

“Who Do We Choose to Be?: Facing Reality, Claiming Leadership, Restoring Sanity” by Margaret Wheatley (Bernett Koheler Publishers, 2017)

*This is a wonderful book that encourages and calls forth leadership in sustainability; taking action as warriors for the human spirit. Author Margaret Wheatley makes a declaration that (based on “Walk Out Walk ON”) a new type of leadership is needed and, given the reality of the global environmental crisis today, all we can hope to do is engage in collaborative efforts for creating “islands of sanity” in our chaotic world. Wheatley urges people to lead with a deep sense of compassion and skill, connecting those with concerns for local environment to elicit from collaborative efforts synergistic solutions for such ecological social problems. Her research and years of experience as a leader and professor of business at Harvard University have drawn her to conclude that these stakeholders already possess the ideas, resources, skills, etc., to work collaboratively to implement significant and lasting change. In this process a new type of leader is necessary; one who understands and accepts the essential ability to “get out of one’s own ego” and simply — with compassion — connect, encourage and facilitate networked individuals who in turn become “islands of sanity” in a world gone mad. Another key point Wheatley gives is that we are now living in the post-truth era in which — given instantaneous technology — data overload and media fabrication make it virtually impossible to discern truth. In the end, Wheatley doesn’t advocate for technology elimination but instead challenges readers to face it; to recognize the cultural, societal and environmental impact it is causing.*