

The Spheres

We live in a teeny little layer of life on this huge ball. If the earth were a basketball, and we painted it, the bio-sphere, the layer of life on the planet from the deep oceans to the top of the atmosphere, would be less than the thickness of the paint. This spheric super-thin layer of life is where we know all about the living universe and is where we hang out, at least until space travel or underground colonies start to happen.



We have created a sphere of human activity within this biosphere that is dependent on its life-giving properties. We could call this sphere many things: civilization or the collective cultures of humankind would be two. I like to call this sphere *the consumosphere*. That is how I most often experience it in the ramped-up material version of the world as I see it. We can escape the consumosphere on occasion, and find it desirable to do so as a way to “get away from it all.” But by and large we live in a world where we make hundreds of purchases a month, and the media throws purchasing messages at us in such numbers that we can’t keep track. We consume, therefore we are.





This consumosphere has become a problem. It is destructive to the biosphere. It wouldn't have to be if we designed things better, but it is. The heat and transportation and power that we want for all aspects of our life are using up the millennia-old stored carbon banks of oil and coal, and the earth can't absorb all the waste fast enough. So we choke on nasty air, heat up the ice caps, fill our landfills with our waste, destroy habitats for other species and in general our living system, civilization run amuck as consumerism, is hurting the living system we know as nature.

Where is this going to lead? That is not so hard to see. We either figure out how to live without hurting the biosphere or our days are numbered. How can we stop hurting the biosphere? Start living lighter on the planet today. Stop the collective consumer spasm that is choking us. Find finer things in life to enjoy and think less about possessions.

We better make it cool to not have things versus having them. We better create a new sphere, *the humanisphere*, where we live within our carbon and consuming imprint and we leave more than we take.

We know how to do this. It is past the time to start doing it.

