PALA Summer School 2023

Linguistic Approaches to Ecological Discourse

Lecturer: Daniela Francesca Virdis

Towards a Beneficial Definition of Sustainability

[1] The Corona lockdown has forced us to shed the clutter and the speed and become an

invitation to humanity to differentiate between the essential and non-essential.

[2] In making us stay home, the crisis creates the possibility of realising that no matter who we

are, where we are, we are members of one Earth Family and share a common home, our beautiful

Earth. [3] We are part of Nature, not separate from it nor superior to it.

[4] Living on the earth with other beings makes simplicity (shedding the clutter) an ethical and

ecological obligation. [5] By taking simply what we need to sustain our life, living within ecological

and planetary boundaries, we leave vital ecological space for other beings.

[6] All beings need their share of ecological space and the right to participate in the living

processes which ensure food and water for all. [7] By extracting more from the earth, we

overstep the limits of our rightful share, disrupt planetary boundaries, ecological limits as well as

the integrity of species. [8] In the web of life species sustain each other. [9] Sustainability and

justice are interconnected, and robbing others of their rightful share deprives them of their basic

needs with a deepening crises [sic] of food and water, poverty, hunger and starvation.

(Copyright © 2022 Navdanya International. By Dr Vandana Shiva. Posted 11/07/2020 at 10:02

am. Available at https://navdanyainternational.org/world-simplicity-day-12th-july-2020/. Last

accessed April 2022)