**Water to Dust**

Water is a major environmental problem for the twenty-first century and it will lead to massive migrations and water wars.

Stories about environmental disaster can make us feel powerless but if we [#**Act Now**](https://www.un.org/en/actnow) we can make a difference.

Human beings depend on water and without water we would die

Water is at the heart of our relationship with the environment

Water is a force of nature as rains and droughts, floods and tsunamis have shown

Water brings people together to swim, to wash, to play, to pray and to socialise

Water is not just a natural resource

Our water supplies are shaped by governments, technology and big business

How we use water is shaped by us humans and our cultures

But we face huge water crises across the world

Wet regions are becoming wetter and dry regions becoming drier

Half the world’s population don’t have enough water for at least one month of the year

Migrations to water-rich areas are increasing

Population growth has increased the global demand for water

Water pollution has worsened in rivers across Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Poor soil conditions, ecosystem degradation, evaporation and erosion are causing problems

The world’s forests are being degraded

Intensive agricultural and industrial practices are creating massive water waste

Food production uses huge quantities of water. 1 kg of beef requires 1300 litres of water. 1kg of potatoes requires only 100 litres of water

Conflicts over access to water are increasing

Water wars are very likely in the future.

Deforestation caused by big business is uprooting indigenous groups who always respected nature

Rising sea levels and flooding are a big problem for coastal cities from Miami to Mumbai

Rising sea levels of 8 feet by 2100 are predicted resulting from the collapse of the ice sheets in the Antarctic and Greenland

Major infrastructures like New York’s JFK airport or coastal nuclear reactors are likely to be underwater in 100 years.

People in the Global South will be among the worst affected

These water crises will create generations of climate refugees

People in the Global North too will be affected by disastrous flooding and poor urban populations will be most affected

Wealthy people can move houses, raise up their homes above sea level or build sea walls aound gated communities.

Stories of disaster can make us feel powerless, but we are not powerless.

If we #Act Now we can make a difference and avoid water wars

If we #ActNow we can help avoid people being displaced from the place they call home.

This is our moment. We cannot turn back time. But we can grow trees, green our cities, rewild our gardens, change our diets and clean up rivers and coasts.

We are the generation that can make peace with nature.

Let’s get active. Join [#GenerationRestoration](https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/)

<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

for World Environment Day

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