

The Spirit of Henry George

—PRISCILLA DUNWIDDY—

The little globe on your table spins on its axis at your touch. It has value only as you use it. It shows a polar world. A rod runs from top to bottom as an aid to holding the sphere in place.

This replica of the earth is a symbol of your real world. It whirls on its axis without your help, but what it reveals depends on the touch of your thoughts and the values you pursue.

This touch must not be an aimless one—for thoughts and actions have directive power. What happens when you or others begin to move? What are the basic considerations of people for the earth?

Henry George pondered these questions and came to the clear understanding that land—which includes all the natural things necessary for human life—is of primary importance in any economy for the welfare of earth creatures. He pointed out that "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" was not simply a golden rule of advice. It was a description of reality. In the thought and use of land it was a touch that moved the earth into an orbit of more goods and goodness for more people.

Your little globe is really you. The rod that transfixes it from pole to pole has a counterpart in the pulsating earth. An ageless pole of attracting power runs from north to south, breaks out at the ends, and reaches into illimitable space. The earth, a solitary ball, moves into a planetary system in the universe. It will continue in force so long as it remains in harmony with the universal design.

You Are Land Plus

This pattern of ageless polar attraction power also runs throughout human life. Man was made for the earth—it holds within it or upon it everything he needs for his life as a physical being. It was here before his coming and will remain long after his passing. Man is so close to the earth in composition that his body at last returns and unites with the elements.

But man, who is earth, is more than earth. Though he was created, like the earth, he himself becomes a creator when he treats land (or earth) as a human value. He, too, emerges as part of the universal design when he follows a purpose to preserve and extend this human value for the present and for generations to come.