

Dear World,

How I love your glorious tapestry of life, in which each species, large as the whale and the elephant and small as the midge and the plankton, has a role to play. And all is interconnected. The more we learn the more I am filled with awe and wonder. Dear world, I write to you now with an apology for all the harm we have inflicted on your forests and oceans, rivers and lakes, wetlands and prairies, mountains and deserts. My heart bleeds when I think of the greed and stupidity of those who are harming you and your ecosystems, causing temperatures to rise and species to vanish for ever. Harming also the poor and the vulnerable of my own species with injustice, cruelty, violence and war.

But even as I weep for these harms my love for the beauty still around us grows. And with each drop from my bleeding heart I pledge to fight to heal those wounds and to gather a host of young people who will join me to protect the beauty and mystery that you still share with those with eyes to see.

I watch the sun setting, bathing your beauty with golden light until the blackness of night seems to vanquish that light. But it is not so, life goes on, though unseen. And the morning will come, bringing new light and new hope. Together we can heal you.

That, my beloved World, is my love letter written to you.

Dr. Jane Goodall

UN Messenger of Peace

Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute