

FOREWORD BY BILL MCKIBBEN

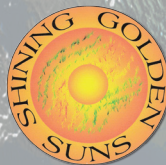
THE
GLOBAL
AWAKENING
SERIES

HOW WE'RE FIXING WHAT WE'VE ALMOST BROKEN,
AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

VOLUME 1

AWAKENING *Into* UNITY
THE COMPLETE SERIES READER

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

As time goes by, we see steadily increasing devastation from global climate change all around the world. We also see clearer and clearer evidence of our role in its acceleration, and ever more convincing proof that our negative effect on climate is accelerating as well. We can't escape the troubling conclusion that, if we want to deliver a habitable planet to our grandchildren, we must unite quickly in actions across the globe to make a decisive difference—by changing our destructive behaviors now, while we still can.

Uniting in *action* to heal our world is urgent now, and will become even more so in the next few years. I am a hundred percent certain that we can and will achieve it.

Contributing positively to this global healing transformation is so important to me that I've devoted most of the past decade to conceiving and developing what I call a "Global Awakening" series—a massive work that addresses all the aspects of this crucial topic. I hope it will help us effectively engage this task without delay—to make changes that must be in place soon to elude a crucial tipping point that otherwise will be upon us.⁵

The *Global Awakening* series is based on my own experience of awakening into the perspective of oneness, and finding ways to apply that perspective in how I live and work. It is also based on the work of countless others who in some way share this view. There are indestructible, unifying bonds between the various parts that compose each and every one of us, between all of us as humans, and between our species and our world. Contrary to divisive popular propaganda, these bonds are right here for each one of us to experience. The ways we can employ them to heal our world are also right here, ready for each of us to use.

Our tremendous recent progress through technological advancements makes it easier than ever for us to forget or ignore three important shared truths of our essential interdependence:

- We are all products of our world.
- Life on our precious Mother Earth is in mortal danger.
- We still have the capacity to join together and make things better.

This series summary/overview volume—*Awakening into Unity*—maps a big-picture view of the essential features of our intrinsic unity, and brings their immensity and importance within everyone's easy, confident grasp. Perhaps more than any other series installment, it affords a grand, breathtaking journey hallmarked with many vital and inspiring stories. First, it presents the story of my life's work and awakening into in-

spiring nuances of the unity perspective that I'm certain will help birth a vibrant, healed future. It also shares important aspects of unity uncovered through my extensive research into Big History – the specific mechanics of the universal creation process that made us and our world possible.

I also share an integrative vision of how we humans have pursued a communion with this underlying oneness through time; via scientific, religious, spiritual, philosophic, environmental, indigenous perspectives, and more. This investigation ultimately delivers an expansive worldview and a compelling environmental ethic designed to help us re-ground our essentially creative human nature within the larger universal creation process.

Significantly though, and far beyond simply presenting my own prescriptive sense of how this restorative planetary shift might best occur, *Awakening into Unity* chronicles myriad ways that others are already employing this perspective to turn our ship around. These are the stories of us in our striving billions, woven together in an informative, celebratory narrative that brings our diverse world-healing efforts alive, front and center, for all to see. This grand saga evidences and honors humanity moving past climate theory, discussion and debate into decisive, active engagement; the true global awakening and life-saving transformation that's happening all around us in real time.

Unifying threads of this holistic tapestry source from my own efforts and those of others in every facet and type of human entity on Earth today; the pivotal achievements of notable contributors seeking to co-create a better future. Together, these examples provide a wealth of wisdom and practical solutions helpful to all.

Awakening into Unity thus captures the vital, living, unprecedented truth that all parts of our world are now rising and shining into a bright, new, Earth-healing day. No other movement, tradition, belief system, or collective enterprise can claim such broad-based evolutionary inclusiveness. *Terragenesis*, Gaia enthroned, is indeed here; her heart is beating; and she's alive! Quite simply, and without exaggeration, this has become the single most important collective human effort ever undertaken, and the *zeitgeist*, the defining feature and spirit of our time.

May this book serve as an energizing catalyst and helpful road map for our great leap. And may it help you move confidently into a brighter future filled with grace, intelligence, effectiveness, compassion, comradeship, integration, and Joy!

AWAKENING INTO UNITY

First Edition, 2017

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ISBN 978-1-941306-02-4

eISBN 978-1-941306-01-7

Produced by Lee Temple and Shining Golden Suns, LLC

Designed by Lee Temple, Paul Cash, Anne Kilgore, Molly Rowan Leach, and Elise Rudoff.

Published by Shining Golden Suns, LLC

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