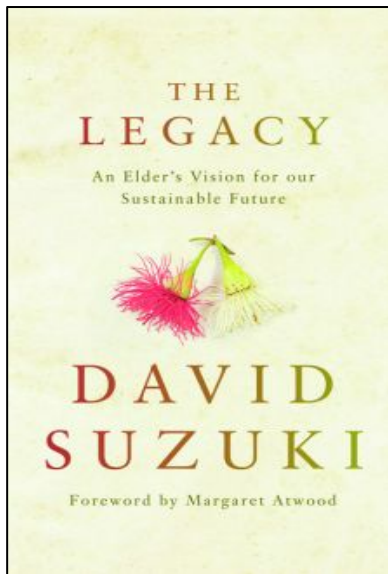


BOOK REVIEW

Suzuki, David. *The Legacy; An Elder's Vision for our Sustainable Future*. Crows Nest NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2010.



David Suzuki is one of the planet's preeminent elders. In his lifetime he has witnessed an explosion of scientific knowledge and a huge change in our relationship with the planet: a tripling of the world's population, a greatly increased ecological footprint through the global economy, and an enormous growth in technological capacity. These changes have had a dire effect on Earth's ecosystems and consequently on our own wellbeing.

To deal with this crisis of our own making, we must realise that the laws of nature have priority over the forces of economics, and that the planet simply cannot sustain unfettered growth. We must also recognise the limits of scientific reductionism and the need to adopt a more holistic point of view. Perhaps most important, we must join together as a single species to respond to the problems we face. Suzuki believes that change begins with each of us; all it takes is imagination and a faith in the inherent generosity of Mother Earth.

In contrast to many writings on the environment today, this is a hopeful, hope-filled book, one that challenges us to acknowledge the impacts our life choices have had on the planet, to take action to address the negative impacts of our decisions and life choices, and to believe that our combined resolve will bring positive results.

In the concluding paragraph, Suzuki writes: "We are the planet's most recent iteration of life's forms, an infant species but one that has the precocity to see our place in the cosmos and dream of worlds yet to come. I believe we are capable of even greater things, to rediscover our home, to find ways to live in balance with the sacred elements, and to create a future rich in the joy, happiness, and meaning that are our real wealth.

I will die before my own grandchildren become mature adults and have their own children, but I am filled with hope to imagine their future rich in opportunity, beauty, wonder, and companionship with the rest of Creation. All it takes is the imagination to dream it and the will to make the dream reality."

David Suzuki is an internationally renowned scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster who has spent half a century educating people about science and environmental issues. His David Suzuki Foundation is dedicated to finding the causes of - and solutions to - environmental problems.

For more information visit <http://www.allenandunwin.com>