

# Storying ~~STORY OF~~ PLACE

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engine of  
resilience and  
regeneration

Gaining Ground, 23 October 2009  
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[www.regenesisgroup.com](http://www.regenesisgroup.com)

In a self-fulfilling prophecy, we actualize who we think we are. The archetypes and stories we present to ourselves act as beacons guiding us into the future.

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Duane Elgin

A story of dis-placing—

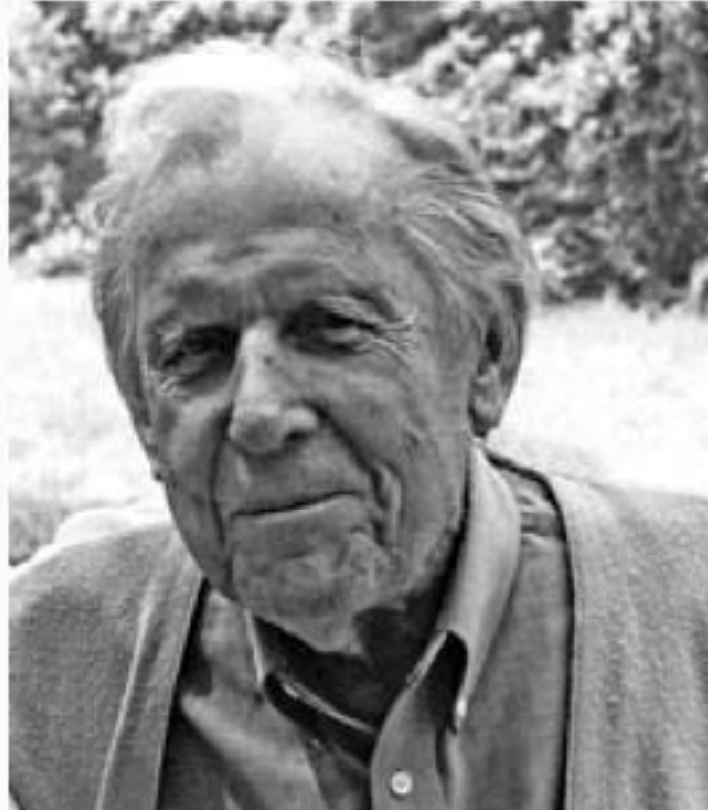
- from web of life
- from our rootedness in place







**Thomas Berry**



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Earth scholar — Geologist  
November 1914-June 2009

...places in which the bonds between people and those between people and the natural world create a pattern of connectedness, responsibility, and mutual need.

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David Orr

Rootedness in a place is the most important and least recognized need of the human soul.

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Simone Weil



### Short term:

- the unity of purpose needed for the profound changes required of us
  - place intelligence needed to design changes worthy of that unity
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### Long term:

History has proven that we ultimately exploit what we merely conclude to be of value.  
What we love, we defend and nurture.

**Aim of Resilience:** to bounce or spring back into shape, position quickly; to be able to function and provide necessary services through adverse conditions

## Aim of Regeneration...

*“To stop managing the ship based upon signals given by the wake, and start managing affairs based upon our capacity to bring things to their ideal potential.”*

Charles Krone

# STORYING PLACE

The process

## Truly Seeing

Context to Foreground

Collective Source of Intelligence

Identity and Vocation

# Changing Thinking

requires

# Changing Mind

- From
  - a mind that sees a world of discrete elements that can be separated, aggregated and manipulated to serve human purposes
- To
  - a mind that understands the world as a single web of interconnected and interdependent living systems

# Distributed Intelligent Action

Organic but aligned  
Emergent infrastructure  
Continually evolving intelligence of the whole

## A regenerative approach to place

. . . reconnects human aspirations with the evolution of natural systems

. . . . generates communities and economic activities that simultaneously nourish and are nourished by the living systems of place

. . . . awakens a deep sense of caring about the evolution of the unique place we inhabit.

# At the Heart of Regenerative Approach...

- *“...every place on earth bespeaks its own rhythm of life. Each continent has its own spirit of place which it imparts to its distinctive species of plants and animals, its human races. So does every country, every locality. Even great cities impart their own special essence, apart from their architectural and cultural backgrounds.”*

*Frank Waters*