

Book Reviews for *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome – Ecology and the Imponderable*

By Michael Charles Tobias and Jane Gray Morrison

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1) This staggering work of erudition and passion, *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome - Ecology and the Imponderable*, points the finger to the human as catalyst for countless ways of self-destruction and devastation of innumerable forms of non-humans. What can be done? How can we even recognize our complicity in so many tragedies, from the Holocaust and the many events before and since including the invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing slaughter of billions of animals each year to slake unquenched human hunger? Tobias and Morrison call for a mind shift, a radical move from passivity to bold changes in thinking and lifestyle. By itemizing the scope and scale of our current global emergency in the context of a long and brutal history, this book serves as a powerful incentive to stand up and be counted, and to commit oneself personally to be part of the needed solutions. Tobias and Morrison's encounter with Putin underlines the fragility and limits and urgency of human agency. The question remains: will the examples of Jain austere living and Bhutan's good government be enough to provide a roadmap into an uncertain future?

Dr. Christopher Key Chapple is Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology and Founding Director of the Master of Arts in Yoga Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California, USA. He earned his BA at Stony Brook University and the MA and PhD at Fordham University in New York City. He joined the faculty of LMU in 1985. He has published more than 20 books, including the following single author studies (all with State University of New York Press):

Karma and Creativity (1986)

Nonviolence to Animals, Earth, and Self in Asian Traditions (1993)

Reconciling Yogas: Haribhadra's Array of Views on Yoga with a New Translation of the Yogadr̥ṣṭisamuccaya (2003)

Yoga and the Luminous: Patañjali's Spiritual Path to Freedom (2008)

Living Landscapes: Meditation on the Elements in Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain Yogas (2020)

He has published many edited volumes on the topic of Religion and Ecology, including *Jainism and Ecology* (Harvard University Press and Motilal Banarsidass). Recent publications included an edited volume on *Yoga in Jainism* (Routledge, 2016) and *Thinking with the Yoga Sutra: Translation and Interpretation* (with Ana Funes Maderey, Routledge, 2019).

Chris serves on many advisory boards, including the South Asian Studies Association, the Forum on Religion and Ecology (Yale), the Ahimsa Center (Pomona), the Jain Studies Centre (SOAS, London), the Dharma Academy of North America (Berkeley), and the International School for Jain Studies (Delhi).

2) This book is another tour de force from Tobias and Morrison.

Throughout human history, philosophers have been debating questions of empathy, morality, and right action, while at the same time other humans were slaughtering not only their own kind, but slaughtering the Natural World. We have destroyed not only our perceived enemies, but whole ecosystems on which humanity ultimately depends. And it seems that we haven't learned a thing from our past. While we still fiddle with parsing words, Nature burns.

Tobias and Morrison document these permutations, using an elegant vocabulary that has the joy of poetry while discussing subjects that can lead to the death of humanity and, indeed, the planet Earth. It is a delight to read every paragraph for its nuggets of historical and philosophical allusions, while at the same time recognizing that each paragraph drives a stake into the heart of how we humans have interacted with the world around us.

Terminal Philosophy Syndrome - Ecology and the Imponderable is an important book. It provides us with a clear roadmap of what we are doing to the world, what we are doing to each other, what we are doing to

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Nature. But the roadmap is couched in a velvet glove of intellectual delights about the views of philosophers, religious leaders, and power-hungry rulers who have placed human interests first, above Nature which sustains us and makes our lives possible.

The book can be read on two levels. One is the level of admiration for the depth of scholarship and complex thought. The other level is a wake-up call: We can all change, or we can all die.

A great book!

Dr. Con Slobodchikoff, Author of *Chasing Doctor Dolittle: Learning the Language of Animals* (St. Martin's Press, 2012); Professor Emeritus of Biology, Northern Arizona University, CEO of Zoolingua, CEO of Animal Communications Ltd., Director, Animal Language Institute; Lead author, *Prairie Dogs: Communication and Community in an Animal Society* (Harvard University Press, 2009).

3) I thought I knew many of the previous books by Michael Tobias and Jane Morrison well enough to sense what might be forthcoming in their latest endeavor, *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome - Ecology and the Imponderable*. Their work is always so amazing, but with this, their latest, it is impossible to know where to begin.

The book is full of scientific and biocultural surprises and neither my familiarity with their past work nor my crystal ball prepared me for the intellectual correlations or cross-pollinated treatment they bring to bear to a treasure trove of timely yet timeless subjects concerning culture and environmental stewardship. The feeling one gets reading through the pages of *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome* is a veritably omniscient point of view bound together by a hermeneutic that embraces political discourse. It distinguishes this book from many of their other works because it is often less like an interpretation of biological and historical phenomena (though it is still most definitively that!), but also an illuminating expression of their very deeply held personal convictions and points of view, which drove my reading forward paragraph by paragraph.

A central question Tobias and Morrison ask and seek to answer as it relates to the course of human thought and ecological outcomes is, "Instead of habituating ourselves to what we do and think, might we have thought and done differently?" Because they ask and ponder so many more thoughtful deep questions, this book is especially satisfying to read, e.g., "...How does one species commandeer [a planet]...29.2% of which is land, the rest ocean? Why would we do that? Can philosophical traditions mean anything against the forefront of this unimaginable swath of pathologies that mark our kind?" The sweeping character of *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome* is stunning, engaging, and fulfilling, making it a mind-expanding tour de force worth reading.

David J. Wagner, PhD, Author, *American Wildlife Art*, guest curator, and adjunct faculty at colleges and universities, and Curator of over fifty art exhibitions including: "American Birds," "Environmental Impact," "America's Parks," "Art of the Rainforest," "Endangered Species: Flora and Fauna in Peril," "Into the Arctic," "The Sea of Cortez," and "Society of Animal Artists National Geographic Society Outdoor Sculpture Garden."

4) A phenomenally thorough and insightful book that deserves to be read and re-read by everyone who has seriously contemplated the possibility that we are at the threshold of our own species-extinction — that is to say, by every thinking and open-minded person on the planet. These persons must face the facts as they emerge from the rubble of badinage and partial and either willfully or accidentally created misinformation that surrounds the greatest and most urgent question of all: 'Will we make it?' The Authors are not sure,

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and I am not sure myself, but the Authors have contributed in *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome* the science and the philosophy we need to come to a reasoned answer.

This is not an easy book to read, and it is even harder to put it down once I started reading it. But reading it is worth the effort. Not because it tells us what our fate will be, but because it clears the deck of our inquiring mind so we can try to find our way toward an answer we can reasonably believe in. I am grateful to Michael Tobias and Jane Morrison for a seminal book.

Dr. Ervin Laszlo, Author, philosopher and systems scientist. The author, co-author or editor of 106 different books that have appeared in a total of 25 languages, he has written over 400 articles and research papers. Author of *The Wisdom Principles* and *The Upshift: The Path to Healing and Evolution on Planet Earth*. Founder and president of the international think tank The Club of Budapest and of the prestigious The Laszlo Institute of New Paradigm Research. Recipient of various honors and awards and was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

5) If the time ever comes when humans look back, sadly, on their relationship to a ruined Earth, this book will be recalled as one they wish they had read. It raises questions that must be answered if ecological justice for all species is to become a reality.

Dr. Roderick Frazier Nash is Professor Emeritus of History and Environmental Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara. He has written *Wilderness and The American Mind*, and *The Rights Of Nature: A History Of Environmental Ethics*

6) Jain ontology states that the soul/life can be found not only in humans but in gusts of wind, sparks of fire, in flowing waters, in plants, in microbes, and in rocks and stones and soil, as well as in insects, reptiles, birds, marine life, and mammals.

All this has a direct connection with the Jain philosophy of ahimsa (nonviolence). If we pollute, we create suffering and most probably the death and extinction of many species. Beyond that we endanger our own survival.

This latest new book, “*Terminal Philosophy Syndrome - Ecology and the Imponderable*” very clearly and explicitly describes my own philosophical, historical and ethical feelings.

I feel that Michael Tobias’ and Jane Morrison’s new work is nothing less than a philosophical masterpiece. It is so timely, worth the complex efforts necessary for readers worldwide to study its intensely new and provocative scientific theories aimed at putting a realistic halt to the massive, human super ego that is in this generation overwhelming and appropriating every square inch of the earth.

We’ve heard dire warnings regarding the fate of the earth before- in fact, every day. But never so exhaustively, clinically, and scientifically.

I should point out that even thirty years ago - in their massive book, “*World War 3-Population and the Biosphere at the end of the Millennium*” the Authors were emphatically and compassionately calling out the myriad wounds we alone have inflicted on this earth.

Year 2021 saw more pains meted out to more animals than in any other year in human history. 2.7 trillion animals (of all kinds) were slaughtered for human consumption in grotesque and unrepentant conditions. Forests are the lungs of the planet yet these too are being cut down and destroyed every minute. The latest

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satellite data from the Amazon by Conservación Amazónica, for example, reveals that “4.9 million acres” were lost in 2021 among the nine Amazon nations.

Humans are the most barbaric of any other organisms, both in terms of maximum violence to themselves, and to other species. Human have caused destruction to all species leaves nothing of its horrors to the imagination.

We all have a shared responsibility to care for our planet which right now is suffering. This is a human-inflicted terminal disease. We all need to shut down the killing machine as quickly as possible if we are to survive on this planet.

In their latest treatise, and also most recently in their massive eco-psychological study of the nature of ecological paradox, Tobias and Morrison have literally infiltrated the most enriching arenas of molecular biology, systematics, ecosystem dynamics, and the study of the “multiple minds” problem. The Authors have extensively drawn upon a wide range of cultural, ethical and scientific research - up to the minute data- to persuasively psychoanalyze the phenotype for self-annihilation. This devastating penchant is clearly embedded within humanity’s historic saga of savage brutality, and of un-self-questioning greed, indifference, and criminally insane inflictions at the species-wide and large mob-sized collectives.

With over 1,200 footnotes, nothing like this deep philosophical treatise has ever been written. It proposes incredibly brilliant new models of behavior at both the base, mid/section and zenith of misgovernance, within the current, ruinous hierarchical nature of political and corporate power grabs and obscene disinclination to take on - while our species still has any time left- the only remaining antidotes to our species’ extinction. Namely, the Jain ecological revelations since the time of Mahavira 2500 years ago, among other great spiritual and ethical injunctions.

Terminal Philosophy Syndrome provides an astonishing, epic narrative of our past, present and future. Uniquely, the Authors combine a treasure trove of enquiries into the very quintessence of; Who are we? How can we remake our future destiny so as not to have closed our species’ brief story as bearing the shortest lifespan of any large vertebrate in biological history?

This is an obligatory and must-read book for every serious individual who is committed to non- violence and to any kind of future whatsoever. It will become an instant classic in the annals of natural-history, psychoanalytical ecology, biodiversity observation, and analytical philosophy. I can’t recommend this work strongly enough for all students of philosophy, ecosystem dynamics, deep history, ecological anthropology, the history of aesthetics, as well as quantum physics and algorithm conundrums. A masterful work at the right moment when this book is needed most urgently.

Dr. Sulekh Jain, Author of *An Ahimsa Crisis - You Decide*, is the Co-founder, International School for Jain Studies, Past President, Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA) with 72 centers and 150,000 members, and an engineer by training. Dr. Sulekh Jain has been instrumental in promoting the deeply spiritual and pragmatic ideals of Jainism throughout North America for decades.

7) If ever there was a book whose time has come, it is this, *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome - Ecology and the Imponderable*. In this Anthropocene epoch, it is only our species that can now undo the damage it has wreaked upon the Earth and all its denizens. Unless we are hell-bent on committing suicide—a topic thoroughly discussed in the book—it would, in which case, be advisable not to involve all the other myriad life forms that are synchronised with the consciousness of Nature. In this regard, the Authors rightfully surmise that: “What is ecocidal, highlights that which is suicidal...” This volume represents a new height

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of interdisciplinary science, history, ethics, biocultural study and international affairs, that perhaps for the first time, in a period of despair and ecological darkness, takes philosophical traditions and metaphysics to a new level. The Authors are to be lauded for deftly merging notational calculus, statistics, demographics and deep anthropology to create seminal guidance for the future of humanity.

The Authors are quick to point out that conventional natural history places us humans at the center of all biodiversity and is thus flawed. Fortunately, as the Authors discuss, there are many exceptions. The indigenous Toda people of the Nilgiris highlands in south India, for example, have always considered themselves as just the custodians and not the masters of their homeland, and their mundane lives are even today circumscribed by nature. For instance, on returning to their hamlets, there could well be a flat rock enroute that must not be tread upon as it has a hallowed story going back to the Todas' dreamtime; further, they will come into sight of certain hills that are seen as the abodes of deities whose names have been chanted in the prayers and thus not to be pointed at; there would be waterbodies on the way that are so sacred that a lay person should not contact them; they would also encounter certain plants that are not to be handled since they are considered so holy that only an ordained dairyman-priest may do so. Such people, as the Authors point out: "... know instinctively of a translocational journey that transitions naturally from our minds to those of other species".

In the case of Todas, this extends to inanimate objects as well. The Authors refer to this reverence for nature as physiolatry. However, for the world at large, "The mystery of interspecies communications involving human participants remains the same, unflinching enigma". On reading this, thoughts went back to my incredulity some years ago on hearing from Natthilly-kwehhtn, a Toda honey-hunter, who was returning home and had just traversed the remarkable natural stone steps to be crossed by a departing Toda spirit on the route to their afterworld, when he heard the unmistakable growl of a tiger. The animal then lunged out towards him over a fallen log that separated them. That was sufficient to make even this intrepid man dizzy, but he opened his eyes to sense that the giant cat was actually communicating something to him. He now understood that this was the resident tiger that recently made unusual calls even around his hamlet. He gathered the courage to peer closer, realising that he was being requested to remove a sharp object from the tiger's esophagus! As he endeavoured to fulfil the request, he was drenched with froth that flowed out from the cat's mouth and swooned.

My memory then settled upon an event that occurred around the most sacred Toda conical temple of Konawsh (that Tobias and Morrison have been among the few to ever visit), when I was sitting in the outer courtyard in deep meditation. As I opened my eyes after this reverie, I was surprised to see a sambar deer stag looking intently into my eyes from nearby. This silent communication went on for a while whenever I resumed my contemplation (an image of this can be seen in the Prologue of my work, *The Toda Landscape -Explorations in Cultural Ecology*, Dept. of South Asian Studies, Harvard University Press and Orient Blackswan, 2015).

Such encounters exemplify the observation from Tobias and Morrison's book that: "Our future urbanised realities will find their heart and soul in the commingling between species who[se] fringes are countryside, not city". The traditional Toda ethic provides some solace to the pained query by the Authors: "... is there some other basis for a future set of relations between species that is not intrusive, violative, predacious?" On the topic of remote feelings, they conclude that: "Our species has entered the force field with the singular goal of getting beyond the constraints that are otherwise crucial to ecological borders [and] this connectivity is a key to biodiversity conservation". It is this connection that has resulted in such a high degree of biocultural diversity in the Toda landscape that it was chosen to be the heart of India's very first biosphere reserve. This area, to quote this book: "... ordains an ecology that harbours the power of shared subjectivism".

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As someone who has spent most of his adult life documenting and living with the Toda people, who happen to be one of the last vegetarian, non-martial and pacifist tribes on earth (as mentioned in *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome*), I can intimately attest first hand to the pragmatic ideals proposed by the Authors, as they lead us on a journey through several fascinating layers of eco-psychoanalysis, towards not just a much more sustainable human-world, but also an utopic indigenous juridical system that values nature the most.

In the world of philosophy, Tobias and Morrison's book has placed intense pressure on topical ideals to awaken to the hypercritically ticking time bomb of the devastating Anthropocene that we alone have created. The book also forces philosophic traditions—both East and West—to confront an unprecedented reality, the extinction of our own species. The Authors' unique skills at negotiating this seemingly no-win maze of human self-aggrandizement, discovers critical breakthroughs that may not just preserve Toda cultural ethos, their sacred river buffaloes, but the world at large.

Terminal Philosophy Syndrome - Ecology and the Imponderable also provides remarkable insights in terms of the history of philosophy, natural history, and theories of terminal velocity along with the hypothesis of terminal philosophy that is reflected in the title. Here, the Authors remind us that even though clouds don't fall due to terminal velocity, our human world is now overwhelmed with "terminal philosophy". But it is sanguine as well: "...our passions [are] incapable of promoting ecological renaissance, but at the same time they share in a majority of good people who want to exhibit virtue. What stays their hand is not so much the hand, but the collective".

This tome abounds with insights, one of which (by Albert Camus) remains embedded in my mind: "Man is the only creature who refuses to be what he is". There is an original quote that also lingers in my memory: "Ingrained ambivalence is the hallmark of all deep history and shallow presence". There are sections where Tobias and Morrison have focused on the fields where our species has strayed: "... impugning our immunity to ourselves; addicting us to this preposterous idea of success and progress".

This is an amazing, cathartic work and the world is going to be a better place to live when many people read it deeply.

Dr. Tarun Chhabra, Author of *The Toda Landscape -Explorations in Cultural Ecology*, Dept. of South Asian Studies, Harvard University Press and Orient Blackswan, 2015. Chhabra is one of South Asia's leading ecological anthropologist's and the world's foremost expert on the Toda peoples of the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu State, India. Dr. Chhabra is also a famed ethnobotanist in that region and has discovered several new species.

8) Reading Tobias' and Morrison's tome brought to mind the English biologist Thomas Henry Huxley's words, "Sit down before fact as a little child, be prepared to give up every preconceived notion, follow humbly wherever and to whatever abysses nature leads, or you shall learn nothing." Cancel your appointments, avail yourself of a comfortable chair, and appreciate it as you might a slow walk in a dense forest, the ground of which is thick with acorns and buds, the air filled with the sound of birds talking about their experiences, each an "Other" that carries inside their being wisdom about life and how to live it as a part of the whole. It's an awe-inspiring read.

Ingrid Newkirk, Founder and President of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and its international affiliates – largest animal rights/protection organization in the world, with many millions of followers. A Forbes Person of the Year, Ms. Newkirk is the author of 14 books on animals, their abilities, language, and sentience, and the subject of the HBO documentary, "I Am an Animal."

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9) This is a brilliant, complex, and bold examination by two ecologists with decades of global experience of both the human created planetary ecological crisis and the philosophical resonance of humanity's responses.

They find, "Climate change gives us a current and plentiful rationale for trying to come to terms with what is, quintessentially, a human-born crisis, a philosophical chasm."

What makes this book stand out is the ability to engage in both complex biological details and at the same time the social dynamics and philosophical responses. Tobias and Morrison recognize that, "Philosophy cringes on the eve of a solid detail."

They make it clear that 'By definition, everything our species investigates and espouses comes from our species. While this is self-evident, it also remains the most fundamental challenge in terms of ever achieving neutral objectivity; a struggle between human knowledge and knowledge in general.'

As scientists they note, "The terminus is the beginning and/or end, whether on a glacier, at a bus station or within the labyrinths of philosophical speculation."

There is a sadness at the slaughter of species as the human driven mass extinction advances. "Metaphors, speech, data sets, baselines, the very matrix of metrics had all come of a new age of destruction."

A strength of the book is to address the willful blindness of otherwise admirable figures. "The message here, as with Gandhi and Jefferson and so many others is the infuriating, contradictory nature of paradox as it applies to humanity's very presence in an all-vulnerable biosphere." *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome - Ecology and the Imponderable* represents a sober assessment of where we are and the perilous challenges we face and what we are losing if we do not act to consider much more than humanity's blind self-interest.

Roy Morrison's books include *Ecological Democracy, Sustainability Sutra; An Ecological Investigation*, and his latest, *The New Green Republic*. Morrison is an internationally acclaimed energy expert, and Managing Partner of Sun Partners Solar in the northeastern United States. Morrison (no relation to the co-Author, Jane) is a Fellow at the Center for Ecozoic Societies, and has coordinated China's International Working Groups (CIWG) to develop super grid and ecological solutions (www.ciwg.net)

www.EcoCivilization.info

www.SunPartnersSolar.com

10) In their book, *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome - Ecology and the Imponderable*, Michael Tobias and Jane Gray Morrison entreat us to consider the unthinkable—the self-annihilation of our world. Their approach is gentle and pragmatic, but ultimately devastating. It's no longer possible to ignore the impact that we humans have had on earth, but most of us still look away and hope it will all get resolved by some ingenious future technologies. Michael and Jane don't do this—they address issues related to human survival straight on and with the benefit of a dozen collateral disciplines from biological anthropology to analytical philosophy. It is a unique perspective that reads like a thriller for which we do not yet know the ending. Their book is a colossal philosophical achievement that invites us to open our eyes and work to understand the fundamental truths of the world we live in and our relationship to all its species.

Anne Frej and William Frej, Authors of *Maya Ruins Revisited: In the Footsteps of Teobert Maler and Seasons of Ceremonies: Rites and Rituals in Guatemala and Mexico*.

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William Frej has been photographing Indigenous people for more than forty years while traveling in remote, mountainous regions of Asia and as a career diplomat with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Indonesia, Poland, Kazakhstan, and Afghanistan. His black and white photography book, *Maya Ruins Revisited: In the Footsteps of Teobert Maler* (Peyton Wright Press, 2020) has won fourteen awards including the *Foreword Magazine* INDIES Gold Medal for Best Photography Book of the Year. His second book, *Seasons of Ceremonies: Rites and Rituals in Guatemala and Mexico*, (Museum of New Mexico Press, 2021) has won eight awards, including four “photography book of the year” awards. A third book, *Travels Across the Roof of the World: A Himalayan Memoir*, with color photographs by William and text by Anne and published by George F. Thompson Press (2022), documents the Frej’s travels over forty years throughout the Himalayas and other mountain ranges stretching across Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, India, Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Anne Frej is an urban planner who has focused on feasibility studies and design concepts for commercial real estate projects in the U.S., Indonesia, Central Europe and Central Asia. At the Urban Institute (ULI) in Washington, D.C. she was the project manager and primary contributor to books published by the Institute including *Green Office Buildings: A Practical Guide to Development* (ULI, 2005). She was a contributor to *Maya Ruins Revisited* and *Seasons of Ceremonies*.

11) In “*Terminal Philosophy Syndrome - Ecology and the Imponderable*” Michael Tobias and Jane Morrison don’t beat about the bush but rather go straight to the heart of our matter and mind. They clearly and correctly inform us that the earth is a monumental crime scene and that you and I are the murderers. It is not easy reading their analysis; especially in our present culture of self-obsession in which we often portray ourselves as victims of inequities in gender-socio-economic conditions, race and other factors we are determined to feel hard done by. But what is irrefutable is that all living creatures on the planet have detectable volumes of Strontium 90 and micro plastics within their living structures and that we are dangerously heating the atmosphere, and actively destroying species on land and in the sea at a catastrophic rate. Nature, not us, is the victim. In an antithesis of the poet William Blake’s great phrase “everything that lives is holy” - our mantra is no less than “everything that lives we poison,” including ourselves.

Drawing on the deep histories of many cultures, their philosophies, artistic expressions and sciences of the natural world, Tobias and Morrison present a bleak perspective of our individual and collective desire to destroy others. It is a harrowing reading of our collective behaviour but it is not without hope. They are not directly asking you to become Jains like them but they are asking you to stop present trajectories and to apply rigorous cognitive and creative imaginative awareness that confronts and collapses present behaviours. It is facile to attempt a summary of the analysis and direction they are asking us to undertake. I can but urge you to read and react to their urgent plea.

Craig Potton, a twice Green Party Candidate in New Zealand’s General Elections, is a distinguished New Zealand photographer, environmentalist, political activist, businessman, publisher, and founder of the prominent New Zealand publishing company Potton & Burton. In the 2013 Queens Birthday Honours, Potton was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for services to photography. Potton is New Zealand’s best known landscape photographer and an ardent conservationist. In pursuit of his photography, he has tramped and climbed extensively in New Zealand, its sub-Antarctic Islands, Antarctica, the Nepal Himalaya, and more recently Poland, India, Sabah, Indonesia and Iceland. For more than four decades he has documented the New Zealand wilderness, exploring relationships between the concept of artistic beauty and wilderness in the natural world. Potton founded the most important environmental publishing firm in all of the South Pacific, focusing on environmental and biocultural issues of burning importance. He is New Zealand’s most outspoken and effective ecological activist, but also has published the best-selling environmental works of all time within New Zealand, including: *Classic Walks of New*

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Zealand, *The Nature of Things*, and *Moment and Memory*, each a (celebrated) Montana New Zealand Book Award finalist in their publication year. He has produced a major work New Zealand's *Wilderness Heritage* and a large-scale art book of his landscape photography "New Zealand". He has made two extended trips to Antarctica and produced a major work in the Dry Valleys of Antarctica, "Improbable Eden".

Potton was the Location/Stills Photographer on "The Hobbit," "Lord of the Rings." And "Peter Pan, as well as "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" motion pictures.

Craig has exhibited his magnificent landscape and wildlife photography extensively both nationally and internationally, including New Zealand, Australia, the United States, Israel and Poland.

12) *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome* is a timely work of genius - a culmination of the brilliant, methodological, visionary but most importantly, radically compassionate, highly attuned thinking of Michael Charles Tobias and Jane Gray Morrison. Their rarified yet devastating treatise explores the sobering, if terminal nexus between ecological conscience and our historical incapacity as a species to meaningfully reconfigure the nature of who we are as uncontrollable biodiversity and earth destroyers. Tobias and Morrison have, like the Webb telescope, implored the farthest reaches of an imponderable possibility for human consciousness to "exceed its grasp," innovating paradigms beyond atavistic linguistic and philosophical bounds, and enjoin ourselves with Nature in selfless, biosemiospheric immanence. A must read for the deepest of deep ecologists!

Michael Bostick is an artist, freelance writer and a senior climate and environmental professional in the San Francisco Bay Area.

13) The world as we have created," said Albert Einstein, "it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking." Can anything change our thinking, and make us see fresh with new and better eyes? In the great spirit of Thoreau, Krutch, Mumford and their contemporary counterparts (Jonathan Schell, Elizabeth Kolbert, David G. Campbell) comes a new work by Tobias and Morrison, that can best be classified as "Philosophy with a human face."

Here, the astonishing and cruel history of *Homo Sapiens* -- especially in our relations with non-human beings -- has been placed before an unforgiving mirror, challenging us to acknowledge what we have done, see where we are, and grasp where we could be going. The emergent picture is not pretty, yet it is essential to see.

There are two future paths for the human race and we must act quickly and compassionately. The Authors write: "Recognition that our species' capacity to venerate nature in all her quirks and ellipses, stochastic incalculables and steadfast patterns, her graces and unimagined diversity, is our only chance of at least partial survival into an unknown future."

With climate change raging and the human race at a turning point, searching for hope at the bottom of the jar, we will all benefit from a careful reading of *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome - Ecology and the Imponderable* with its insights, warnings, and wisdom on every page.

Michael Pastore, Publisher of Zorba Press in Ithaca, New York, is a novelist, and non-fiction author. He has traveled extensively — always by bicycle, often sleeping under the stars, throughout the USA, and numerous Mediterranean countries. His more than 20 books include *Thoreau Bound: a Utopian Romance in the Isles of Greece*; *Lark's Magic*, *Zen in the Art of Child Maintenance*, *Zenlightenment*, *The Zorba Anthology of Love Stories*, *New Techniques in Child Maintenance*, *The Ithaca Manual of Style*, and

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Teaching Kindness and Peace. He has also written the book of poems, *Sappho at the Edge of Love: 100 poems by Michael Pastore*. Pastore founded the Creativity Center in Ithaca to promote creativity, confidence, clear thinking, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. ZorbaMedia.com; ZorbaPress.com

14) This is perhaps one of the most challenging books to read and comprehend that you will ever encounter. It is also perhaps the most sobering. Indeed, I would argue that this is a book that all concerned world citizens MUST read. By necessity, the final analysis of the role and fate of the human species is an ongoing saga. As an idealist believing in the possibility of post-materialist science to bring new awareness to our partial and mostly incorrect assumptions about the nature of past, present and future realities, I am deeply challenged by the facts and analysis presented by Michael Tobias and Jane Morrison. Readers of good faith and good will throughout our much-troubled planet will welcome the exploration that awaits a reading and then second reading of this utterly remarkable book.

William Gladstone, author of the international bestselling novel *The Twelve*, literary agent to visionary leaders such as Eckhart Tolle, Barbara Marx Hubbard, and Neale Donald Walsch, film producer of “Tapping the Source.” Gladstone founded Waterside Productions in 1982 which has since sold over 5,000 books to some 50 publishers.

15) *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome - Ecology and the Imponderable* is a radical but thoroughly presented review of arguments, with extensive footnotes, of ethics, philosophy and the hard sciences, covering the scope of thousands of years of human endeavor, but with a radical twist -- that our estimates, formulas and “knowing” are limited, at best, to anthropocentric, self-referenced, and most often self-serving human subjectivity affecting the entire planet with the geologic epoch now termed the Anthropocene age.

This is a gripping read no matter what your own favored outlook, and a challenge to discover an ethical, philosophical and scientific humility. It will definitely cause you to rethink your assumptions.

Bettina Gray has conducted hundreds of interviews aired internationally in over 140 countries. She hosted the acclaimed PBS 29-part series, *A Parliament of Souls – In Search of Global Spirituality* (and co-edited the accompanying PBS book by the same title). She is co-founder and former chair of the North American Interfaith Network, and has been a visiting scholar in Religions and Global security at Mills College, Oakland.

16) This is core understanding of nature and life on Earth. *Terminal Philosophy Syndrome* reveals who we are and inspires us with what we can become. Packed with authoritative wisdom and insight. Another bases-loaded home run from Tobias and Morrison.

Geoffrey Holland is the author of *The Hydrogen Age: Empowering a Clean-Energy Future*, and the Emmy Award winning writer, director and producer of several films, including “Element One,” “The View From Malabar” (narrated by James Cromwell), “The Cost of Cool,” “The Hydrogen Age” (narrated by Leonard Nimoy) and the “Great Bear Rainforest”.