

<https://www.johnseed.net/index.html>

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Interesting to look back at the podcast I did for Derrick Jensen's "Resistance Radio" in 2018. <https://derrickjensen.org/2018/01/john-seed-resistance-radio/>

In the light of our huge success in [stopping mining in Los Cedros](#) and other important areas in Ecuador this year, I find the description of our campaign as I saw it back in 2018; pretty illuminating.

But the best bit, for me, was the more philosophical, deep time tangent that the conversation took at one point, musing on the implications of extinction:

JS: What I know is that the rainforests are the very womb of life. They're home to more than half the species of plants and animals in the world, and the satellite photographs that show them disappearing at a rate that – there's no doubt that we're witnessing a mass extinction event that's comparable to the demise of the dinosaurs or any of the other huge extinction events where more than half of the species of plants and animals present at the beginning of such an event have disappeared at the end. And the only question is, how severe is this going to be? That's what we're fighting for. We're fighting to limit the severity of this extinction spasm.

I believe that when the dinosaurs were extinguished, approximately half of the species of plants and animals that were alive at the time disappeared with them. Before that, 230 million years ago, at the end of the Permian era, there was an extinction event where more than 90% of all of the species living on earth disappeared. We believe that we know that it was an asteroid and a kind of nuclear winter scenario that followed, that caused the extinction spasm 65 million years ago. But there's no scientific consensus as to what happened 230 million years ago. All that we know is that wherever we are in the world, as we dig down and we come to that layer, we come to a layer where suddenly 90-95% of all of the species disappear. So we're in the middle of, is it going to be 50% or is it going to be 95%? That may be something that we can have a say in, still. But there's no doubt that 100 million years from now, should there be a geologist around, they will see this extinction spasm written in the fossil record.

DJ: In many ways, the most important thing that we can do – it's like an environmentalist friend of mine says; as things become increasingly chaotic he wants to make sure that some doors remain open, by which he means that if bull trout are still alive in 10 years, they may be alive in 100, but if they're gone in 10 years, they're gone. And so he basically has a "not on my watch" attitude. He's going to protect every wild being and every wild place he can, because we can't know the future.

JS: That's right. And because it's not over until it's over. Once one has seen this, then it's difficult to find anything else all that important. Or, for some people, like myself, it's like the only game in town. Not because I have some hope of success, because, with your help, I don't believe in hope. But just because, what else is there to do under such

circumstances? I used to sort of believe that we were witnessing the emergence of a new consciousness in human beings, during the 60's and 70's. Many of us, I suppose, had this feeling that we were watching the birth of a new consciousness.

And I'm not completely cured of that yet. The sense that it's coming, it's coming. It would be hard to be confident about that. You'd have to be in denial to be confident about that. But the fact that it's a possibility remains. Because nothing less than that could save us, frankly. No technological change, no tinkering with the edges. Nothing could save us except a revolution in consciousness where human beings wake up to who we really are, you know, part of this thing. That there is no "out there" to dump our tailings. It's all in here, it's all cycling through us. We're just part of this incredible, enormous, beautiful worldwide web of biology, and that if we not only understood that intellectually, but also experienced ourselves that way, if a change in identity took place where we understood who we really are, underneath that thin veneer of social fictions, of nationality and religion and all the rest of that nonsense, then I believe that we're clever enough, and the technology exists where there's every chance that we could turn this thing around. So there's nothing missing except the correct understanding, the correct identification, the correct understanding of who we really are and where our interests really lie.

And so, should that change take place, then I'm sure our descendants will be immensely grateful to whomever was able to protect this species or that species, because that is going to be the basis of where evolution will continue from, with humanity reduced to a much, much more humble and much smaller presence. Because of understanding that all that vast wildness out there is the only hope for a truly sustainable, in geological terms, sustainable future for humanity.

Humans are a young species. Dinosaurs were around for 100 million years before they were extinguished. We've just been around for a million years or two. And of course we, like everything else that's alive today, have this incredible pedigree. When I'm feeling particularly morose I think about the fact that every single one of my ancestors, going back to the first cell of life on earth 4 billion years ago, every single one of those ancestors succeeded, at least in reaching the age of reproducing itself before it was consumed. Not a single one of those ancestors failed to pass life forward or I wouldn't be here talking shit with you.

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