



GrayIsGreen

Who are we?

Gray Is Green is an online gathering of older adult Americans aspiring to create a green legacy for the future. As environmentally conscious elders, we respond to a generational call: to co-create a future of economic justice, ecological sustainability and social justice.

We hold next generations of humans in mind and consider the future of ecosystems and other species. We are alert to the historic challenges facing our planet. And we are aware of the question arising from descendants generations hence:

What did you do, when you knew?

What do we do?

We aspire to embrace our eldership, living beyond consumerism and ageism. **Our Curriculum for Gray-Green Living** offers a variety of ways to join—and re-engage with—this elder movement.

We offer a periodic newsletter, a speaker's bureau, online resources, a [Facebook page](#) for relevant updates. In partnership with congenial organizations, we serve as a central clearinghouse of ideas and communications for older adults interested in greening their lives, learning about sustainability, advocating for sound public policy, being creative stewards or grandparents, emerging as elders, and mentoring young people.

*We invite **you** to get involved!*

www.grayisgreen.org

Pathways To Gratitude

Eastern Faiths: Islam

"But to God belongs all things in the heavens and on the earth; And He it is who encompasseth all things"

– 4:126

Adapted from [Islam and Ecology: Toward Retrieval and Reconstruction](#)

Nature as a Sign

God, nature, and humanity are not distinct concepts, but rather are inextricably bound together. Nature follows immutable, God-given laws, called *amwimir*, which may be decoded using human intellect. Nature itself has transcendental significance as an emblem. It, along with the Qur'an, is the means by which God communicates with humanity, and therefore nature holds the same metaphysical significance as the Qur'an. Therefore, the cosmos deserve the utmost respect, and any destruction or injury of the natural environment is prohibited.

Trusteeship

God subjected all in heaven and earth to human beings. However, this power also carries with it a moral burden. As part of their origin, humans accepted a trust, called *amana*. "We did indeed offer the Trust to the Heavens and the Earth and the mountains – but they refused to carry it, being afraid of it. But the human being carried it: Ho! Mankind is unfair to itself and foolish (33:72). Humans' stewardship of the earth is therefore not because of an inherent superiority, but because we alone are responsible for our actions. As part of this trust, we are commanded to maintain the natural measure and balance of the cosmos.

Conservation

The Prophet is reported to have said, "When doomsday comes, and someone has a palm shoot in his hand, he should plant it". This indicates that the nature is good in and of itself, and should be protected regardless of any benefit to humans. The basis for the mandate for conservation lies in two doctrines of *hima and haram*. *Hima*, as defined in the Islamic law called Sharia, are 'inviolate zones' set aside for conservation. Once an area is declared *hima*, animals cannot graze there and trees cannot be cut down. *Haram* is an inviolate zone specifically for the benefit of a community. Mosques and temples are often *haram*, as are sites associated with water distribution, such as wells, springs, or rivers in otherwise barren lands.

Environmental Justice

People who have excess water and withhold it from others are among those from whom God will withhold his grace on judgment day. This, along with a series of laws about the equal distribution of water amongst a community for agricultural purposes, indicates the Islamic commitment to environmental justice. Nature's bounty ought to be available for everyone in equal proportion, and ought to be taken care of so that all may benefit.

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Sustainability

The "Book of Agriculture" from the prophetic tradition speaks with moral force of sustainable agricultural practices. Even in Paradise, it is said that humans will practice agriculture, and we must use sustainable practices because Paradise will last forever.

Animal Rights

Animals are considered equal to humans. They have their own communities and individual personalities, and as such ought to be treated with respect. Though the killing of animals for food is permissible, there are a series of laws that govern the process to limit pain and cruelty.



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