

## 2.0 The World of Words

Environment?

There are six people in a room. We ask each one a question: What is the 'Environment'?

The first one says it is about "Our surroundings".

The second says – "It is about natural resources."

The third says -- "It is about the animals and the plants around us."  
They fourth says – "It is about eco-systems."

The fifth says, "Oh, it is the interaction between living and non-living things, between plants and animals, and everything around us."

The sixth one says: "This is getting more confusing."

Six different people will have six different answers. Everyone is right, but no one quite gets the meaning of the word 'Environment'.

That is the problem with the word 'Environment'. It is in English, a tongue foreign to ours, with a meaning alien to our minds. It is thus difficult to understand by our brain and is even more difficult to understand by our heart.

In fact, it is not even an English word. The word 'environment' comes from another country that have words difficult to pronounce – France. They pronounce it '*envee-ro-nuh-mungh\_\_*'.

If you are having a problem with that, don't worry. Everyone has.

It generally relates to our surroundings, a meaning that is a bit too shallow.

Sometimes at the start of my talks, I ask the audience: "Are you an environmentalist?" Very few, if any, raise their hands. This is mainly because many do not understand the meaning of this multi-syllabic word that is difficult to understand and difficult to pronounce.



Is Environment about the birds and the bees,  
 And the flowers and the trees?  
 Or it is about Life,  
 And the sources of Life  
 In that single and lonely planet called Earth?

Yes, it is about Life  
 And the Sources of Life of  
 Land,  
 Air, and  
 Water  
 Easy to remember  
 L.A.W.

Yes, the Environment is  
 about the Sources of Life  
 of Land, Air, and Waters  
 -- The LAW of LIFE.

Violate the Law of Man,  
 one can pay a fine or go  
 to jail. Violate the LAW of  
 LIFE, remove or poison  
 the Land, the Air or the  
 Waters, the  
 consequences are  
 disease and death.

Where do we humans  
 come in?  
 We are one of the many  
 forms of life – of plants  
 and animals – that live  
 because of the



Land, Air and Waters (LAW) of Life.

Yes, we are one of the millions and millions of life-forms.  
 We arrived only in the last few seconds of the Earth's history.  
 We also claim to be the wisest.  
 Modern man even call themselves the  
*Homo sapiens sapiens*,  
 Pretending to be doubly wise.

We are allegedly the wisest animal, or so we claim to be.  
 "Allegedly" is a legal term that means a claim that must yet be proven.  
 Why are we the only animals that poison or destroy  
 The life-sources of  
 Land, Air, and Water?

## Earth and the Human Body

To understand it better, let us compare the Earth  
 To the human body  
 The trees and the forests  
 Are the heart and the lungs of the Earth,  
 Without which we have no air to breathe.

The land and the soil are  
 The skin and flesh of the Earth,  
 From whence we get our food.  
 What did you have for breakfast? Bread, eggs, rice, fruits?  
 Did they grow from the grocery?  
 Or did they come from the land and the soil,  
 And from the interplay of the LAW of Life?

The sea and the waterways and waterbodies  
 Are the blood and the bloodstreams of Life.  
 Three-quarters of the human body and  
 Three-quarters of the Earth  
 Are both made up of water, mostly salty water.  
 Our blood, sweat, and tears are the salt of the human body  
 As the sea is the salt of the Earth.

Yes, the indivisible three: Land, Air, and Water

## The Rule of Threes

If you do not breathe for three  
 minutes,  
 The heart stops.  
 If you do not drink for three  
 days,  
 The organs quiver,  
 If you do not eat for thirty days,  
 The body will wither.  
 And collapse forever.

And then, you are no more!

Put poison in any –  
 In the land, in the air, in the  
 water,  
 And it is a matter of time before  
 The poison gets into our body  
 And the curse of cancer  
 Eats away the life of many.



A quick test question to you, dear Friend.

Is the Environment about the birds and the bees  
And the flowers and the trees?

Or is it about Life, and the Life-Sources of  
Land, Air, and Water?

When we understand that, everything else becomes easy.  
Why? Because then we will do everything in our power to care for it.

So, my Friend, may I ask you again?  
Do you and your children want to breathe poisoned Air?  
Do you and your children want to drink poisoned water?  
Do you and your children want to eat poisoned food?

If yes, then it is time to bid you a very good night,  
sweet dreams, and safe travels to another star.

If your answer is a vehement "No!"  
Then we have more to talk about.  
Every one of you therefore is an avid environmentalist.  
What does that mean?  
It means like any living being,  
We all want to LIVE.  
We just need to fully understand that  
That Life is possible only if we have  
Land, Air, and Water --  
The LAW of Life.

And oh, what about forms of life – the plants and animals?  
Where do we come in – us Humans?  
Are we the most intelligent animal?

We are among the tens of millions of life-forms –  
From the bacteria to buffaloes,  
From the grass to the grasshopper,  
From the fly to the flamingo –  
We are one of a kind –  
The thinking kind,  
Or so we claim to be.

Who are we?  
Are we a beast of the biggest burden?  
The burden of wisdom?

Is that why we call ourselves the *Homo sapiens*? (*Sapiens* comes from the Latin word *sapere* -- wise).

If so, let us prove our wisdom.

### **Economy**

The world is crazy about the Economy,  
Chasing after economic development and progress,  
Headstrong and reckless!



What does that mean? Let us play a little game.

Let us imagine that I used to own all the water, but I sold them all to you.  
Now all that is left of the water  
Is in your hands.  
I, on the other hand, am rich with five hundred billion dollars in the bank.

Can I drink my money?

In the art of argument and debate,  
This is the play where a position is  
*Reductio ad absurdum*.  
Reduced to absurdity ...

***Attention: Economists!***

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