

## *One Vision . . . One Voice*

by

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The changes that are sweeping over Earth can no longer go unnoticed. Indeed, there is a transformation that is both startling in scope and potential for affecting the way we think, feel, and reason about life on Earth. Every species and natural force cannot escape the inevitable outcome of this transformation.

On one hand, we are witnessing a dramatic and positive change in global, political, economical, and humanitarian processes. On the other hand, we are witnessing, as a result of overpopulation and over consumption, a massive degradation of our natural environment. Indeed, the accelerated speed in which change is sweeping over Earth boggles our consciousness and leaves us grasping for a *unified vision* and a *unified voice*, if only to give us a sense of security in terms of a common reference point.

The truth is, we are witnessing the disintegration of an old reference point, commonly called the Cartesian worldview. This male-dominant belief system, developed over 400 years ago, has literally shaped every facet of society, including science, politics, philosophy, education, medicine, and religion, by emphasizing the importance of reason, power, separation of mind from matter/body, a mechanical interpretation of life/nature, and exploitation of women, cultures, and nature.

But as the Cartesian worldview gives way to a consciousness now preoccupied with peace, cooperation, human and animal rights, social and ecological responsibility, and the sustainable wellness/wholeness of individuals, cultures, and our natural environment, the world is left grappling for a new worldview to replace the old — not only in substance/essence, but in name.

I have a vision of this new worldview, but I need your voice to share its name and essence with others. I call this new worldview *Cortesia*. **Cortesia** is an ancient French word which means **noble courtesy**, or a deep sense of **respect** or **reverence** for another. Does not the essence of all change we are rapidly witnessing and feeling outside and within ourselves come down to the simple expression of respect, reverence, and courtesy desired for ourselves, for others, for Earth?

An irony is that **Cortesian** is very similar in spelling to Cartesian (named after the 17th century philosopher/scientist, Rene Descartes), yet the differences between these two worldviews are startling. The one is exploitive, mechanical, segmentalistic, rational, power-laden, and male-dominant. The other is compassionate, organic, interdependent, intuitive, cooperative, and partnership oriented.

I have a vision of a Cortesian worldview of noble respect, reverence, and courtesy sweeping over Earth in a unified vision and voice, permeating every aspect of life. I share this vision with you so that you might find your own voice within it. If you are a businessperson, seek to discover the role of Cortesian economics within your work. If a politician, discover and share the principles of Cortesian politics. If you are environmentally concerned, or are a scientist, dive into the application of Cortesian ecology, science, and ethics. Apply a Cortesian philosophy within relationships, wellness, and spiritual practice.

Within your heart you know the direct, practical, artistic, and scientific application of a Cortesian worldview. My shared vision is but one candle from which you can light your own heart's voice. Your voice *is* needed in this new worldview and its development, for only your voice can light the candle of another's reverential, respectful, and courteous vision. Earth needs a unified vision and a unified voice. A Cortesian worldview is a reference point in which to foster a new ***Earthview*** — that of a seamless living organism which, when viewed from outer space, has no boundaries or borders separating the sacredness of each and every species on our planet. Every being on Earth, including Earth (Gaia) herself, deserves a simple act of courtesy, respect, and reverence in which to survive and carry out their potential.

A unified ***Cortesian Earthview***, in these trying times of personal and global transformation, may at least insure our overall survival into the next millennium. Won't you please share in the uniting of a new common vision with a new common voice — that of a ***Cortesian Earthview*** that celebrates the uniqueness of life on this planet through deep respect, noble courtesy, and abiding reverence?

Someone or something's candle is waiting to be lit. Here, use my vision to find your life-affirming voice in helping them.

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