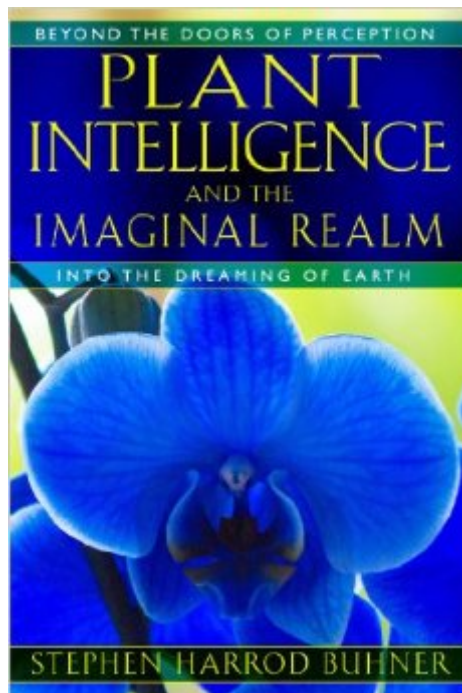


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# Plant Intelligence And The Imaginal Realm: Beyond The Doors Of Perception Into The Dreaming Of Earth



## Synopsis

A manual for opening the doors of perception and directly engaging the intelligence of the Natural World • Provides exercises to directly perceive and interact with the complex, living, self-organizing being that is Gaia • Reveals that every life form on Earth is highly intelligent and communicative • Examines the ecological function of invasive plants, bacterial resistance to antibiotics, psychotropic plants and fungi, and the human species In *Plant Intelligence and the Imaginal Realm*, Stephen Harrod Buhner reveals that all life forms on Earth possess intelligence, language, a sense of I and not I, and the capacity to dream. He shows that by consciously opening the doors of perception, we can reconnect with the living intelligences in Nature as kindred beings, become again wild scientists, nondomesticated explorers of a Gaian world just as Goethe, Barbara McClintock, James Lovelock, and others have done. For as Einstein commented, "We cannot solve the problems facing us by using the same kind of thinking that created them." • Buhner explains how to use analogical thinking and imaginal perception to directly experience the inherent meanings that flow through the world, that are expressed from each living form that surrounds us, and to directly initiate communication in return. He delves deeply into the ecological function of invasive plants, bacterial resistance to antibiotics, psychotropic plants and fungi, and, most importantly, the human species itself. He shows that human beings are not a plague on the planet, they have a specific ecological function as important to Gaia as that of plants and bacteria. Buhner shows that the capacity for depth connection and meaning-filled communication with the living world is inherent in every human being. It is as natural as breathing, as the beating of our own hearts, as our own desire for intimacy and love. We can change how we think and in so doing begin to address the difficulties of our times.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This may be the most important book you'll read this decade. Maybe ever. It re-enforces things that many of us have intuitively believed for a long time, but it does it through cutting edge science that is completely blowing my mind. Do you sort of think that the gaia hypothesis is kind of true--you know, maybe on a mythical or metaphorical level? Do you want proof that it is absolutely, scientifically true? The science presented here is mind blowing, paradigm shifting. As the mystics and native medicine people have been telling us forever, everything is connected, everything is conscious and communicates with everything else, the earth is actually a conscious, continually evolving being of which we and every other living thing are interconnected expressions. We have the capacity to actually SENSE this, feel it, know it in the ways that all people used to know it, back before the current scientific paradigm--now too slowly changing--started to convince us that we are all separate beings, and the rest of the universe, including the rest of "nature", is basically mechanical and unconscious and cannot communicate with us. The author gives exercises for developing this other way of sensing that we all are capable of but have mostly had beaten and "educated" and conditioned out of us. I'm actually not quite done reading the book yet, but each chapter fills me with more amazement, more "aha, yes, YES!" moments. I'm ordering at least 2 more copies to give to others. This is an absolute must read book, one that COULD help us to pull back from the precipice we are currently hanging over. We won't destroy the planet, though we are currently doing it very serious harm.

Many times in the course of reading Plant Intelligence and the Imaginal Realm I wanted to stop and post my reaction to the book here on . I resisted the temptation setting myself the goal of responding only when I was finished. And now I have done that. In this book Stephen Buhner proposed to me, in a most personal way, that I undertake my re-education. His single piece of advice was this:

Whenever you encounter something ask yourself: How does it feel? So I will say how this book feels. This book feels heavy, not the heaviness of its actual weight, though it is not a short book, but the heaviness the old hippies referred to when they said, "That's heavy, man." • Importance has its own kind of weight, and the weight of this book settles onto my body, not in any oppressive way but as if it were a fluid of warmth that conformed to every lineament of my physical self. But it was not my physical self that was embraced, it was rather my natural mind; it was, in the end, my heart.

For this is a book of love if ever there was one and kindles love in response. It is as if someone nudged me awake from my sleep, gently but insistently. I knew at any moment I could say, "Leave me alone," and the book would depart. Or I could let it rouse me. The book feels full of arousal, awake for the one who would awaken. So the book feels bright, not dazzling and brilliant in its brightness, not a brightness that causes squinting, but a brightness like the moon, never caustic, but when it is full adequate for many discoveries. The book is as stocked with joy as a spring river with trout. It abounds with an energy of the sort the old prophets felt when stirred by the touch of vision.

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