

The World is as You Dream it

-John Perkins

This compelling book encourages readers to realize a greater connectedness, a oneness between human beings themselves and the earth. John is educated in the United States in business and also wrote the book, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*. He has considered himself as an economic hitman once, but in "The World is as You Dream it", Perkins focuses on how to be an "Earth-Honoring" individual.

Every society on earth is shaped by the dreaming of its members. "Individual dreams affect the courses of our lives and collective dreams determine the future of civilizations". Western society is incredibly good at dreaming and acting upon one thing: Construction. We can remold the earth by "Bulldozing, mining, building, and manufacturing. Our educational commercial, political, social and judicial systems are all set up to enhance the efficiency of construction". We need to learn to recognize new dreams.

Over the course of studying with indigenous peoples of the Amazon and dreaming in the conscious and subconscious states, Perkins has come to realize that through psychonavigation he could "gain insight into his own role as an earth steward, as well as an individual businessman, husband and father". He strongly states that in order for us to continue living how we are, all humans must change their dream from a materialistic, earth dominating one- to a more spiritual, cooperative, and earth honoring one. Unfortunately for most of us, "the power of dreams is snatched away during the educational processes that focus on the material world."

Perkins has Witnessed many individuals who have the ability to alter perceptions and in doing so changing people's lives. These people were tribal chieftains, magicians, dancers, priests, firewalkers, politicians, billion dollar investors, healers, and Shamans. No matter who the person was, or what they did, "their abilities and power came from being able to mold dreams". "Perception is the single most important factor in shaping the future. Americans culture's perception is extremely self-centered, greedy, and probably in the final analysis self-destructive . The indian perception on the other hand, is nurturing enduring, self-sustaining". Perkins asked a Shuar man, a Shaman, how long it might take to change people so that they dream of healing the earth and bringing equality. The man's response was that "It can be accomplished in a generation. You need only plant a different seed, teach your children to dream new dreams."

Contemporary north americans and other "moderns" perhaps the first people in history not to practice some form of vision quest as a regular part of our educational process. Indigenous cultures use vision quests, meditation, and sometimes mind altering plants to learn from deep within how to guide their actions in order to honor and live with the earth, in contrast to against it. Perkins discusses the use of Ayahuasca in the Shuar Culture, which enables the user to communicate directly with Mother Nature, and the supernatural world.

"The real question, then, is, how can we turn modern day philosophies of growth and development around to become earth stewards?" The answer is in what we do best: Construction. Instead of building heavy and durable goods that are a product of industrialization, build one that can dissolve into thin air or into the earth." A Shaman's voice said: "It's not

construction that is the problem, nor mining, nor any other activity or profession. It's the goal of these, the dreamed result. The world is as you dream it. I will only add that you must work on it."