

CANCER: MORE THAN METAPHOR



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Cancer, afflicting the human population in epidemic proportions, is more than a reflection of, or even a metaphor for, what Homo sapiens has become in relationship to the planet. It is a manifestation of that relationship. In other words, the cells of our own bodies are manifesting the same relationship to us as we, in fact, now have to the earth.

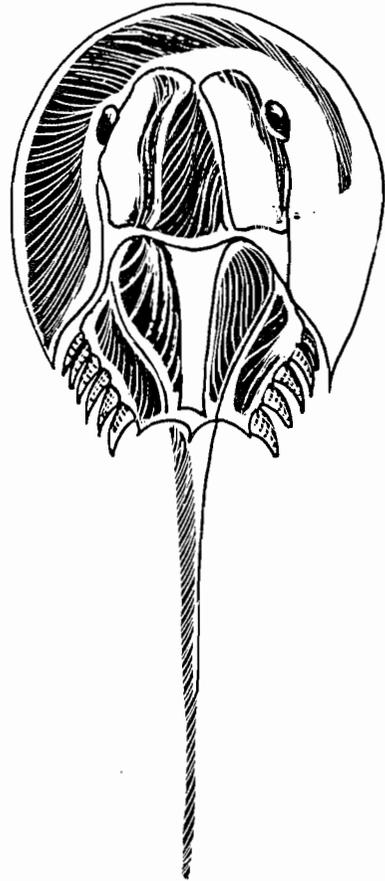
As every lay person by now knows, cancer cells are normal cells run amok. Cells that used to function in their proper places and in their proper numbers suddenly begin to multiply grotesquely and at the same time produce toxins, the combination of which is, to say the least, detrimental to the body. The process often stops only when the body dies. The cancer therefore works its own destruction, but at the expense of the whole body.

The human species once functioned in harmony with the myriad other organisms of the earth. Then something happened. Suddenly (it was sudden by geological time) the species ran amok, destroying and crowding out other life forms and spreading its poisons everywhere throughout the body of our earth.

Perhaps it is no irony, but another facet of humanity's cancerous impact, that just as radiation is used to destroy cancer cells in the body of an individual, it is radiation (from nuclear fall-out and wastes) that our species most fears.

Just what are we talking about when we speak of the relationship between the disease we are and the disease with which we are afflicted? Is the connection something mythical? Even if so, the mystics tell us that mystical reality is the same as any other kind--the reality does not change, only one's perception of it.

Curing the earth's cancer, then, will go a long way towards curing our own individual cancers. Test-tube research at this point is



a tragic waste of time and money. The heinous use of living, non-human beings as cancer research subjects is only a further manifestation of the cancer we are, which suggests that such research may be having just the opposite than hoped for effect upon our diseases as individuals. We must regulate our reproduction, and we must clean up our act, or we and our precious body, the earth, will surely die.