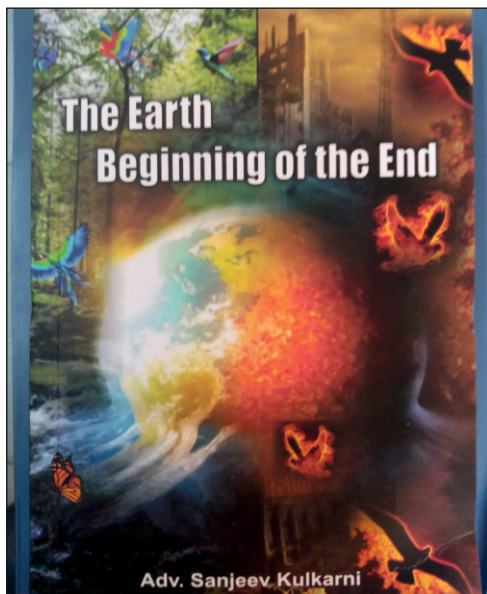


## The Earth Beginning of the End

Adv. Sanjeev Kulkarni



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The book entitled, “The Earth: Beginning of the End” is a 'must read' book as it explains how our local actions are associated with not only global phenomena but also with the Universal one. Most importantly, one advocate who is not formally trained in Geology, Geography, Botany, Zoology, Microbiology, Chemistry, Physics, etc. has authored the book. Nevertheless, Adv. Sanjeev Kulkarni has exhibited his hard work to gain immense knowledge of the universe, mother earth, oceans, atmosphere, geological processes like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fold mountains, biodiversity, etc. and their relationship with existence of human race. Giving excellent account of all the processes associated with these nature driven events the author has logically concluded that a time will come when nothing will remain on the earth for survival. The book suggests starting action, as it is the beginning of the end, the end of life on the earth and in turn end of mankind. The book urges with the widely used catchphrase 'stich in time saves nine'.

The book begins with the discussion about disastrous impacts of environmental issues like global warming, biodiversity, depletion and Ozone holes. It is interesting to see the exposition about connectivity between nature and human race. The author observes that greed of some people is the main cause of destruction of nature. His conscience has been disturbed with such facts and factors

continuously observed at local to global levels. This has motivated him to write the book. He states in the first chapter, 'My Intentions' that the present situation is like last breathing and hence must be treated as the last and final alarm of the globe.

The second chapter includes discussion on beauty of nature. This chapter finds the rationalization of conservation of nature as it provides all resources to satisfy our needs. The resource base is dependent on various interactions between biotic and abiotic components in the ecosystem. The author has underlined the fact that each species in the nature survives with peace, i.e. without disturbing other organisms. Such kind of symbiotic relationship in among the huge number of small and big animals, plants, birds, microbes, etc. and their dependence on soil-water can be pondered as beauty of mother earth. This is her strength that gives inspiration and energy to mankind. Therefore it is necessary to keep the beauty and strength intact for our own survival.

The next chapter warns us how the earth is on the verge of losing its strengths to provide resources for survival of various species including human beings. The earth is ending means its capacity to support all plants and animal is diminishing. Ecosystem has twofold functions. First to provide resources and the second to act as sink which swallows the dirt created by human activities. If we produce and throw the toxic materials and compound in air, water, soils and even right up to ocean floors more than the capacity of nature to degrade the same nature loses its strength. The author opines that earth being gift of God should not be spoiled. Variety of scientific deliberations has been documented to arrive at the conclusion that earth is ending. This chapter has elaborately given the idea regarding impact of melting glaciers, plant and animal extinction, natural disasters, climate change, etc. The ultimate effect would be disturbing peace and relationship between the countries and societies. One more chapter is devoted to discuss Earth. That discusses formation of earth, its structure, plate tectonics, mountain building processes, Oceans, atmosphere, etc. and the interaction between each other. On the basis of this scientific information it is stated that indiscriminate mining is much more serious problem than population. The author is well aware of balance state of atmosphere and its relation with other components on the earth, stars and planets in the universe. Tracing the geological history of important events on the earth author wants to inculcate awareness among the readers regarding uniqueness of the planet earth and long existing equilibrium state. Thus he has tried his best level to sensitise the society about our lifestyle and materialistic behaviour. In a way he has thrown light on our consumerism and its impact as disturbing the state of balanced interactions between biotic and abiotic components of the earth.

We always say with pride that idea of India is based on the strength of diversity. India has tremendous diversity in terms of climate, vegetation cover, Soils, rivers, topography, etc. This has been reflected in coexistence of different religions and cultures. It is the beauty and strength of our country as experienced since historical past. This book has given due importance to diversified nature of our planet. The biggest chapter in the book gives us good account of biodiversity and evolution. The principle that 'long drawn evolutionary process enhances ability and immunity systems of animals' has been explained with apt examples. The story of trafficking African slaves to America has been narrated with factual historical events. While discussing causes of climate change, author has explained how colonisation and migration have been responsible for the same. This part of the book embraces variety of problems like blast fishing due to which coral reefs are damaged, climate change and its impact on migratory birds, extinction of 30% birds, etc. Giving details of lifestyle of the birds the author has suggested learning from them for our own survival by adapting to new situation.

The next two chapters (6 & 7) give good information about ice ages and glaciers. Tracing the history of 4.5 billion years life span of the earth, the information about 5 big ice ages experienced on the earth is given in the beginning. On the basis of scientific studies it is said that another ice age may occur in future. However it may be pulled earlier by about one lakh year due to climate change. That is why author call it as the stage of beginning of end of life on the earth. In post glaciation period thawing

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of ice is not complete. Large amount of ice is preserved in the form of glaciers. The importance of glaciers in terms of storage of carbon and maintaining sea levels has been aptly explained.

Climate change is much discussed environmental issue at global level. The two chapters have given the idea how oceans and rivers are affected by global warming. Both rivers and oceans are well connected to human culture. As per natural sciences both provide habitat for numerous types of microbes, small and big animals grasses, algae, trees, etc. Our economy is directly and indirectly is associated with both these components. Most importantly, oceans play key role in balancing various natural cycles. Therefore oceans have sanctity almost in all cultures. Here author has explained the concept using Greek mythology. Accordingly, ocean is considered as son of Sun and Earth. The rivers are prayed for achievements in life and for protection from evils. Therefore Hindus worship rivers. Ganga, Brahmaputra, Sindhu, Godavari, Narmada, etc. are considered as Holly Rivers in India. Explaining the utility and importance of rivers and oceans author has advised us to check the water pollution as it spoils functions of both, rivers and oceans as well. Further in the fourteenth chapter, the author advocates to avoid construction of dams. Apart from its ill-impact on river ecosystem and destruction of social system in the submerged areas, it causes disasters like earthquakes and changing magnetic field. The author has worked hard to search the related examples fom China and other countries.

The forests play vital role in the food chain. They are the lungs of the world as they convert CO<sub>2</sub> into Oxygen. The two chapters (10 & 11) have given interesting information about the best forests in world and Indian forests. The richness, beauty, diversity and capacity to host several birds and animals have been discussed with wide range of examples from Sambisa forest of Nigeria to the biggest forest of the world i.e. Taiga Rainforest. Similarly, information of several Indian forests is also documented. The interesting stories related to forest conservational efforts by kings and local people have been narrated. Acquisitive attitude of corporates is the major cause for forest degradation. How to conserve forest? The book provokes to think on this issue. In this context, the scientific study of wild fire and bush fire found in the fifteenth chapter is amazing. It reveals anthropogenic factors responsible for such kind of huge destruction of forest and in turn wild life.

The next chapter 12 has discussed another treasure of nature i.e. coral reefs. How they are formed through animal life? What their age and function? What is their importance? Why they should be conserved? All these questions have been addressed in this chapter in scientific way.

Concept of magnetic field and the poles is well known. However, theories regarding shifting poles and changing magnetic field with time are much more complex. The author has explained these in a simple language so that common people can understand. The author has expressed his concern about the recent changes in the field, which is quite stable for long ago. This may be alarming situation of vital damage of the earth.

Thus, the author warns the readers chapter by chapter about the end of the earth which takes motherly care of human beings. 'We the human beings should not be inhuman to our mother' is the message given by this book.

The explanations in the book are in simple language with scientific base. It is beyond admiration that a student of law has written the book on the relevant theme, which needs deep understanding of multidisciplinary scientific concepts with appropriate examples encompassing world and universe. Hopefully, the book will get good response from the students, academicians, policy makers and common public.