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First Nations Perspective on Water



As the leaders of the world meeting to discuss water and the world, the human and spiritual aspects of water can be forgotten. Water is not only the foundation of life but also the beginnings of our spiritual world, from baptism to ash in the holy rivers of the world, humans have revered water as the essence of life and the first environment in which we as babies live. To the native people of the world, water is sacred. The rivers and lakes are place of spiritual contemplation and reverence.

These understandings of water come in direct conflict with economical, political and structural aspects of the modern world. Dams, river modification, dredging and filling in the water of the world are seen as progress to some. Water to the modern world is only important when we can assign a monetarial value or make it a commodity for world market. As a result we are losing our understanding of our place on Mother Earth.

The current world crisis with freshwater is a result of our misunderstanding. As humans and part of the family of the Mother Earth, we must recognize that we are the younger brothers with all of Creation being the Older Brothers. Human populations are ever increasing and the insatiable need for the Earth's resources, now more than ever have shown us the folly of our ways. Global Climate Change, decreasing animal populations, the destruction and decline of fish populations have all been warning to the human race. Our demand for fresh water has out stripped the Earth ability to supply water for our people. Technology and distribution systems have only made the demand worse.

Unless we begin to understand water and use the knowledge that was give to us by the Earth and the Creator, we will be dooming our children to a bleak and dry future. There is hope. Now let us talk about our responsibilities to the Water and all Creation.