

THE END?

WITH THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL.

I received a letter from Jacques Cousteau asking me to send him fifteen dollars to help the Cousteau society in its fight against the destruction of the world's oceans. As he says in his letter, 'for if the ocean should die, by which I mean that all life in the sea would finally cease, this would signal the end, not only for marine life, but for all other animals and plants of this earth. Including you and me and all of mankind. With life departed the ocean would become, in effect, one enormous cess-pool. Billions of decaying bodies, large and small, would create such an insupportable stench that man would be forced to leave all coastal regions. But far worse would follow. The ocean acts as the earth's buffer. It maintains a fine balance between the many salts and gases which make life possible. But dead seas would have no buffering effect. The carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere would start on a steady and remorseless climb, and when it reached a certain level a greenhouse effect would be created. The heat that normally radiates outward from earth to space would be blocked by the CO₂ and sea level and temperatures would drastically increase. One catastrophic effect of this heat would be the melting of the ice caps at both the north and south poles. As a result the oceans would rise by a hundred feet more, enough to flood almost all of the world's major cities. These rising waters would drive one-third of the earth's billions inland, creating famine, fighting, chaos and disease on a scale almost impossible to imagine.

'Meanwhile the surface of the ocean would have scummed over with a thick film of decaying matter and would no longer be able to give water freely to the skies through evaporation. Rain would become a rarity creating global drought and even more famine.

'But the final act is yet to come,' says Jacques Cousteau. 'The wretched remnant of the human race would now be packed, cheek by jowl, on the remaining highlands. Bewildered, starving, struggling to survive from hour to hour. Then would visit upon them the final plague – anorexia, lack of oxygen. This would be caused by the extinction of plankton, algae and the reduction of land vegetation – the two sources that supply the oxygen you're now breathing. And so man would finally die. Slowly grasping out his life on some barren hill. He would have survived the oceans by perhaps thirty years and his heirs would be bacteria and a few scavenger insects. Earth is the only planet we know of where life can exist. That, because it is the rarest of phenomena, a water planet. Water is a peculiar and precious substance with many oddities in its physical and chemical composition. This unique nature of water operating in a dynamic world water system powered by the sun and

the moon provided the cradle in which life originated. The ocean is life”.

Well the letter went on to talk about the disappearing sea otters, whales, dolphins and the decline in fishing yield even with better and more scientific equipment.

I sent him my fifteen dollars.

This article appeared in 'the defy earl nightingale program' – 7: 3: 1979

Worksheet

1) “The oceans act as the earth’s buffer.” What does this mean?

2) Complete the following:

A) CO₂ constitutes only _____ of the air, yet our Rabb has made it play a very significant role on earth.

B) Photosynthesis and respiration serve as an example of a system whereby the _____ of one is made the food of another.

C) In the ecology of various systems our Creator has eliminated _____. He has made _____ chains of _____ and _____.

3) Who was Jacques Cousteau? Do comment about his profession and creed.

4) Having read and understood this terrifying article, how do you view it in the light of the information presented by Al-Quraan?
