



Tao Orion: Embodying Regeneration: Understanding Invasive Species and Our Role in Ecosystem Stewardship



Tao Orion is the author of *Beyond the War on Invasive Species: A Permaculture Approach to Ecosystem Restoration*. Discover how the principles of permaculture and ecological design can be applied to invasive species management.

**TOP EMBODIMENT TIP:** Be more curious about interconnectedness to help create regenerative systems.

Big Picture Issue: **Agriculture and forestry are the biggest causes of habitat destruction**

- The focus is wrongly put on invasive species, which are actually a symptom of the main problem.
- The official definition of what constitutes harm is scientifically indefensible.

Agroecology as a Solution: **Organic farming cultivates extraneous and native species without putting either at risk**

- Applying holistic land management and permaculture design leads to regeneration of ecosystems.
- We should be invested at the highest level in the discussion about how to conserve and improve biological diversity.
- The way we attempt to deal with invasive species doesn't address the issues of why native species are not thriving.

Understanding Interconnectedness: **Applying principles of Systems Thinking and Systems Science**

- Permaculture offers a tested framework that understands the interconnected nature of all elements and has existed in all land-based cultures for millennia.
- Shifting the mental model with which we design our systems would achieve the best impact in the regeneration of biodiversity. Non-ideal ecological outcomes are a result of the systems we have put in place.

All Ecosystems Were Once Colonized by Invading Organisms:

- **Invasion is an evolutionary process** and there are many examples to prove that it has often led to the increase and enrichment of biodiversity. Some species that are considered invasive now could be anchors for the future success of ecosystems most impacted by climate change.

The Misconception of Wilderness:

- We think of wilderness as a natural state, forgetting that **land has been intervened by indigenous populations for millennia.**
- This reinforces the historical obliteration of the First People. The fact that their lands are considered "natural" speaks of the success of their farming systems and species introduction.

Resources

- ❖ **Books:** *Beyond the War on Invasive Species: A Permaculture Approach to Ecosystem Restoration*
- ❖ **Website:** [www.resiliencepermaculture.com](http://www.resiliencepermaculture.com)



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