



One Earth Sangha

Sensing Self as Earth

Guided Meditation Offered by Pennie Opal Plant

This is a transcript of a practice given on April 25, 2021 to participants in Remembering Our Reciprocity with Earth, an EcoDharma Exploration led by Pennie Opal Plant, Alison Ehara-Brown and Thanissara. Listen to the full program [here](#).

Pennie Opal Plant:

Please either hold your vessel of water or have it in front of you.

Make sure you are comfortable. In just a moment, we will begin our time together by taking four deep breaths. Afterward, we will introduce ourselves to the spirits of the air and thank them. We will take a breath through our nose, breathing down deep into our navels, imagining every part of our lungs from the top to the bottom filling with healing oxygen and slowly releasing it through our mouths. When you hear the chime we will begin.

Chime to indicate beginning.

We will take our first breath now. Our second breath. Our third breath. Our fourth breath. Be aware of how you feel...

Our breath connects us with the spirits of the air, winds, and all our relatives who breathe air. The air we are breathing has been breathed in and out by billions of our human and non-human relatives since the beginning of air breathers on Mother Earth's belly. Our breath connects us to the sacred system of life, to all of those who came before and all of those who are breathing with us now. We are related by our kinship to and reliance on the air. We send our apologies to the spirits of the air



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for what our human family has done to cause harm to them. We put our intention on a future that has clean air everywhere, without toxins or pollutants, and, if it feels right to you, vow to the air that you will do what you can to make that happen. We send our gratitude to the air, to the spirits of the air, for allowing us to exist.

Now, be mindful of your body and the energy that radiates from it that is also you. Imagine the energy that extends from your body. Does it feel too big or too small? If so, imagine it becoming a comfortable size for you. You are going to create a shield around your energy with a color. It may be green or pink or sparkling white or purple or blue or yellow, whatever color feels appropriate. Imagine the shield as a strong, thin layer encompassing your entire body and energy. Take a few moments to make this happen. Make sure the shield goes completely around your energy, including your head, feet, and if you are sitting, your bottom. Your body is inside your energy, and your energy is inside your shield. **Moments Pass**

With clear intention, either in your beingness or aloud, indicate that only the Greater Good is allowed to flow between you, your energy, your shield and everything outside of your shield. The Greater Good is free to flow in and out, and anything not of the Greater Good is not allowed in. Be clear and strong with your intention. This is your protection, and you can use it anytime you feel the need.

Now we put our attention on Mother Earth. We send our introduction to her from our hearts. Our Mother the Earth has provided everything that life requires to exist on her belly. Each life form within every natural ecosystem has a place, a purpose, ways to give life to its neighbors, and ways to exist itself. Each natural ecosystem is interdependent and evolved into an intricately functioning system over thousands



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or millions of years. There is communication between them via natural chemical systems, energy, the air, the seasons, and more ways of communicating that most of us no longer understand. Eliminating one life form from this intricate system impacts everyone in it and causes harm. For example, when an insect or rodent that evolved within the system is eliminated, it negatively impacts the entire system. We may wonder about the loneliness of plants and non-human relatives who have been taken out of their homes in order to be in our yards, or placed in zoos, or who have become our unwilling pets. If it feels right, take a moment to send your apologies to these beings and indicate your support to help restore them or their relatives to their natural homes. **Moments Pass**

We also take some moments to apologize to our Mother the Earth for any part that we may have played in damaging the sacred system of life. **Moments Pass** We are humbled by our forgetfulness and our unintended disrespect. We offer our deep gratitude to Her, for everything she offers so that we may live.

Now, we are going to become grounded by connecting to the center of Mother Earth's body. Imagine your tailbone becoming a root which begins to extend beyond you and begins a journey through whatever you are standing or sitting on. It meets the very top of Mother Earth's skin and travels down. Maybe there are gophers, moles, worms, and other insects. They are all your relatives. Continue down through the layers of Mother Earth, sediment, rocks, crystals, water, lava. Your root continues down toward the iron core of Mother Earth, and once you are there, your root wraps around Her core – stay there for a moment. **Moments Pass** Begin to travel back up to inhabit your body once again. When you fully arrive, you may notice there is a feeling of magnetism connecting you to Mother Earth, and you feel deeply grounded and deeply supported.



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As you arrive back from the journey to the center of Mother Earth, be aware of water. There is water inside your body, there is the vessel of water you prepared. Pick it up if you aren't already holding it. Take a moment and introduce yourself to the water. **Moments Pass - Water Sounds Begin** The water has been on Mother Earth for billions of years. The first life formed in water and we know that water has been animating life from the very beginning. Those of us who are biologically women have more water in our bodies than men. And as Grandmother Moon guides the tides of water on Mother Earth, she also guides the tides of the flows of women. When women are pregnant, our babies swim in the seas of our wombs and are born on a great wave of water. As women, we have a special relationship with water. Water is sacred. Water is life.

As you breathe, there is microscopic water in the air. Be mindful of all the forms of water. Ice, steam, flowing water, clouds, oceans, rivers, streams, rain, so many forms of water. Gaze at the water in your vessel, thank the water for the life it offers us all. Think of a place near or in water that brought you joy and be there for a moment. **Moments Pass** Thank that place and let your gratitude flow from your heart to those waters.

Breathe your gratitude to the waters in your body for keeping you alive. Imagine the waters all over the world cleansed, healthy, liberated, and if it feels right, vow to act in a good way on behalf of water. Thank the spirits of the waters for all that they give you and for what they offer life. Thank the water in the air as you breathe in and out. Put your fingers in the water in your vessel and ask it to bless you as you touch the top of your head, face, and heart. **Moments Pass**



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Now we put our attention on the forests. **Breeze in Trees Sounds Begin** The great trees in the forests that take the carbon monoxide of our breaths, cleanse it, and releases oxygen, as well as cleanses the greenhouse gasses caused by the fossil fuel and agricultural industries. Imagine being in a great forest full of life. We hear the rustling of the leaves or needles if it is a forest of pine, sequoia, or redwoods.

Bird/Forest Sounds Begin We hear the twittering, songs, and cries of birds, the rustling of the forest floor as small creatures move, the buzzing of insects, the sound of a leaf falling. We take a deep breath through our nose and take in the aroma. What do we smell? How does the aroma feel as it moves into us? How does the air feel on our skin?

As we experience the forest, we realize that we are not separate from the intricate and sacred system of life. We are part of the system. We open our hearts to the trees, the earth, the sunlight shifting through the branches, the birds, the little ones under the leaves, under the earth, the ones who have their homes in the trees. With our open hearts and our rootedness to Mother Earth, we drop into our solar plexus and feel the power of life that is all around us. It radiates from one life form to another, connecting everything including us. While we listen, while we feel, while our hearts are open, we experience the web of life that we are a very small part of. Feel how it flows into you and through you and extends outward, continuing through the web that connects everything, even the planets and stars. Our attention remains in our hearts and our solar plexus and our rootedness in Mother Earth. Remain there. **Moments Pass**

If your attention begins to stray into thoughts, move your attention into your hearts and solar plexus and experience your rootedness to Mother Earth. We will stay



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here for a few more moments so that you will know your way back to this place and this feeling. **Moments Pass - Nature Sounds End**

Know that there are many ways of experiencing life than with our minds. When you have “butterflies in your belly” or feel “alarms going off in your solar plexus”, that is another way of knowing and it is important to pay attention to those signals. When you are in a stressful situation, you have a choice of staying in your mind, or shifting your attention to your heart, opening it up to have a different perception than stress or fear. Some people experience other people’s energy and feelings in their legs, their calf muscles, or other parts of their bodies. There are many ways of experiencing life and we don’t have to limit ourselves to our minds. Know that by paying attention to your body, you will have a fuller experience of the sacred system of life and being alive.

And now our time together is closing.

As we find our way back to the present moment, take note of the journey you’ve been on. Be mindful of how to return to your heart, solar plexus, and rootedness to Mother Earth. Be aware that you can explore many places on Mother Earth’s belly even if you have not actually been there before. Be aware that we are not separate from any part of the sacred system of life. We are simply and humbly a tiny aspect of the web.

I close with this poem:

*As humans we are tiny and new
Not even a spec in the line of time
As one of the newest natural life forms*



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*We should feel small, humble, and respectful
Of our relatives who have been here much longer*

*In a short time many of us have managed to forget
Our place within the sacred system of life
To imagine we are greater than every other non-human relative
And many of us have taken dominion over those who are
Older, wiser, and know how life is meant to be*

*There are those who still communicate with
The sacred system of life
Who understand the languages of leaves, roots, and bark
Winds, thunders, waters, the voices of the
Birds, whales, coyotes, lizards, and grasshoppers*

*There are still those who remember how to
Invite the rains to come through a dance
Listen to the wisdom of rocks
Sing a seed into sprouting and
Other talents for which there is no human language*

*Be still, quiet, humble and respectful when
You intentionally enter the sacred system of life
Know there are protocols and ways to be
Take nothing without permission
Always give as much as you can before you take*

Listen

*The ancestors and unseen helpers are everywhere
Waiting to guide you into right relationship
Within the sacred system of life
To guide your participation in this critical time
To remember who you are and what you are to offer
We are to assist the rebirth of humanity into a sacred relationship with
Everything that is*



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We are not separate.

We are nature protecting herself.

Thank you for spending this time with me. May you be well my relatives.

Chime to indicate end