Elli Medinger

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It is hard to know exactly where I stand on the crisis of environmental devastation. I can say now that I feel and think a certain way after exploring articles and reading Jensen’s book, but I cannot say how I feel and think overall because my knowledge of the crisis is unfortunately very small. I understand that, like the majority of people in the United States, I know so little about what is truly going on around me and the catastrophic destruction that is occurring and will occur. Also, I cannot say how I think or feel my actions will make any positive significant change to this earth. What I can say is that I believe that the destruction and rape of this earth is horrific and so blatantly unfair. How could humanity think that this world is ours? Just because we are self-aware and more “intelligent” then other living things does not mean we have the right to take away from the earth, especially since we are not giving back to the earth, especially since we are poisoning the earth. I believe that the feeling of powerlessness is the reason most remain inactive to the cause of saving the planet. Also, another reason for inactivity is intentional or unintentional ignorance. I wish that every single person in every developed country would read Jensen’s book. The potential to begin reversing the damage that has been done is great, but humans will not have that opportunity for long.

I believe that in comparison to the thoughts of Jensen my morality is weak. My morality is just based on the things that surround me and are currently important in my life. Like Jensen’s example, I see nothing wrong with stealing from a corporation but wouldn’t do it because I don’t want to get caught. I would not steal from an independently owned store because I feel as if I would be directly hurting the owner of that store and in my mind it just seems utterly wrong. Most of my morality is based on things that are so unimportant in the big picture of life, such as, is it moral for me to cut off other drivers on the interstate? Is it moral for me to talk about my dislike for another because of my perception of their actions? The things that seem important to me in this moment do not matter in the long run and do not hold any value on this earth. I believe a small step for personal change would be for me to wonder if it is immoral to say nothing when my mom comes home with a Costco size pack of plastic water bottles. I hope while I finish this book and as time goes on I will be able to keep my concentration on the big picture and change my morality to something that holds value to the earth.

What legacy do you want to leave? How can you deal with the despair and powerlessness that will ultimately emerge if you choose to address these problems?