

What is Green Anyway?

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The word "green" used to refer to a color,
Nowadays green refers to an idea, a commitment, a good –
Being in tune with the planet, commitments to sustainable development,
A holistic lifestyle, better business ethics, combating global warming, etc.
Green is everywhere, the real, the imagined, the contrived, the hoped-for.

What is green anyway?

A single sentence in the Kitab-i-Aqdas says it all:

"Be ye the embodiments of justice and fairness amidst all creation."

To embody is "to express, personify or exemplify in concrete form."

To be amidst means to be "surrounded by".

What does it mean to be smack in the middle of creation rather

Than standing separate as humans viewing a vast collection of resources called nature?

Justice stands for "righteousness, equitableness or moral rightness."

What is justice and fairness amidst all creation?

We need to understand and adopt the definitions before we can change the world.

In our rush to complexify and politicize everything,

We look to categories, checklists and indexes (including my own) to show us the way,

When we really need to remember Baha'u'llah's many other Words to us:

"The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and goodly deeds,

Through commendable and seemly conduct." Or

"O Son of Being! Bring thyself to account each day ere thou art summoned to a reckoning." Or

"Promote ye the development of the cities of God and His countries,

And glorify Him therein in the joyous accents of His well-favored ones.

In truth, the hearts of men are edified through the power of the tongue,

Even as houses and cities are built up by the hand and other means..."

What is it really that says we have a handle on these commandments for

Justice, fairness, accountability, joyous accents and edification?

Part of our response is how we remember to NOT DO the same old thing.,

Trapped in a tyranny of change for others and the same old thing for me..

Part of this is the meaning of credentials we put after our names.

What does LEED AP mean, beyond

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional,

For that matter what does SÓJ mean after my own name on the agenda?

Sustainability ó Justice, and why is LEED AP not there?

My several year questioning prayer - "Should I take the LEED exam?"

Always seemed to come back with a "no" and nagging thoughts that

There is something missing in our rush for buildings certified to be green.

Life and environments are too complicated to certify that

This building is green and that one is not.

It seems we need a spiritually-organic approach to understanding creation -

How does the body, whether that of a tree or a person or a house,

Really work, and be born and live and grow and die?

Merging the technology of human with the wonder of nature and the promise of Faith
Means we should all be justices, givers and servants, even as Abdu'l-Baha's prayer:
"Make me as dust in the pathway of Thy loved ones, and grant that I may offer up my soul
For the earth ennobled by the footsteps of Thy chosen ones in Thy path,
O Lord of Glory in the Highest."