

## **Global Warming – Green Room talk back**

**Fazlun Khalid**

What I was attempting to do in my piece was to recover a lost understanding of the human functioning in the natural world. The fact that we are a part of something much bigger than us (Koran) does not appear to seep into our consciousness as we go about our daily lives. What we presume to be the external world does not exist.

Yes, the human species is unique in that we have the capacity to observe the world around us, describe what we see, quantify it and then take advantage of it. The most extreme and all pervasive form of this is our collective, unfettered defilement of nature. Man, the supreme predator has taken control and thanks to the Enlightenment, the banks and the industrial revolution he can rationalise his greed and profligacy. This is how we are managing to consume in a space of two hundred years or so fossil fuel resources that have taken 200,000,000 years to lay down. That is, consuming in one year what has taken nature a million years to produce. If we are to survive and extend our stay on this planet concepts such as progress and development require an acute re-examination. Reliance on techno fixes reinforces the illusion.

How to deal with population growth is a concern we all share bearing in mind that whichever way we go the pharmaceutical conglomerates are bound to prosper. The sceptics would take religion out of the equation altogether manifesting a sort of secular fundamentalism. But, the point is we are all without exception part of the problem and equally we can if we want to, be part of the solution.

All the major religions and traditional indigenous faiths are rooted in nature. Here is a tremendous force for positive change constituting more than seventy five percent of the world's population. It would seem that in allowing to be swept away by the forces of economic growth faith communities have lost their connections with the natural world not least amongst them being Muslims. Our job is to prod this group, which constitutes twenty percent of the world's population, to wake up to their teachings and join forces with other like-minded people to leave a liveable planet for our children.

It is now or never; well almost.

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This is a response to comments made by visitors to the BBC Green Room to the original article which appeared on 8th February 2007. See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6954741.stm>