



Afterword

PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO SURPRISED THAT Lucy's "inheritance" turned out to be nothing but more work for me. She was a crafty one. Brilliant, perhaps, but crafty. How could I complain, though? I enjoyed writing this book for her, and she paid the expenses. And, as you can imagine, ten non-profit organizations were also very happy to hear from me.

Lucy's notorious Last Will and Testament now hangs framed on the wall of my office, over my desk, reminding me that I was once a half-millionaire for about five minutes. But I have no regrets. Lucy opened my eyes like no one else could have.

Do I believe there's a war in progress between the Ego and the Eco? I think that was Lucy's unique way of saying we humans have to get our act together — soon. But I don't see the outcome of that "war" as being either the Ego or the Eco proclaiming victory over the other. I see the outcome as being a balanced and peaceful partnership between the two.

Do I believe humans are a disease on our planet? Are we engaged in a Robbing Frenzy, as Lucy suspected? Is the Point of No Return looming somewhere between 2020 and 2040? That I don't know. Maybe, but I sincerely hope not. Regardless, I do have a strong feeling that our culture took

a wrong turn somewhere in our past, a turn away from wisdom with regard to living on this planet. And I think that Eduardo's assessment of the situation has a ring of truth: the problem is spiritual — we've lost a basic connection within ourselves. And, because of that, we cannot find our spiritual link to the natural world. If the Earth could shed a tear, she would be shedding it for her lost children.

If the preponderance of ecological evidence is correct, if we are damaging our biosphere with increasing severity, and if the time line suggested by the world's scientists is accurate, then it is up to the baby-boomer generation and its children to steer our culture in a new direction. *We* are the pivotal generations, the ones that must have the vision and foresight to aim for a future that is not marred by environmental collapse. If we don't do it, no one else may be able to. It is an immense and frightening responsibility, and the obstacles are formidable. Perhaps the largest obstacle looming before us is complacency — we just don't seem to care.

Will the human species someday simply become a curious fossil buried in the earth, to be dug up eons from now by more intelligent creatures? Will those creatures wonder why we disappeared? Will it occur to them that complacency, selfishness, and greed could lead to the extinction of a species?

We who are alive today are the people who will determine the future of humanity. We are the ones who must goad the human race to squirm out of an obsolete cocoon of mindless consumerism and metamorphose into something more beautiful, and benign.

As Eduardo said, spiritual balance is our natural state. Humans are capable of incredible beauty. We have the capacity to be the Earth's keepers, and to live together on this planet wisely, fairly, and with foresight. This, I do believe.

