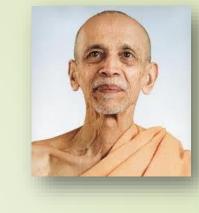


Divine Life Society of Australia

International Earth Day

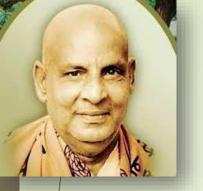
22nd April 2022





Serve, Love, Give, Purify, Meditate, Realise, Be good, Do good - Swami Sivananda

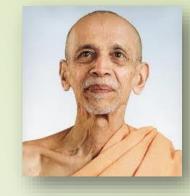




Divine Life Society of Australia

International Earth Day

22nd April 2022



We acknowledge and pay our respect to the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of NSW, and all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and emerging.



NOTE

This presentation has been compiled using the vast volume of information and images so generously published on the internet.

It is not possible to individually acknowledge all these sources.

So we thank them all, as without them, this presentation would be inadequate.



Our Festivals



We usually celebrate traditional festivals in our monthly Satsangs (1st Sunday)

April 2022 brings us Yugadi, Ram Navami, Hanuman Jayanti, Baisakhi, Easter etc

But today we are going to talk about something different...



The Earth in our Tradition



We regard the Earth as Bhoomi Devi -

A special form of the Cosmic Mother...

A warm, nursing Goddess providing sustenance to all living beings.

Just as our body is the vehicle of Consciousness,
So also the Earth is the expression of the Divine!

She is revered in all our scriptures - Vedas, Puranas, Tantra, Sankhya, Vedanta etc Let us see a few examples...

Vedic Hymn to Bhu Devi

(Prayer from Yajur Veda)

समुद्रवसने देवि पर्वतस्तनमण्डले । विष्णुपत्नि नमस्तुभ्यं पादस्पर्शं क्षमस्वमे ॥

Oh Mother Earth,
You Who have the Ocean as Your Garments,
and Mountains as Your Bosom,
O Consort of Lord Vishou, Salutations to Youl

O Consort of Lord Vishnu, Salutations to You!

Please Forgive the touch of my feet,
For the Earth is Your Holy Body, Oh Mother II

Bhagawat Purana



In Satya Yuga, goddess Lakshmi takes birth as Bhu Devi to support Life

The evil demon Hiranyaksha kidnaps Her and hides her in the primordial waters.

Then Lord Vishnu takes Varaha avatara, slays the demon and lifts Bhu Devi on His tusks, and restores her back in the order of the Universe..

Earth and the Tantras



Chakras are the seven energy centres located along the spine

The chakra located at the base of the spine is the Mooladhar Chakra.

Mooladhar = Moola (Root) + Adhara (Foundation)

The element associated with Muladhara is Earth.

This springs from the belief that the foundation of all our psychic energy is from the Earth

Earth Concept in Other Hindu Traditions

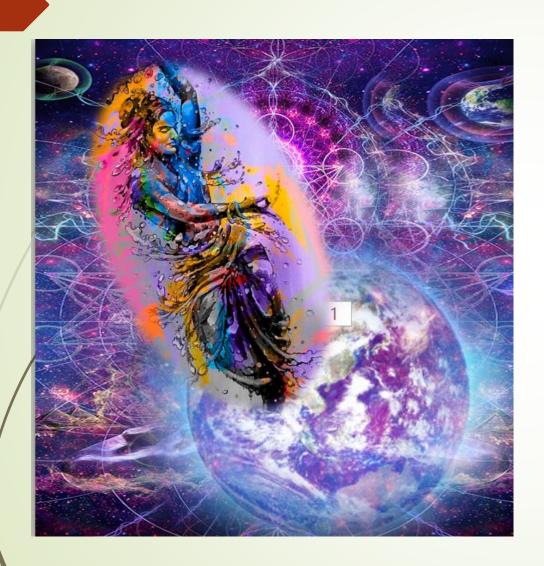


The Earth figures in Sankhya as well as Vedanta

It is hailed as one of the Pancha Maha Bhutas – the five great Cosmic elements that form the basis of all Life

Here, the Earth is not valued as a celestial body or a Goddess, but as Matter, which forms the gross building block of all existence

The Universality of Earth Worship

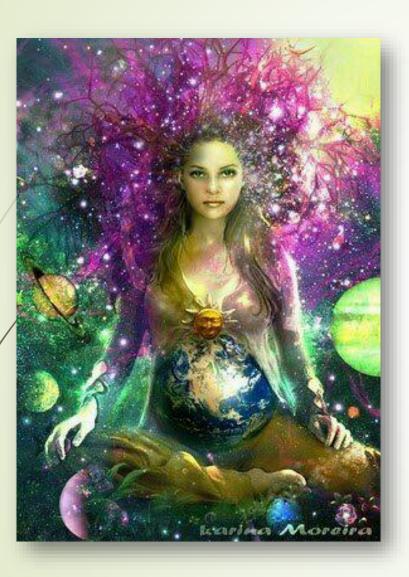


But the reverence to Mother Earth is not confined to Hinduism alone

Most pantheistic religions hold the Earth in high esteem

Let us see a couple of examples

Worship of the Gaia



Gaia was the primordial goddess of the Greeks

She was the personification of Earth and the source of all Life.

Greeks worshipped Gaia in nature.

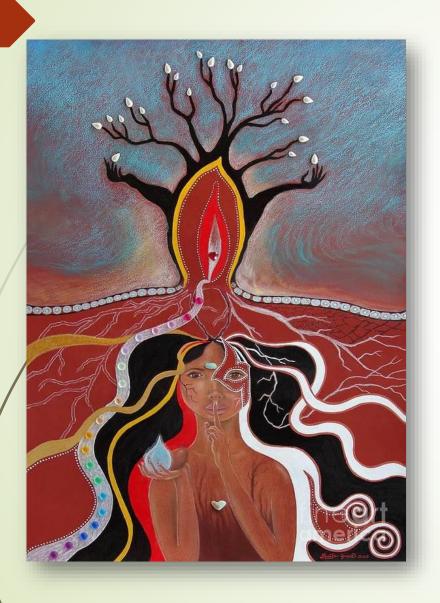
In Greek mythology, when the universe was only chaos, Gaia was born and created the world

Gaia symbolised motherhood and renewal.

While Gaia dates back to roughly 700 BC, Gaia worship is becoming popular again

Ref: Gaia Goddess: Powers, Symbolism, and Worship | UniGuide

Aboriginal Connection to Mother Earth



Central to Aboriginal spirituality is the Earth

The essence of their Sadhana is to look after the land - an obligation which has been passed down as law for thousands of years

"We don't own the land, the land owns us.

The land is my mother.

We pick up a piece of dirt and say,

this is where I started

and this is where I'll go.

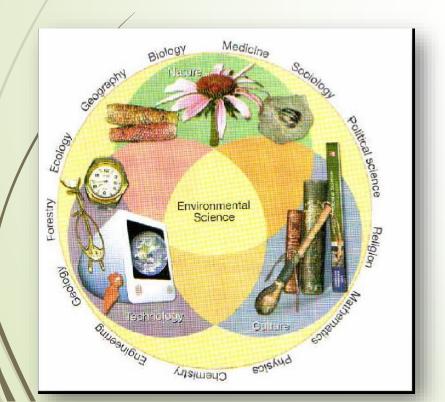
The land is our food, our culture,

our spirit, our identity".

Surprise Surprise!

This reverence for Earth, is not just an ancient belief

It also predominates New Age spirituality





Scientists also support it under the banner of Environmental Science

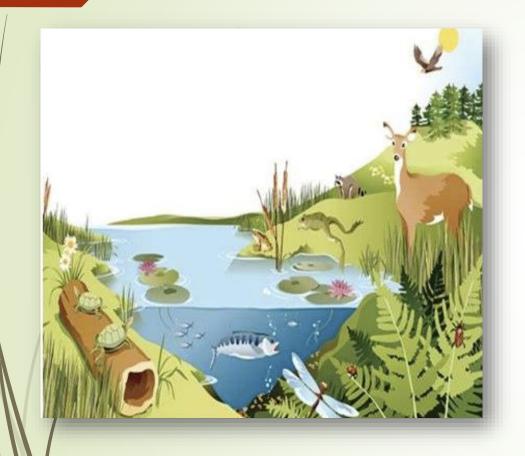
Enter... EcoSpirituality
Where Science meets the Soul

What is EcoSpirituality?



EcoSpirituality is a way of life, that connects our faith and our concern for the Earth

Why EcoSpirituality?



Humans are just a tiny strand in the complex web of life

Each creature, however small, contributes to its working and depends on its resources for survival

This bio-diversity is precious and critical!

Mother Earth can survive without us, But we can't survive without Her!

How EcoSpirituality works

At macro level, EcoSpirituality works through advocacy and collaboration



Through coming together of Individuals, businesses,
activists, politicians, scientists,
governments and
world organisations









How EcoSpirituality works

At individual level, EcoSpirituality means personal commitment to Earth conscious lifestyle



EcoSpirituality works

When we all do our share



There are so many easy ways

Think.... How can I contribute?



International Earth Day

22nd April 2022

Every little individual step adds up...

Let us commit to change!

We inherited a beautiful Earth...
What legacy are we leaving behind?



Thank You!

First presented at the DLSA Online Satsang on Sunday, 3rd April 2022



DLSA holds Monthly Satsangs on the first Sunday of each moth.

For more details please visit

Divine Life Society Australia (dlsaus.org)

