



Straight Talk

by Muriel Sluyter

Forest Fires, Environmentalist Style

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

First and foremost, let me express our gratitude to those who have called, written or sent cards of sympathy to my husband, Fritz, after his mother's death. Thank you, dear friends. It has been hard for him to let her go, though her health had deteriorated to such an extent that it was equally hard for him to see her increasingly difficult struggle with life.

Letting one's mother walk through that door into eternity and not being permitted to see her, or converse with her, is extremely tough. But for those who have confidence in their living, eternal Father in heaven, there is solace in knowing she is safe, happy and free of the pains she suffered in her badly damaged physical body. One cannot ask for more.

Let's discuss the fires. They are being fought by friends and relatives, many of whom are defending their own homes; some whose homes have burned are known and loved by us. As we now know, the worst fires have been deliberately set, which is beyond my capacity to comprehend.

The entire country has been informed that those who myopically, indeed pathologically, think they love and own the forests more than the rest of us — the environmentalists — have deliberately created the conditions that have turned our forests into a massive torch. Using lawsuits and fraudulent endangered species claims, they have successfully prevented either the Forest service or private loggers from cleaning the forests.

Beetle-killed trees are left standing to infect other trees, because environmentalists have stated their determination to keep anyone from profiting from logging the dead or dying trees. Organisms then invade and kill still living but weakened trees. Dead falls are allowed to build up on the forest floor, because activists want the decaying wood left to make homes for forest creatures and to shelter new, tender vegetation.

It is all very romantic; it is also incredibly stupid, and now those cute little creatures have all been burned to

death by the actions of their self-appointed protectors.

The forests will be clean when these fire finally burn out, but the topsoil will wash down the mountainsides, filling the streams and rivers with silt. Why? Because the forest floor's protective cover has been turned to ash.

Now, any and all rain and snow will cause erosion. The youngest, dumbest, most naive of farmers and ranchers could never have been this destructive. They get born smarter than this.

Environmentalists have attacked and destroyed a great deal of the West's lifestyle, including mining and logging, farming and ranching and now, they have destroyed the forests themselves, and soon, "...as the night the day..." the streams and rivers will follow.

Do you suppose the environmentalists will put up one of those signs, phone number and all, proudly stating that they have made these alterations to our forests and rivers? Probably not.

Maybe we could ship these people to Afghanistan to fight the Taliban; they would be well matched. Destruction is the only thing either understands, and neither is too bright.

The only good thing about it is that the environmentalists, who have succeeded in doing so much damage here, wouldn't be able to destroy Afghanistan; the Taliban and the Russians already took care of that little task.