

8th September 2020

Rain

**“The day is cold, and dark, and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
The vine still clings to the mouldering wall,
But at every gust the dead leaves fall,
And the day is dark and dreary.”**

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, The Rainy Day

In the Lochaber area of Scotland – where I’m writing this – it’s said: “If you can’t see Ben Nevis it’s because it’s raining, and if you *can* see Ben Nevis, it’s about to rain.” This is one of the wettest places in Europe with annual rainfall of 2,500 mm (≈100”), while the Scottish average is about 1,500mm.

But as *we* complain about too much rain, parts of the world are devastated by drought. Droughts are the second-most costly weather events after hurricanes. During drought conditions – sometimes for years – water sources may dry up completely and people die from a lack of food and clean water to drink. Charities such as Water Aid (<https://www.wateraid.org/uk/>) are crucial in tackling this issue. But one of the most impressive individuals in environmental protection is Alexandra Cousteau, (<https://experiencelife.com/article/a-legacy-of-her-own/>) a National Geographic Emerging Explorer whose latest initiative is “Blue Legacy”, raising awareness that we live on a water planet and must take care of it. Cousteau, the granddaughter of the famed ocean explorer, Jacques Cousteau, believes water is a crucial issue for our times. She predicts issues such as drought, storms and floods, with degrading quality creating “water refugees”, people migrating in search of water, and says, “We *must* protect Earth’s valuable freshwater resources.”

We can’t share Lochaber’s rainfall with the drought-stricken regions of the world. But we could take more notice of Water Aid, Alexandra Cousteau and others; play our part in raising awareness of climate issues; and protect the fundamental natural resources that are necessary for life.

So, next time you complain about the rain, give thought to those who are dying because they don’t have nearly enough.

A prayer for today

*Lord, even if I can’t share my rain with people who have none,
I pledge to share my compassion with those who don’t have enough of that. Amen*

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon

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