**WHATEVER HAPPENS TO THE WATER HAPPENS TO THE PEOPLE**

“If there is magic on the planet, it is contained in the water.“

-- Loren Eisley, The Immense Journey (1957)

“Water has no taste, no color, no odor; it cannot be defined, is relished while ever mysterious. Not necessary to life, but rather life itself, it fills us with a gratification that exceeds the delight of the senses.”

-- Antoine de Saint-Exupery, Wind, Sand, and Stars (1939)

"By 2025, at least 3.5 billion people - about half the world's populations - will live in areas without enough water for agriculture, industry, and human needs... Worldwide, water quality conditions appear to have degraded in almost all regions with intensive agriculture and in large urban and industrial areas."

-- World Resources Institute, October 2000

“Water is the driving force in nature.”

― [Leonardo da Vinci](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/13560.Leonardo_da_Vinci)

“We never know the worth of water till the well is dry. ”

― [Thomas Fuller](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/433477.Thomas_Fuller)

“Water belongs to us all. Nature did not make the sun one person's property, nor air, nor water, cool and clear.”

― [Michael Simpson](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/15379.Michael_Simpson), [*The Metamorphoses of Ovid*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2870411)

“Water, like religion and ideology, has the power to move millions of people. Since the very birth of human civilization, people have moved to settle close to it. People move when there is too little of it. People move when there is too much of it. People journey down it. People write, sing and dance about it. People fight over it. And all people, everywhere and every day, need it.”

― Mikhail Gorbachev

“Five million people die unnecessarily each year because of illness related to lack of potable water. Half of them are children under the age of five. To bring it home, think about this: one child dies from lack of clean water every twelve seconds.”

― [Thomas M. Kostigen](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/365290.Thomas_M_Kostigen), *[You Are Here: Exposing the Vital Link Between What We Do and What That Does to Our Planet](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2821410)*

“Water does not resist. Water flows. When you plunge your hand into it, all you feel is a caress. Water is not a solid wall, it will not stop you. But water always goes where it wants to go, and nothing in the end can stand against it. Water is patient. Dripping water wears away a stone. Remember that, my child. Remember you are half water. If you can't go through an obstacle, go around it. Water does.”

― [Margaret Atwood](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3472.Margaret_Atwood), [*The Penelopiad*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3016476)

“The "old school" of wastewater treatment, still embraced by most government regulators and many academics, considers water to be a vehicle for the routine transfer of waste from on place to another. It also considers the accompanying organic material to be of little or no value. The "new school", on the other hand, sees water as a dwindling, precious resource that should not be polluted with waste; organic materials are seen as resources that should be constructively recycled. My research for this chapter included reviewing hundreds of research papers on alternative wastewater systems. I was amazed at the incredible amount of time and money that has gone into studying how to clean the water we have polluted with human excrement. In all of the research papers, without exception, the idea that we should simply stop defecating in water was never suggested.”

― [Joseph Jenkins](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/112168.Joseph_Jenkins), [*The Humanure Handbook: A Guide to Composting Human Manure*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/975163)

“The water you kids were playing in, he said, had probably been to Africa and the North Pole. Genghis Khan or Saint Peter or even Jesus may have drunk it. Cleopatra might have bathed in it. Crazy Horse might have watered his pony with it. Sometimes water was liquid. Sometimes it was rock hard- ice. Sometimes it was soft- snow. Sometimes it was visible but weightless- clouds. And sometimes it was completely invisible- vapor- floating up into the sky like the souls of dead people. There was nothing like water in the world, Jim said. It made the desert bloom but also turned rich bottomland into swamp. Without it we'd die, but it could also kill us, and that was why we loved it, even craved it, but also feared it. Never take water for granted, Jim said. Always cherish it. Always beware of it.”

― [Jeannette Walls](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3275.Jeannette_Walls), [*Half Broke Horses*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/6553801)

 “People today have forgotten they're really just a part of nature. Yet, they destroy the nature on which our lives depend. They always think they can make something better. Especially scientists. They may be smart, but most don't understand the heart of nature. They only invent things that, in the end, make people unhappy. Yet they're so proud of their inventions. What's worse, most people are, too. They view them as if they were miracles. They worship them. They don't know it, but they're losing nature. They don't see that they're going to perish. The most important things for human beings are clean air and clean water.”

― [Akira Kurosawa](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/32507.Akira_Kurosawa), [*Yume*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/1128320)

“All water is holy water.”

― [Rajiv Joseph](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2709575.Rajiv_Joseph), [*Animals Out of Paper*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/7383747)

“Like any stage of the hydrologic process, we have our own peculiarities, our organs making us nothing more than water pools or springs of bizarre shape, filled with pulsing tubes and chambers.”

― [Craig Childs](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/42002.Craig_Childs), [*The Secret Knowledge of Water*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/277350)

“The places where water comes together with other water. Those places stand out in my mind like holy places.”

― [Raymond Carver](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7363.Raymond_Carver), *Where Water Comes Together with Other Water: Poems*