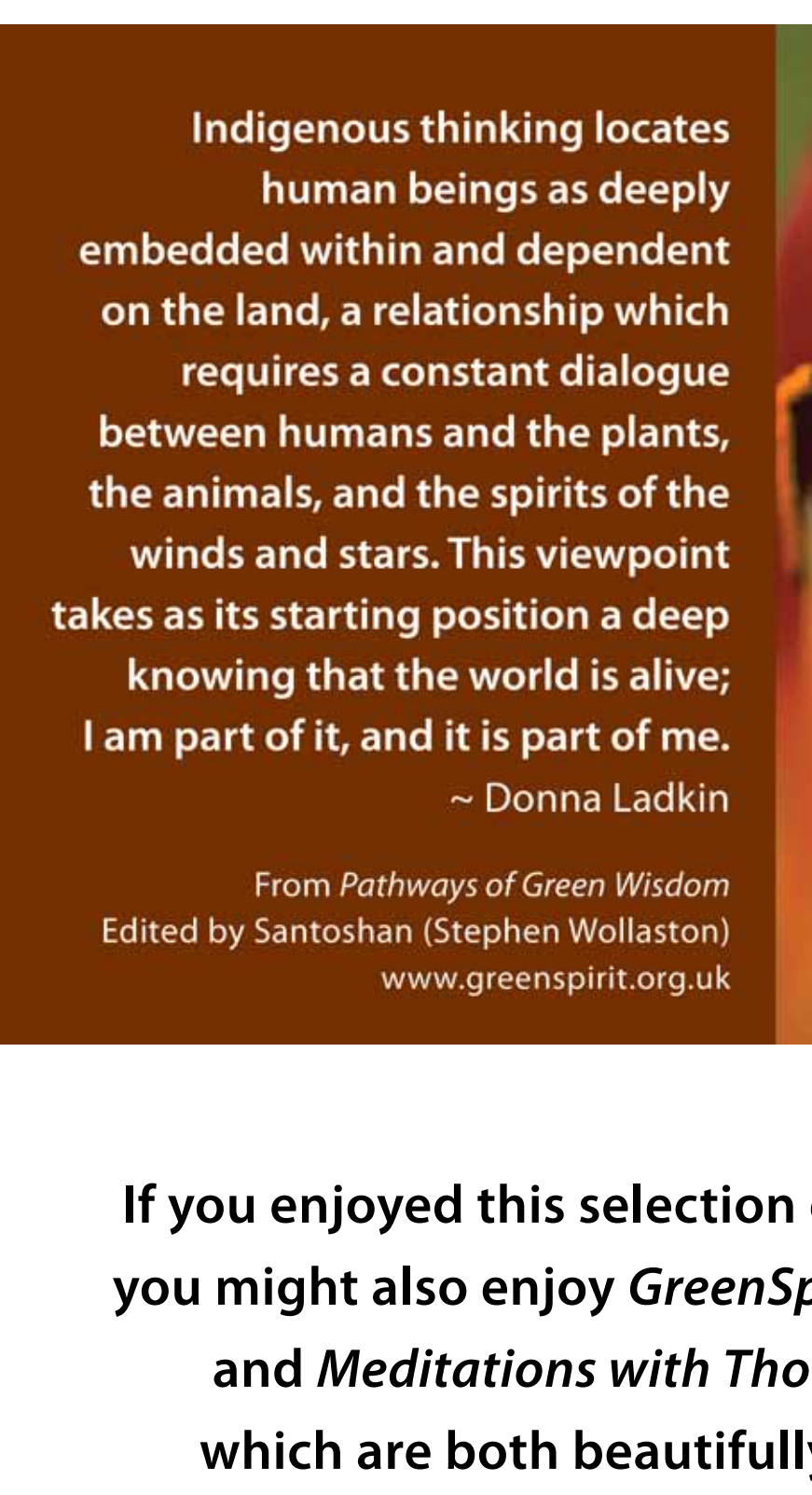
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Nobody can exist alone, we are each of us joined to and simultaneously part of the web that is life, entangled and intertwined with all the other creatures.

~ Greg Morter and Niamh Brennan

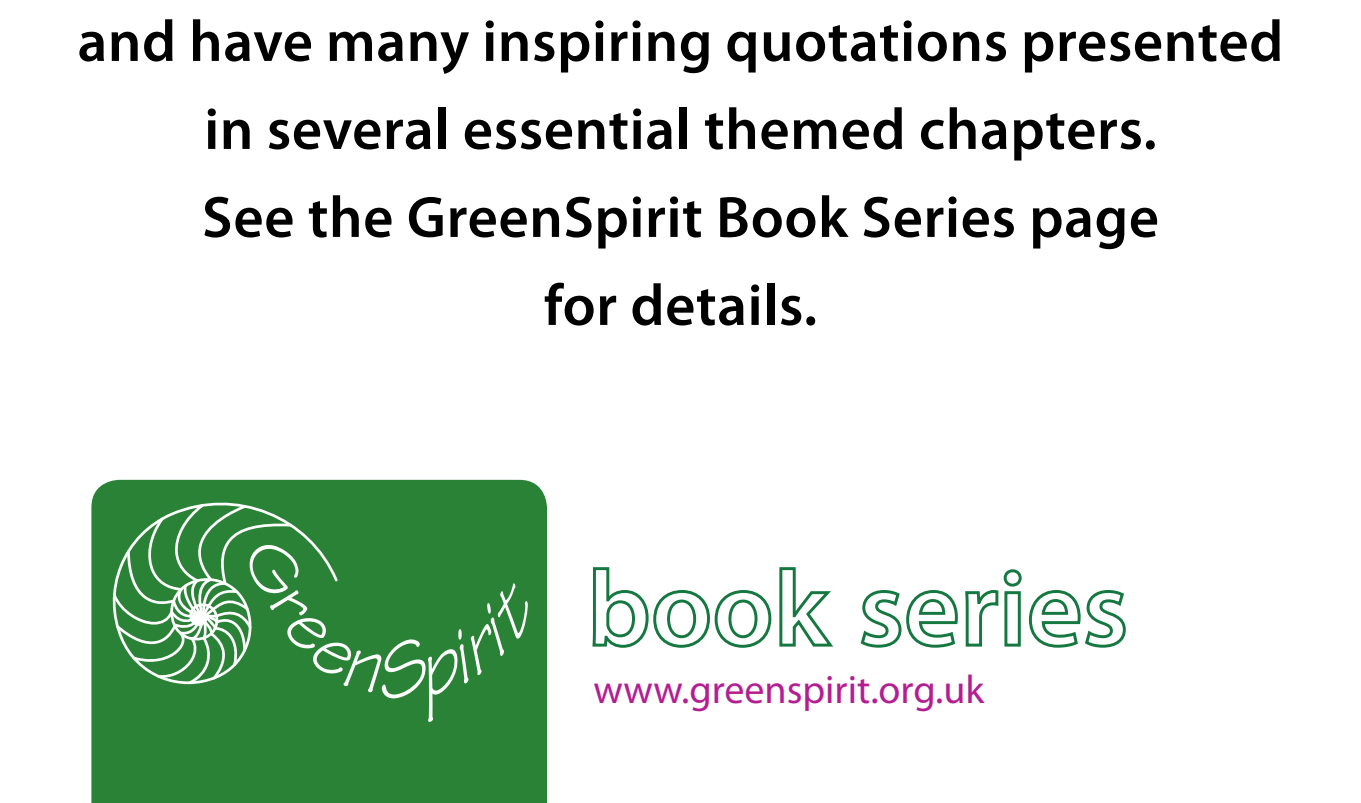
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Instead of becoming complacent or feeling disempowered and believing that any form of change in humankind's nature and current direction is impossible, we need to be passionate about what can be done and affirm there is nothing that cannot be achieved when it is acted upon with love and in harmony with the creative energies of the natural world.

~ Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)

Dark Nights of the Green Soul (expanded edition)
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A compassion for Earth and all her species is called for – to recognise all as a sacred whole with profound meaning and purpose. As it is through awakening to Nature's sacredness and importance that we begin to care for the diversity of life that Mother Earth has sought to celebrate.

~ Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)

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Earth is not a static backdrop for the evolution of plants and animals; rather the atmosphere, rocks and biosphere together enact an exquisitely intricate dance of holistic evolution.

~ Greg Morter and Niamh Brennan

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Green spirituality – a spirituality centred on this planet Earth, which is the only home we humans and our ancestors have ever known – is without a doubt the oldest form of spirituality in existence.

~ Marian Van Eyk McCain

From *What is Green Spirituality?* Edited by Marian Van Eyk McCain
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As I expand my awareness to take in more and more extensive circles of connection, or as I become absorbed in the mystery of intricacy wrapped in the veins and cells of a living leaf, I am sometimes aware of an infinite sustaining power that knits me into this dynamic whole.

~ Chris Clarke

on *Creation Spirituality and God*

From *Pathways of Green Wisdom*
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If we are to continue living with Mother Earth, we need to not only care about the diversity of life she has sought to celebrate but also learn how to read her signs, understand her ways and adapt creatively to living in harmony with her.

~ Santoshan (Stephen Wollaston)

From *Rivers of Green Wisdom*
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www.greenspirit.org.uk

We have co-evolved with other life-forms. Our bodies are made from the same substances. Our minds have been shaped by interaction with them since the very beginnings of humanity. We are inextricably related. It is not 'us' and 'them' it is a huge, universal 'we.'

~ Marian Van Eyk McCain

From *All Our Relations*. Edited by Marian Van Eyk McCain
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Indigenous thinking locates human beings as deeply embedded within and dependent on the land, a relationship which requires a constant dialogue between humans and the plants, the animals, and the spirits of the winds and stars. This viewpoint takes as its starting position a deep knowing that the world is alive; I am part of it, and it is part of me.

~ Donna Ladkin

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