Today, it seems that Japan is once again poised as a great and humble teacher. The festering wound of this crisis underscores, once again, just how much the splitting of the atom remains one of the single most volatile global threats at a personal, community, state, and environmental level. Japan, despite past injuries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and seemingly anti-nuclear principles (non-production, non-possession, and non-introduction of nuclear weapons) has become one of the leaders in nuclear development and production in the world. According to Green Action Japan, before the quake there were 53 nuclear power plants in operation in Japan. Fifty-three nuclear power plants in a small island country notoriously vulnerable to earthquakes and other natural disasters.

My heart and prayers are with the people of Fukushima and the Tohoku area, as it is they who are now shouldering this horrific burden of teaching so that the world may be reminded of just what a painful and costly responsibility we bear when we allow bad stuff to enter our communities.

Around the globe, everyday people are beginning to awaken to the reality of our fragility and vulnerability from the dangers of all forms of nuclear development. A short time has passed since the initial shaking, but as a world we have grown up in ways that we had never hoped to, and with our newly realized maturity we are challenged to look ourselves in the face, to grapple with this saddest of lessons, and answer the question of how we will begin to take responsibility for our part in allowing bad stuff to enter our communities, on both the local and global scale.

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