THE RAVEN

The Northern Pulse — Vol. I

When the forest quiets, it remains.

The Raven

When the forest empties, it stays.

Not because it resists winter...
But because it understands it.

It wastes nothing.
Not energy. Not movement. Not attention.

While others migrate,
the raven adapts.

It does not need abundance to exist.

The raven is one of the most intelligent birds on Earth.

It solves problems, plays, adapts, and survives where many others cannot.

While winter silences much of the forest, the raven remains active.

Like it never got the memo that winter was supposed to be a problem.

Its black silhouette crossing the snow almost resembles a thought refusing extinction.

Ravens are not builders like beavers, nor giants like bears.

Their strength comes from awareness.

They observe.

They remember.

They travel.

Ravens can recognize and remember human faces for years.
They communicate danger to one another and often react differently depending on whether they perceive a person, animal, or environment as threatening or calm.

And despite their dark appearance and quiet intelligence, ravens are often surprisingly playful.

Young ravens especially love to play with one another.

They chase each other through the air, slide in snow, steal objects out of curiosity, and have even been observed hanging upside down from branches seemingly for no reason other than enjoyment.

Older ravens often appear calmer and more observant.
Like elder guardians of the forest, they watch while the younger ones test the wind.

Like many corvids, ravens often form long-term pair bonds.

When one mate dies, the surviving raven may eventually find another companion, but researchers have observed that these bonds can be remarkably strong and enduring.

Ravens and other corvids have also been observed gathering around deceased members of their species in behaviors that resemble rituals or communal investigation.

Whether this is mourning, learning, warning, or something in between, it reminds us that intelligence in nature often carries memory alongside survival.

In many ecosystems, ravens act almost like aerial signals moving through the forest.

Their calls can alert nearby animals to food, predators, movement, or change.

Some species even learn to trust their warnings.

And perhaps this is why humans have always attached symbolism to them.

Not because ravens are mystical...

But because intelligence surviving difficult seasons leaves a lasting impression on the mind.

SURVIVAL IS NOT ESCAPING CONDITIONS, BUT BECOMING COMPATIBLE WITH THEM.

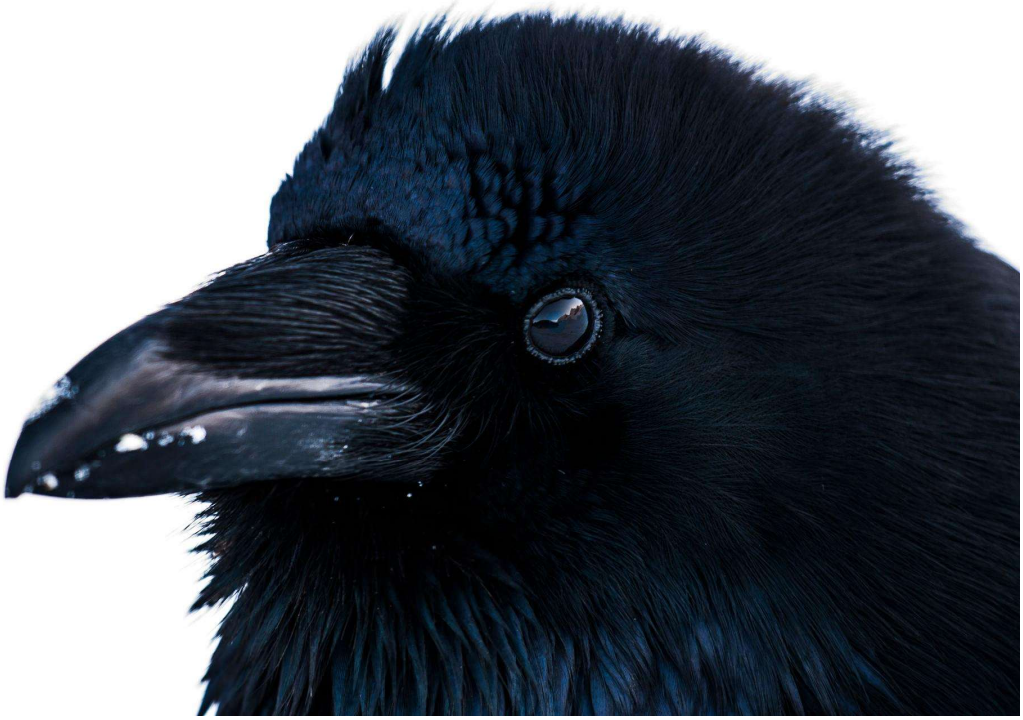
Quotes

"The raven does not wait for better days.
It becomes better within them."

"Winter removes the unnecessary.
The raven remains."

"The environment does not negotiate.
It tests. The raven passes."

"The raven does not fight the season.
It flies through it."



Observation

I love Life and Nature, but during winter... It’s pretty hard to take care of forests.

Taking care of plants in pots taught me something the forest never had to explain.

It is harder to sustain life in confinement than in nature itself.

– Limited roots
– Limited soil
– Artificial light
– Artificial heat

We compensate constantly... for what was once given freely.

The Sun is not a concept in the forest.
It is a presence you feel.

Roots Before Leaves

If a plant struggles in a pot,
do not begin with the leaves.

Look where growth begins:

– Root space
– Soil life
– Light quality

The visible problem is rarely the origin.

And as I often like to say... The deepest forces shaping life are often the ones least visible to the eye.

Healthy growth also depends on balance.

Some species thrive in wetter soils.
Others prefer drier conditions with greater airflow around their roots.

Neither is “better.”
They simply adapted to different environments over time.

Too much water can suffocate a plant.
Too much dryness can weaken it.

Roots require both moisture and air.

Perhaps humans are not so different.

The environments surrounding us quietly shape the way we grow, adapt, think, and behave.

I suggest taking care of a plant.

Not because it is trendy.
Not because it looks aesthetic beside a window.

But because observing living things teaches something difficult to learn from screens alone.

A plant responds to:

– light
– water
– airflow
– temperature
– soil life
– stress
– neglect
– balance

And in many ways, humans do too.

Yet modern education often spends far more time teaching abstract models than teaching people how living systems actually function around them.

Many leave school able to calculate angles inside a parallelogram,
yet struggle to understand:

– soil
– ecosystems
– nutrition
– rest
– nervous system overload
– the environmental conditions shaping their own well-being

This is not an argument against knowledge, science, mathematics, or technology.

They are powerful tools.

But perhaps we should ask ourselves why understanding life itself has become secondary to understanding systems built around it.

A civilization becoming increasingly disconnected from:

– food production
– ecosystems
– practical resilience
– biological understanding

is probably not a very stable long-term trajectory.

A person who learns to care for living things often begins to observe the world differently.

More patiently.
More attentively.
More connected to cause and effect.

Sometimes growth begins with something as simple as keeping a small plant alive.

When Facts Become Slogans

“Most of the oxygen we breathe comes from the oceans.”

Most of us have heard this phrase before.

– In school

– In documentaries

– On social media

– In random conversations

And while it is rooted in real science, the problem is what happens after the sentence gets repeated thousands of times without context.

Because eventually, people begin imagining the bottom of the oceans endlessly producing oxygen in dark waters.

But Sunlight does not reach most of the ocean floor.

Most marine photosynthesis happens near the surface, especially around:

– coastlines

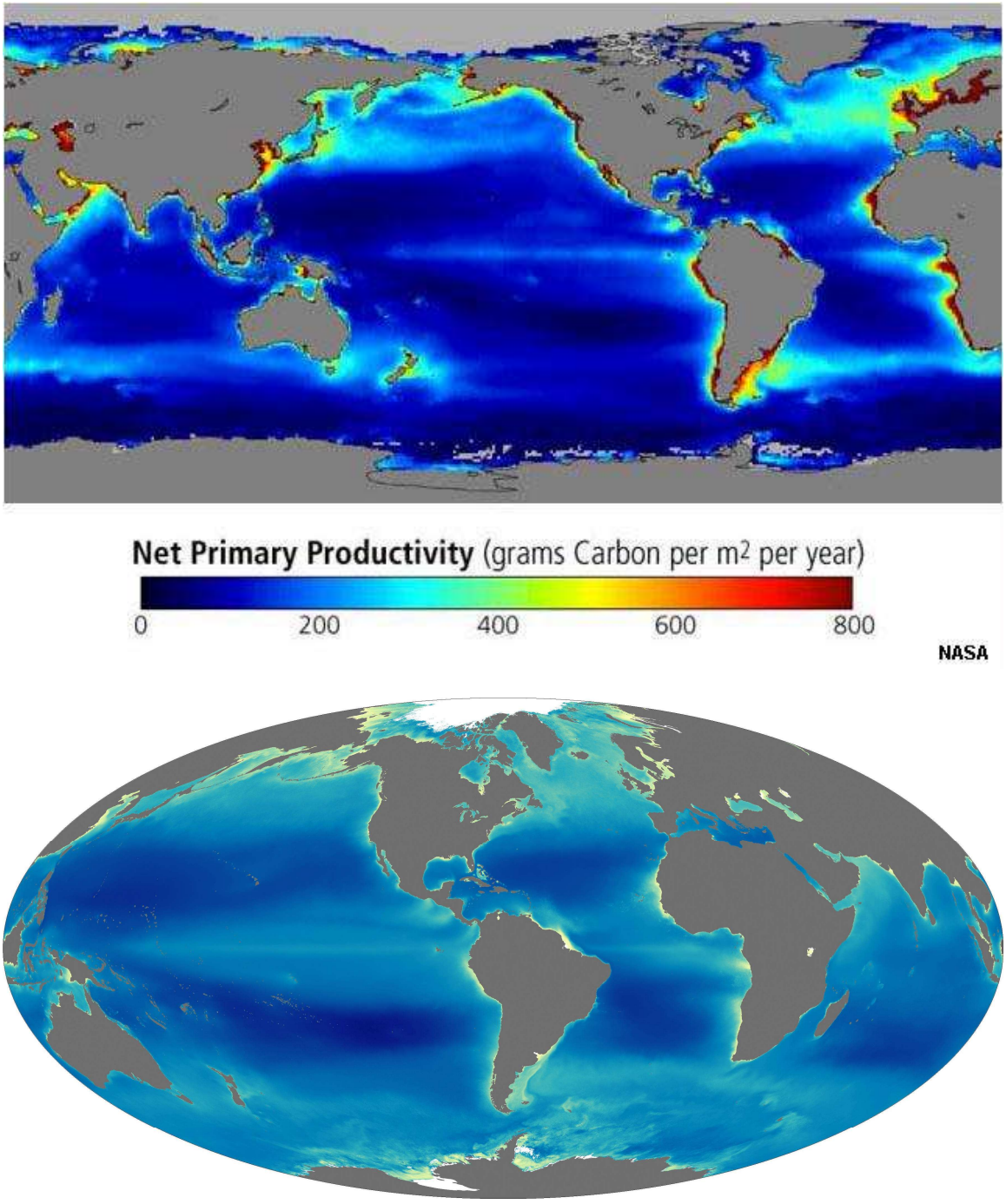
– continental shelves

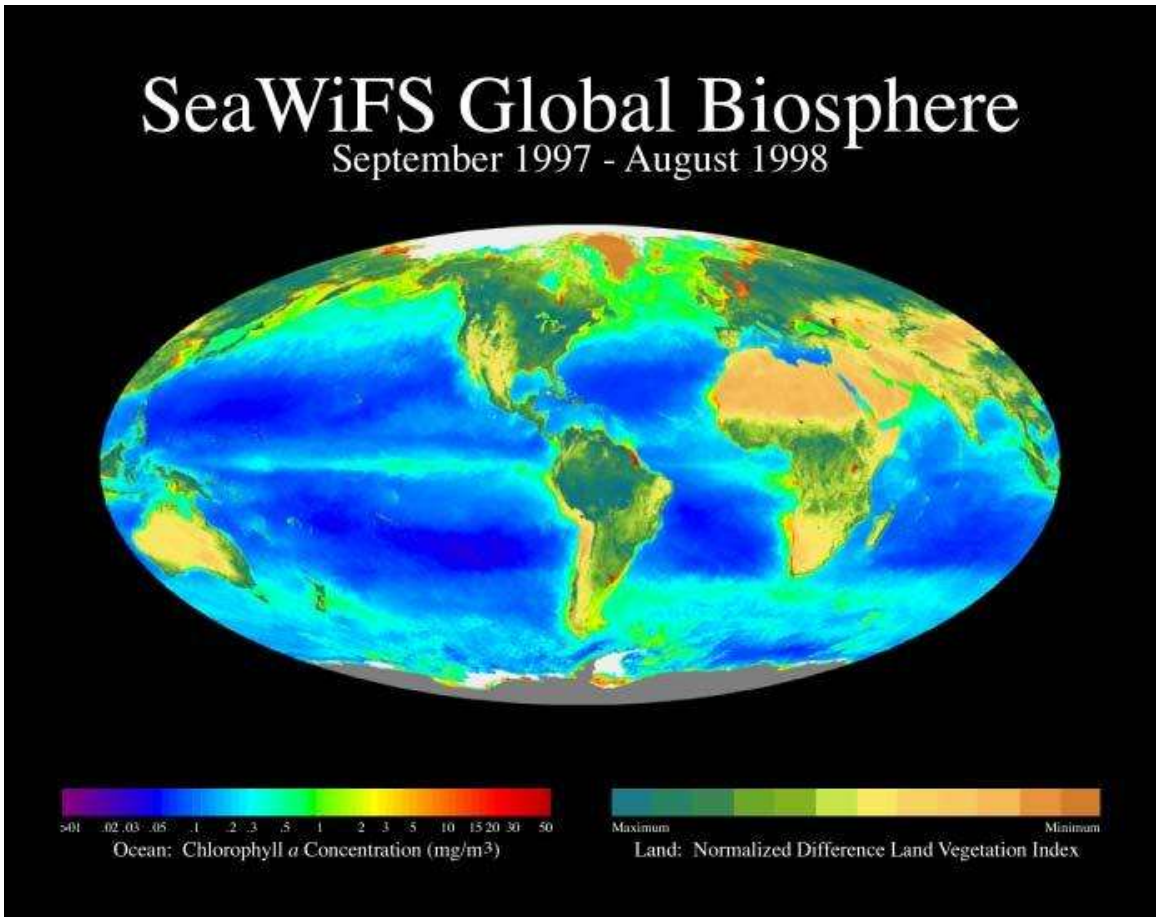
– nutrient-rich currents

– polar blooms

Nature concentrates life where energy circulates.

You can even observe this yourself through satellite chlorophyll maps of the Earth. The brightest zones gather mostly around shores and major current systems, not uniformly across the deep oceans.





To understand oxygen, we first need to understand photosynthesis itself.

Sunlight hits living structures.

Water and carbon dioxide are transformed.

Oxygen is released.

Carbon remains and becomes structure.

– Leaves

– Wood

– Algae

– Cells

Nature repeats efficient patterns everywhere.

The same Universe that forms trees also forms bone, coral, shells, steel, crystals, and even us.

Different structures.

Similar principles.

What many people also do not realize is that the oxygen currently present in Earth’s atmosphere accumulated over immense geological timescales.

Long before forests covered the continents, ancient cyanobacteria in the oceans were already slowly transforming Earth’s atmosphere.

And even today, most oxygen produced yearly is also consumed again the same year through:

– respiration

– decomposition

– oxidation

– ecosystem cycling

The atmosphere is not a giant oxygen tank being endlessly filled.

It is a living cycle.

None of this makes forests less important.

In fact, reducing forests to simple “oxygen factories” completely misses their deeper role.

Forests:

– cool environments

– stabilize water cycles

– create rainfall

– protect soils

– host biodiversity

– regulate temperatures

– store carbon

– support fungal networks

– create resilience against instability

A mature forest is not simply a collection of trees.

It is a living stabilizing system.

And systems survive through diversity.

In Nature, what looks perfectly uniform is often fragile.

If every tree in a forest grew identical leaves, reacted identically, and defended itself identically, one disease or microbe could wipe out the entire forest.

The same applies to humanity.

Difference is not weakness.

Difference is resilience.

Biodiversity is not a luxury.

It is one of the main reasons life survives change.

This is one reason I created Anchor the North.

Not because I believe humanity is evil.

Not because I believe technology is evil.

But because intelligence cuts both ways.

With enough intelligence, humans can destroy ecosystems in decades that took centuries to emerge.

But intelligence can also restore.

Imagine if we used our technologies not only to extract from Earth, but to regenerate it.

To cool cities instead of overheating them.

To rebuild soils instead of exhausting them.

To design systems that strengthen life instead of fragmenting it.

And I believe it starts with anchor species.

Deciduous trees such as willows and oaks rapidly exchange water and gases with the atmosphere, enrich soils through leaf litter, create shade, moderate temperatures, and help establish conditions where many other species can thrive.

Conifers also play essential roles:

– sheltering wildlife

– stabilizing harsh climates

– protecting soils during winter

– surviving where many deciduous species cannot

Nature rarely relies on a single pillar.

Healthy ecosystems emerge from cooperation between different strategies.

“A forest where every leaf grows the same may look perfect for a season.

But perfection is fragile.

One imbalance, one disease, one shift… and the entire structure falls together.”

ANCHOR
THE NORTH

A Little About Me

I was born in 1985 in LaSalle, Montreal, Quebec.

As a child, I spent much of my time wandering the streets of the city at a very young age, learning early that life often requires us to find our own anchors.

Despite growing up mostly around concrete and traffic, I also had the opportunity to spend time in Nature. My cousin and I were in the scouts, and his parents had a small shack in the North. My father, though not very present in my life, loved hunting, fishing, and trapping. The few moments we shared together were often spent outdoors.

Over time, I came to realize how much those experiences shaped me.

I had the chance to witness two very different worlds:
the analog world and the digital one,
the forests and the cities,
silence and noise,
survival and comfort.

And somewhere between them, I began to understand something important:

I do not believe humanity is meant to abandon technology and return to the stone age.
But I also do not believe we were designed to live completely disconnected from the natural systems that shaped us.

The future may not belong to those who reject one world for the other,
but to those who learn how to bring both back into balance.

“A tree survives storms not by rejecting the wind,
but by learning how to bend without losing its roots.”

— Son of the Sun 🌞

Thank you for reading.

The raven flies through winter.

The forest roots through it.

You are not separate from either.