

HAVE YOU KISSED A SNAIL YET TODAY?

Yuck, you say. Well, you don't have to go straight to kissing snails. But how about showing them a little affection? Eike Braunroth is a man who has learned to make friends with what we disdainfully refer to as 'creepy crawlies'. It has turned his garden into a paradise!

Would you call yourself a peaceful person? Yes, I'm sure you would! You don't hit your wife/husband or your children (the latter only as a last resort); you tolerate the barking of the neighbour's dog stoically and refrain from indulging in the eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth philosophy when you're feeling harassed at work.

You only wage war in the most peaceful part of your home: the garden. What did you say? Oh, I'm sorry! I didn't mean to offend you. Of course, you never, never, never

attack snails and ants, potato beetles and cabbage whites, rose chafers and rats, whitefly and corn borers, wild boar and voles—not with chemical or biological weapons of mass destruction and certainly not with ones that go bang.

But the war begins much earlier: inside your head. "Will I have a good harvest this year? Or will they (my enemies), the pests, feast away at my vegetables? My roses? My berries? What should I do to ensure they don't get a chance to ravage, besiege and destroy my plants? Will the (hostile) rain flood my land, or (hostile) drought make it as hard as stone? Will the (hostile) elements claim victory or will I emerge stronger this time? Will I get it right? Will I feel that sense of achievement, with the

boughs groaning under the weight of the fruit and the lettuces sitting there in plump, full rows?"

Let's be honest: haven't we all entertained such thoughts, felt such anxieties, questioned ourselves and the garden? To be honest, we act rather like generals in a minefield. The enemy is everywhere; right up to harvest time we cannot tell if the fruits of our labours will bring good yields—or if we will be defeated by snails, frost or pests.

We divide ourselves and the garden into two (hostile) camps. We try to bend nature to our will and see it as disobedience or even

Make peace with nature

Let's not talk of blame. We act according to our knowledge and our experience. If we learn something new we can act better and gradually find our way to a true 'Cooperation with Nature®', which is man's true function and destination.

There is one man who has taken this path. His name is Eike Braunroth and he has developed a 'concept' as simple as it is wonderful, as happy as it is successful (although concept is the wrong word for it, rather one should talk of 'attitude'), in which plagues

of snails or ants, rats or silverfish, aphids and bark-beetles disappear 'of their own accord'. The concept involves making true peace with nature. Not separating oneself from nature but seeing oneself as part of a whole—as a formative and masterful part, perhaps, but a part all the same, and not a feudal lord or a general.

Eike Braunroth was born into a family that was very close to nature. "Even as a child I felt a close inner relationship with nature", he says. "I became aware of flower fairies and animal devas and I communicated with

them. I felt at one with everything I saw and heard." He was given his first patch of garden upon starting school in 1946. He sowed marigolds, beans, peas, radishes and many wild herbs such as shepherds purse and dandelions. "There were no 'pests' here. All creatures were welcome."

As he grew up he lost that 'inner vision'. "I found myself in a state of consciousness where I was detached from nature. From adolescence onwards, snails and later potato beetles, blackbirds and bark-beetles made themselves ever more conspicuous through their huge appetites." Like us all, he too began to fight against these 'pests' and to defend 'his' garden. Hopeless. The turning point only came when he heard about Findhorn. "From my knowledge and theirs I en-



Anyone watching the tender love-play of two snails in the film 'Microcosm' is bound to feel that these little creatures have feelings too.

an outright challenge if nature does not do our bidding. We create *separation* between ourselves and the garden. We confront it with the attitude of one who makes nature his slave.

That would not be so very far wrong in theory. In practice, in his garden man lays down certain conditions that cause the laws of nature to become impersonal and they then have an effect that relates directly back to the basic conditions.

But hey! That would mean that man is to blame for the situation in his garden? That he is to blame for the plague of snails, for the voles and the potato beetles? Even for the weather, which doesn't behave itself? Isn't that going a bit too far? Am I really to blame for everything?

tered into a new relationship with nature. Not fighting, nor connivance but cultivation of a caring association.” This was the starting point for his ‘Cooperation with Nature®’ approach that anyone can learn today.

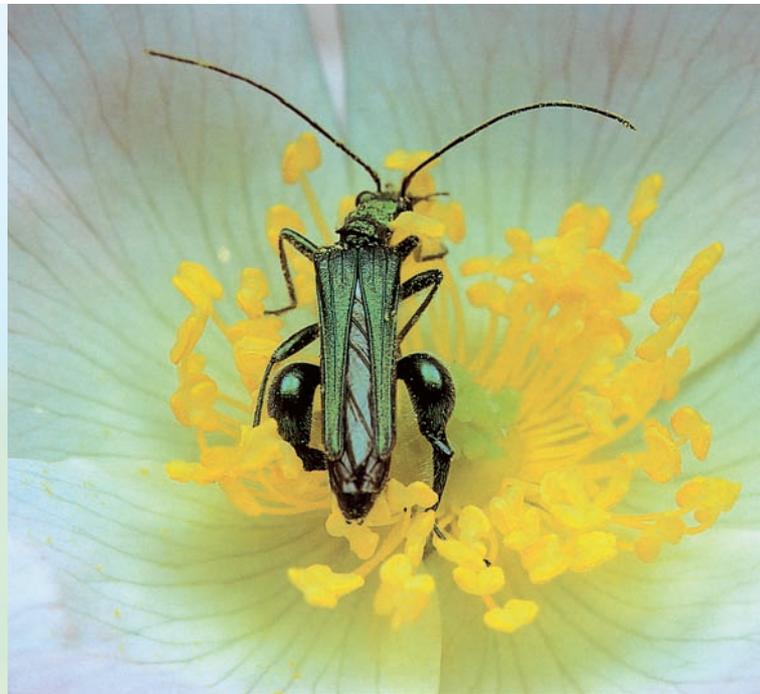
As previously mentioned, our bad attitude starts in the mind. With our expectations of anxiety and doubt: will I get a good enough harvest? Will the whitefly stay away this summer or will they once again spoil my joy in my plants?

If we think like this, says Eike Braunroth, we create an etheric field that is charged with destructive elements. “On an etheric level in the morphogenetic field this anxiety also manifests itself in the plants. Cultivated plants are therefore directly dependent on the person they ‘belong’ to. They cannot decide for themselves. They simply react to his anxiety. They grow weak. They get sick. According to cosmic law this inevitably leads to other organisms—those that we think of as pests—‘destroying’ the plants, or rather transforming them into another, higher state of being.”

The same thing, says Braunroth, happens with children whose parents are constantly worried about them. This anxiety literally leads to ruin. Anxiety about tick bites draws the ticks. “People who fight against mosquitoes, ticks, lice, fleas, moths, cockroaches, ants and silverfish act as magnets, attracting such creatures to their homes, their clothes, their pets, their children and themselves.”

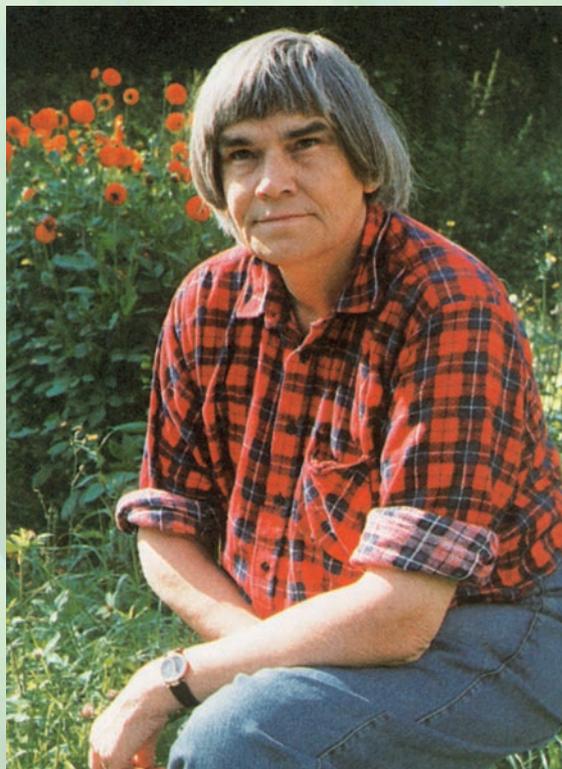
Yet how arrogant to declare that certain beings of creation are simply ‘pests’! What do we really know of the functions performed by these creatures? Eike Braunroth’s experience is that, firstly, ‘pests’ are the direct consequence of our own negative attitudes. And, secondly, that they respond to war with war. If, however, we manage—admittedly not without some difficulty—to see them as *partners* in our garden, whose entire reason for being is to fulfil some task that we may not even recognise—and if we even manage to treat them with the same respect and love that we offer to our dog or our cat, then their behaviour will change completely.

“A couple of years ago, when I needed a lot of snails for a talk I was



This slim beetle, at most ten millimetres in length, from the family Oedemeridae spends most of its time in flowers, feeding on pollen.

giving, my garden did not have very many so I ordered a whole load from a snail hater”, Eike Braunroth recalls. “He promised me a whole boxful and even sent his children into the garden to get them. When the snails had been delivered I welcomed them, took the pierced lid off the box and sprinkled the exhausted creatures with rainwater. Straight away there was an enormous snail invasion in the garden—and they were never seen again. Even upon close examination there were no more snails to be found in the gar-



Eike Braunroth, friend of bark-beetles and greenfly, for whom slugs extend their feelers in his presence rather than draw them in fearfully—as they do with people who are hostile to them.

den than before, and no useful or edible plants were devoured. The garden of a peaceable gardener with its peaceable atmosphere had turned the supposedly voracious monsters into frugal creatures.“

People cause the forests to suffer

Eike Braunroth has a whole collection of similar happy experiences. One concerns potato beetles: “We were holding a Trilogy Seminar on a farm in Austria. At this time, a field was being planted up with pota-

atoes. During the care seminar in the summer we counted 31 potato beetles in the whole field, all of whom were mating like mad. We monitored the underside of all the leaves of the potato plants after the eggs had been laid and over the next few weeks one of the seminar participants was given the job of looking for eggs and larvae. Neither we nor the participant found eggs or larvae.“

Braunroth’s explanation for that is completely obvious to open-minded people: “The question of what happened to the pests is the wrong thing to ask. In the right context it can be seen that the animals, in their whole attitude to life, are able to switch off the urge for reproduction and voraciousness because man’s love induces such an ethereal rhythm in them that their anxiety is turned around and switched off.”

In the same way, the ‘bark beetle plague’ that threatens our forests is also closely tied up with man’s relationship to the woods. “The absence of friendly people, their distance and the reduction of this sense of cohabitation to a mere wood factory has caused the forest to fall ill”, concludes Braunroth. Gone are the days when romantic poets and composers sang about the woods and talented artists painted them in the most beautiful colours. The forest has become a pure profit centre—with disastrous consequences.

Add to that “the decade-long battle of mankind versus the fox, who along with its cubs is never safe at any season but hunted the whole year round. Add to that the decade-long battle against the organisms that cause symptoms of rabies or Lyme disease in people, the years of battle against bark beetles, green oak roller moths, gypsy

moths and black arches moths. It is mankind's battle that strengthens these organisms and weakens the forest. It does not start with the fight itself but with the planning of the 'campaign' against certain woodland organisms. Harmful air pollution merely speeds up the dying process. A healthy forest", says Braunroth, "needs care, love and people who work in it with understanding—in

Cooperation with Nature®, people who go walking in it and children who play and make happy noises."

Pests are helpers and healers

The effect of our uncaring attitude to nature is that its natural rhythm slows down. So-called pests only hit on plants that have been weakened or that are already sick, and they serve to heal the plants. They are Nature's helpers. They could even be regarded as a visible sign that the afflicted plants are already on the road to recovery. They are purged from the inside out and this process heals them. "Pests' and 'diseases' occur when healing is necessary. When they start to consume plants or plant parts that means the healing process has begun. An example: aphids suck sugary cell sap from the cells of a 'diseased' rose. This sap had caused a blockage of the sap flow. The vibration increases again and the plant recovers. In another rose, the cell sugar has already crystallised because the gardener has fought the aphid with poison. The vibration of the rose slows down. Now Mother Nature sends a whole host of rust fungus. The rose is in acute danger. The gardener panics. His negative, or anxious, thought processes influence the plant so that it becomes mortally ill. The blockage in the sap flow persists. The vibratory rate sinks rapidly. The rose 'dies'. Its corpse is transformed by microorganisms from the animal and plant kingdoms and brought back into a higher vibratory rate. Animals have a higher vibratory frequency than plants. The consumption of plants by animals brings the process of transformation into another, higher level of vibration. Consumption is absorption. The corpses of 'diseased' plants are becoming 'one body' within the animal. Even from a superior



The caterpillar of the puss moth has two faces. When a bird or other predator approaches it lifts its front end and waves it to and fro, showing a clown face, while out of the elongated hind end come two whip-like red tails that it waves around. This spectacle creates anxiety and fear in would-be predators—causing them to back off in a hurry!

point of view, that is, from the point of view of the Creator, there are no 'pests' or 'diseases'." The use of poisons therefore also inhibits the whole evolutionary process.

It is, then, the blockage in the lifestream of the plant that attracts the snail. It is (usually) man whose destructive mental and emotional attitude towards the plant has brought on this blockage. "Snails are some of the most peaceable creatures on our planet", writes Eike Braunroth in his excellent book *'In Harmonie mit den Naturwesen in Garten, Feld und Flur'*, (*In Harmony with Beings of Nature in Garden, Field and Meadow*; only published in German). "Their only objective is to stay alive. They are man's friends. Their behaviour is open and honourable... If the gardener is their friend, the snails are also his friends and healers, and he will see how in the end they no longer pull in their horns when their man-friend approaches. Their purpose is love, healing and oneness with all living things. Only man in his ego, in his anxiety, thinks that the snail is his enemy. Only he, in his anxiety, believes he is being robbed. But that is all in his imagination. What is important and interesting is that this imagination leads to visible consequences."

In Eike Braunroth's home no animal is harmed—no annoying fly swatted, no wasps chased away and when mice nested in his cellar he treated them as friends. "It was the first time that I had been faced with this kind of problem. It was frosty outside and there was a lot of snow. I just couldn't bring myself to suggest to my little friends, the mice, that they should leave our house. I told them that they could stay until the wintry weather was past. In the meantime they were welcome to live on our supplies. When the time came I opened the cellar window and asked them to leave. They were gone by the next

day! Since then we've never had mice in the house." During their 'billeting' the little creatures had behaved better than many children: "Although our house is quite open plan and we don't always shut all the doors, the mice stayed in the cellar area. None of them entered the neighbouring clinics. They lived in the full potato boxes and built themselves nests out of paper

and wool. About three potatoes were nibbled and otherwise only enough to make space for the nest, about 15 centimetres across. Other plant products such as begonia corms, carrots, beetroot, dahlia tubers and gladioli were left untouched. The mice had left everything undisturbed."

Animals are as understanding as they are considerate: it is man who approaches them in an unduly combative way. There are other ways of going about things than to let wasps die in treacle jars or to squash bumble bees. When Eike Braunroth noticed one spring day that wasps were beginning to build a nest over the entrance to his house, hornets had made themselves comfortable in a pear tree at the entrance to the property and bumble bees had finished their nest even though it was only June, he thought carefully about what should be done—for he received many visitors who were afraid of these 'stinging friends'. He decided that it would be better if they left. "One word to the bees, hornets and wasps was enough—and they moved away in a matter of hours"

Grow up, man!

Are these not idyllic circumstances? They are only possible, however, when man finds his way back to the great unity of all beings, for whom he is an older brother or sister. Man, writes Braunroth in his book, "has set out on his own and cut the apron strings to Mother Earth before being fully grown up. Man is a teenager. Man has a greater purpose in life than just being a 'snail killer'. His purpose in life is to live happily and well, to value and serve life. He should learn the laws of nature and serve nature. He can do this best by loving everything. The idea is to bring everything into balance and harmony and to connect to life, connect to the Divine

in him. In such conscious living he may well find it easier to live as one with all creatures and with God. He must embrace this oneness. He was, is and always will be part of this oneness. That is the law of his life. He can't escape from it. Yet he has freedom of choice. He has the freedom to behave as if he is separate from life, from God. Since he is not truly separate he has bitter experiences so that, using his freedom of choice, he can once again rediscover his oneness with life, with God. The so-called pests and diseases serve a purpose, helping him to find his way back to this oneness. They are the messengers on the way. From them, man learns to integrate that oneness in his daily life—to lose himself in it."

A man who cultivates plants must give them his whole love. Enter

into a deep connection with them. Without this, the plants stay weak and vulnerable. "Only the conscious and complete unification of the gardener with 'his' charges will lead to their beneficial development."

If the gardener grows inwardly, he will lay down the foundations with his plant for new seeds and ripe fruit, stability, beauty, longevity and flavour. His plant always acts as a mirror of his own nature.

The plants feel the love of 'their' man in the way he sows new seeds. Braunroth always puts two seeds, two potato tubers, and two onions together in the earth. "They need company," he smiles.

He always plants two of every house-plant in one pot, or at least puts two of the same sort in the room. "Plants like to live socially, just as people do!" he writes in his book, continuing: "Everything that is done to plants by other plants ('diseases') or by animals ('pests') serves their development. The gardener needs to bear this in mind as he looks after them. A 'diseased' plant does not need poison or fighting. It needs man's love."

What we often see as the 'gruesome fight for survival' in the animal kingdom is completely peaceful. The animal kingdom does



An aesthetic pleasure, these freshly emerged shield bugs next to their empty white eggs!

not know hostility in the human sense. Quite simply, as Braunroth expresses it, "one animal consciousness spills over into another. When a cat catches a mouse and eats it, mouse consciousness spills over into cat consciousness, flowing and harmonious. The cat only catches that mouse whose consciousness is at one with its own consciousness. Aphid consciousness spills over into lacewing consciousness, flowing and harmonious... The consciousness of the rose spills over into the consciousness of the aphid. The consciousness of the lettuce spills over into the consciousness of the gardener etc. What then is the difference between the consciousness of an aphid and the consciousness of the gardener? There is no difference between living beings in terms of the right to food." If man comes along and destroys the snails in his garden so that their bodies disappear, "then, accordingly, new variations of animal consciousness in other organisms rise up and these cause much greater 'damage'."

This phenomenon also occurred in the early sixties, when an incredible poisoning campaign was launched against cockchafer. DDT was sprayed over the May countryside by the ton and thousands of

dead beetles plastered the fields and roads. What happened? After a few years of this brutal poisoning some previously unknown pests emerged which went on to cause much greater 'damage'. After ten poisonings they proved to be resistant to the 'pesticides'. The 'head of Medusa' had therefore brought forth a far worse plague. "Every gardener who feels forced to disturb the oneness completely", observes Braunroth, "will find beings that 'destroy' in his garden."

Love reaps a full and beautiful harvest

Where nature is left entirely to its own devices it does not have any plagues of pests. If man comes along and wages war against one kind, they then raise more offspring to ensure

their breed survival. Not so very different from mankind: "A man who feels disturbed in his natural self-expression, who develops anxiety or who feels unloved will also start to produce: hard work, exercise, results, children", writes Braunroth in his book.

"It's not stress, with its high reproductive rates, that gives the gardener high yields, for these rates are brought out under threat. Instead, high yields are a result of looking after the plants with tender care and providing them with the perfect location", Braunroth goes on. "The following example from my garden proves the point.

Harvest 1990:

10 Savory plants yielded two three-litre preserving jars of spice

12 planted bulbs yielded 10 kilos of Jerusalem artichokes.

20 Endive seeds (variety 'Jetti') yielded 20 large heads, which we feasted on from the beginning of October through to the middle of December.

Half a packet of runner beans (variety 'Blauhilde') and half a packet of the variety 'Prinzeß' yielded 12 bags for freezing.

The tuberous begonias grew to 1.20 m high and the blooms measured up to 22 centimetres across.

We planted nine kilos of the red potato variety ‘Désiré’ and harvested 130 kilos. The only contributions we made were our respectful approach and our constant attention to the soil.

As external characteristics we were able to establish the following: Healthy appearance, firm skins (potatoes), firm yet sweet flesh (carrots), firm, crisp leaves (lettuce), lovely colour, undamaged outer pods (beans), sweet flavour (winter radish ‘Münchener Bier’) and longevity. The parsnips and carrots kept for six weeks in the fridge. We ate the last tomatoes in January 1991! In terms of flavour they were sweet, fruity, velvety, juicy, nutty, good. In 1992 we didn’t eat the last of the tomatoes until February. We stored them in a crate in the heating cellar at around plus 10 degrees Centigrade. They had a wonderfully sweet flavour.”

Brother beetle, sister mouse

It might take some time for our warlike stance towards the creatures of the garden to change—but when we want it enough to do it we will have so many happy experiences that this will be motivation enough for us to carry on and bind ourselves even more closely to the plants and animals. Eike Braunroth recognises in every living thing the same root, the same origin and the same goal as in himself. He gives them nothing but the best nutrition, the best care and the best treatment.

“I think of them in very positive terms. I direct my thoughts towards them or I talk to them directly. I am sure that they understand me, for I have had many experiences that prove this to be the case. When I see animals in the garden, such as slugs, aphids or potato beetles with their larvae I welcome them, thank them for choosing our garden to make their home in and wish them a pleasant stay and activity as well as progress in their inner development. I thank them for the good collaboration and cooperation up to now and assure them of my deepest friendship,



Bees come from afar and are a gift to the earth. This bee is busy with a lavender flower.

respect and love. I greet them at every opportunity. If I have inadvertently removed a stone or a piece of board from over a slug I cover the little beast up again with plant mulch or green plants. If I should inadvertently injure or kill an animal then I apologise and ask for forgiveness.

“The snails live in the lettuce heads near the marigolds, under the great courgette leaves, because it is cool and damp there and they love the smell of the plants. They creep past the delicious marigolds and dahlias without touching them. During each growth stage, the potato beetles live on only one or two plants. It is a wonderful interaction, a joy to be in the garden, to do something and reap the rewards. Plants, animals and soil understand me and my sincere motives, my intentions.” In a garden, however, where killing still goes on, in an agricultural setting in which poisonous substances—even the so-called biological ones—are still being used, “there can be no plants free of so-called ‘pests’ or diseases. This proves that the gardener or farmer holds ‘bad cards’ where the animals are concerned because he is *breaking the law*.”

In winter, man already determines the quality that his garden life will have in the

following summer. He determines it as soon as he starts making plans in his mind. Nihilistic mood swings are energy suckers of the first grade for plants. The angst-ridden, negative expectation that the gardener or farmer entertains in the winter will come true in the summer season. He has laid the foundations for this effect. Every form of criticism—whether of plants, animals or even the weather—shows contempt towards creation.

As to the weather: the method offered by ‘Cooperation with Nature®’, as rediscovered by Eike Braunroth, goes so far that even the climate become a helper and a friend. Innumerable times he experienced the way the weather turned perfect unexpectedly when it was important for his garden or a seminar. Even the elements would

love to enter into a close relationship with mankind if mankind would only love and care for them enough!

Braunroth is convinced that plants and animals and even the very elements of a garden observe the gardener carefully. “They all know him”, he writes, for they are “human companions”. They need man to be their friend and protector. Even scientific learning with its very materialistic methods is gradually realising that plants like to ‘hang out’ with people. Pea plants that researchers at Wake Forest University in North Carolina bombarded with a sound that was similar in frequency and volume to the human voice grew twice as fast as a result! Old seeds, which would normally yield a germination rate of just 20 percent, suddenly yielded a germination rate of 80 to 90 percent (Source: *Spiegel* magazine 45/1998)

Your plant understands you!

Braunroth communicates with his plants in the same way, then, as he would with a human friend. Their reaction is truly phenomenal. Whenever there is a change—such as when he repots a houseplant, puts a ‘new’ one in with an ‘old’ one or does some work

in the garden that impacts on the plants in some way or other—he lets the plants know in advance, asks for their cooperation and promises to look after them. Once, for example, he was so booked up that he planted his potatoes as early as 6th April. A passing neighbour warned him about the likelihood of late frosts. “Now, we had made a decision”, says Braunroth. “We asked the elements of nature—potatoes, weather and temperature—to work together. As expected, around 15th April we had several nights in succession where the temperature dropped below minus 6 degrees Centigrade. When these frosty days and nights were past the potatoes emerged from the earth and we harvested nine times the amount we had planted!”

When he intends to do some digging in the autumn he informs the earthworms in advance and asks them to leave the affected area of the garden.

What happens? There are no earthworms to be seen when he digs—and if, seldom enough, one does appear then it creeps away unhurt from the clods.

One experience that he had at the height of summer is particularly impressive. He had to be away for a fortnight and could find nobody to look after his houseplants. The ones in the house were sorted but those in the seminar rooms had no ‘carer’. “What could I do? On the day that I left I went to each plant and explained about my intended absence. I watered them fondly one last time and explained that I would be physically absent but with them in spirit. I knew them to be strong and tenacious and I knew that I would find them fit and well at the end of the fortnight.

“What happened? When I returned home after about 14 days all the plants were completely fine. All the African violets were in flower or had set buds and their soil was still nicely moist. You could not tell that the plants had gone for over two weeks without water. It was as if they were using their splendid flowers and buds to express their joy.”

A plant that is nurtured with love and never leaves this nourishing cocoon of love



Young caterpillars of the buff tip moth munch on a willow leaf

and respect will be a marvel of beauty and resilience. (His own) cut roses, that Braunroth used to decorate a seminar, were still blooming as freshly as ever after seven weeks! The tomato-eating record was Easter—and this without losing any of the quality of flavour or texture...

The garden, a sanctuary

For Braunroth, the garden is a sacred place, which he only enters after a time of meditation. The less the sanctity of this atmosphere is disturbed by destructive thinking, muddle-headed, worrisome people, the more marvellous is the paradise it becomes. It's all a matter, says Braunroth, of protecting the garden and making good choices when deciding who should work there, for a person who comes with ‘poisoned’ thoughts can lay the foundations of great weakness and disharmony. And how is it when there are children in the house—who are used to romping and making a noise? Braunroth has experience of this too: “I still teach at a Bavarian diagnostic and advanced class for children who are not yet ready to go to school. They (like all children) can be

brought up to have an affectionate relationship with nature. That way no child will—unconsciously—frolic in the garden without giving some advance warning to the nature beings. If they find a spider or a wasp in the classroom they observe it. Several children could spend the whole morning doing this.

We also always let the natural world know about walks and work in our school garden, informing it that we are entering that world—and that we come in peace to do this or that.

For walks and trips we have a ‘snail leader’”, explains Braunroth. “This child has a ‘snail leader’ sign around his neck and he walks ahead of a group. As soon as he sees a snail or any other small creature on the path he shouts ‘Stop!’ He then stands guard over the creature and lets the group past. He then makes his way back to the front of the group. As a result, no animal has yet been harmed.”

Healing can be done at a distance too

Among the many beneficial works that Braunroth carries out are his long-distance healings of gardens or even horses. This is all to do with the idea that man makes friends with the reality of the ‘invisible’ and embraces it. “As soon as a gardener is ready to believe in the invisible as a reality he will see effects that far outdo his actions in ways that are both visible and measurable.”

One day he heard of a gardener in the south of France who every year had swarms of ‘Boucra’s’ locusts strip her wonderful flowers and roses bare. Braunroth tells the story: “I set out to understand, imagine and solve this problem in the world of the invisible. This involved the recognition of active energy and energy fields in the invisible. What followed was the neutralisation of the foundations born of hostility that had unleashed the actions of mass devastation. I activated the invisible energies in the direction of peaceful coexistence and voluntary departure from the garden. I laid out a new foundation. What happened? The locusts



These two migratory locust larvae are in their final stage. The wandering swarms of migratory locusts recognise each other by their distinctive appearance, which reinforces their group cohesion.

left the land ‘as if of their own volition’ and since then they have kept their mad activity away from the property. This was five years ago. The new state of affairs has continued to be effective. It has not yet changed. So the “liberation of the garden from Boucras” goes on. It can only be changed if new foundations arise to replace the ones laid down.

“How did that work? I appealed to the invisible active energy of the ‘Boucras’. Given the ability of animals to react, in their unconscious state of being, to human intentions, combined with visual images, they were left with no option but to leave the property.”

Well understood: this ‘paradisiacal’ situation does not need to be maintained or reactivated by Braunroth on a daily, weekly or even monthly basis. He simply laid down a new and self-perpetuating pattern of behaviour.

In this work it may help that he still feels the nature spirits that he could see as a child and he appreciates their energy inwardly. “I ‘see’ collective nature beings like those of the bushes and trees, the wind, snow, water, the energy of music and landscape. In particular, I feel problem areas in houses, animal houses and homes, gardens, fields and woods. I am also in a position to remember century-old events in landscapes or fields.” However, Braunroth does not peddle these spiritual abilities. It is important to him not to frighten farmers, scientists or publishers away from his methods with

such facts or to be written off as a ‘crackpot’. Even without this additional dimension, authorities still react either with disinterest or an almost aggressive rejection of the help he offers. As soon as he enters into a rudimentary explanation of his methods, “there’s just silence”. The director of one authority threatened him with legal action if he even mentioned the name of the authority in connection with his methods. “Even television companies were not interested, e.g. *Südwestfunk Stuttgart* or the *Hessische Rundfunk*.”

All the while, scientific learning is attempting to decipher the highly developed nature of plants—with the help of molecular biology. Under the title ‘Sensitive Greenery’ the magazine *Der Spiegel* reported at the end of October 1998 that science is currently beginning to acknowledge that plants can “see, taste, smell, feel and probably hear too”. “In the sap of their branches and leaves there are phytohormones that transmit important messages, their stalks conduct impulses like in a nervous system and plants can use scents to communicate with other plants and to attract specifically useful insects.”

Perhaps you are now thinking: ‘I could never do what Braunroth does.’ Wrong! Braunroth holds regular seminars at which garden and nature lovers as well as farmers can find their way to a deeply natural, brotherly relationship with the beings in the garden or in field and meadow—for this

relationship is not alien to the true human being. It is only missing from one who has become alien to himself, but it can easily be found again—if you are prepared at the same time to take steps towards your own completeness.

The first step on the path to learning is to treat the garden in such a way that ants leave the house, and snails and voles leave the food plants in peace. Then you can turn to more advanced ‘tasks’—healthier plants or less extreme weather.

It is totally false to feel guilty about your previous treatment of so-called pests. You didn’t know any better—so what? Today is a new day and it is perfect for starting something new: for creating a new microcosm, which you can be a part of. If there is love and respect from people to people, mice to mice, mice to people and, eventually, people to mice—then you will come to a completely new understanding of all life forms. And you will recognise that happiness on earth can also be found in a little tiny mouse!

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PS

The beautiful pictures accompanying this article come from the book ‘Mikrokosmos’ (‘Microcosm’) by Claude Nuridsany and Marie Pérennou, from a film of the same name.