

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE NATURE AND HUMANITY: CHAIN REACTION

Conflicts have existed as long as humanity by itself. They are so common in our daily lives. Disputes are everywhere: at home, in the classroom, in the office, in transport, on the street, etc. In recent years, from my observations, I noticed how local conflicts escalate into global ones. Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon case.

The silent war between humans and nature is the most significant conflict we ignore, but it escalates yearly. All humanity on the planet is always in conflict with nature without noticing or realizing it.

With industry growth, human demand for resources and energy has increased, leading to a decline in wildlife habitats. Pollution in the environment affects plants, animals, and air quality, resulting in health issues for living creatures and fish populations in the sea. All these have also led to food scarcity issues. The expanding human population has destroyed wildlife areas to make way for new agricultural land. Industrialization and the commercialization of valuable animal species have significantly altered life on Earth.

We live on a finite globe where everything is interconnected, for example, through food chains, water cycles, and geological cycles. Nature can regenerate to a certain extent, but serious disruptions to these cycles, such as pollution, unsustainable farming practices, irrigation projects, or overfishing, can destabilize the natural balance.

Climate change, urban pollution, and disasters caused by human activity, such as oil spills, industrial accidents, earthquakes, floods, and war conflicts, are issues that deeply concern me. Natural disasters continue to claim numerous lives annually. Living in a region that is highly susceptible to earthquakes, my country has unfortunately witnessed significant loss of life due to the neglect of the fragile equilibrium between nature and human interventions. Historically, buildings have been constructed on old riverbeds and low-lying plains, leading to tragic consequences.

It is a chain reaction: rising sea levels will pose a risk of flooding for millions of people. The intrusion of saltwater will have a negative impact on low-lying agricultural lands. Weather catastrophes such as floods, droughts, and hurricanes will occur more frequently and with greater destructive force, putting many land-dwelling animal species at risk of extinction and significantly reducing crop yields. With rising temperatures, various diseases will shift to different regions. Climate

change, coupled with environmental issues, will force many people to migrate or seek refuge (environmental refugees), considering the changes happening in the environment.

During the pandemic, I observed a tendency for a decrease in conflict between humans and nature. Due to the reduction in industrial activity, air pollution decreased. Our seas started to regain their natural blue colour. Some species of fish reappeared in sea waters after many years. Stray animals found new ways to thrive in nature. I experienced no asthma attacks or need for medication due to the improved air quality. This experience has made me more committed to recycling and nature-friendly projects. I believe it is possible to resolve this conflict by respecting nature. I strongly support nature-friendly, low-pollution projects such as renewable energy, windmills, and electric vehicles.

The conflict between humans and nature has resulted in numerous casualties among people, animals, and plants, as well as the extinction of various species due to both man-made and natural disasters. The impact of climate change highlights the urgent need to address this conflict to prevent further losses and deterioration in the quality of life despite technological advancements. As inhabitants of Earth, we are all interconnected with nature, which is essential for our survival. It is crucial to incorporate respect for nature into our daily and actively support environmentally friendly initiatives to resolve this conflict.

The world's salvation lies in the human heart, the human capacity to reason, human meekness, and human responsibility. We are still under the influence of the pernicious and futile belief that man is the top of the universe, not just a part of it. If we destroy nature, we destroy ourselves.