

February 7, 2015: Our Collective Moment in Time

Mark my words. This is a good start to what I believe will be a momentous year for all of us. We will cherish this year's memories for the rest of our lives. Bank on it. This is very year, we realize what's going on in our corner of existence. And the actions we finally undertake, the restructuring we begin this year will amount to a new form of human culture. Dramatic transformation is essential. Nothing less will nurture and sustain the lives of all our grandchildren and continue through to their progeny.

I want this essay to introduce my ideas for conversation on the topic of human ascendance and our first steps. My thesis is only presented in summary here. Human experience is such a grand topic, ascending through and affecting life on multiple and significant levels. I will need to present facts and logic more completely as well as open this discussion to many other voices and visions if my purpose is truly to assist our evolution to the future. The 'what', 'why', and 'wherefore' of our speculation will be tested and subject to proof. But there should be no doubt, big changes are certain and inexorable.

I can't say when, but fairly soon there is going to be a kind of awaking. People all over are looking beyond their noses, lifting their heads, seeing broadening horizons and taking notice of the significance of our place on the epoch line of human existence. From primitive organisms with only capacity for sensory stimulated responses, we have come to the point we begin to understand and act as agents that affect the natural systems regulating planetary life.

Moreover, we will see how close we are to a truly seminal moment in the future. Soon enough the spread of human beings will reach the limit earth surface biology can support. When the pressures of one life form crowds out other lives and disrupts natural cycles, nature responds by using biological processes to dwindle the population. That day is coming. All around toxins and diseases are being assembled and building up to assault our species in cascades of misery. Once begun the bio-chemical process is not in any way meant to be a surgical or precise culling over overpopulation.

Nature designs grand systems. These complex systems: in the ground and air and water are capable of delivering the essentials ingredients for us to live and grow. As those same systems absorb our sewage and industrial wastes, the environment is building up with poisons. If they spill out, whether or not we pray or recycle won't matter in

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the least. Poison in our food air and water will reenter our bodies. Once our skin, blood, lungs and alimentary canal becomes befouled the human population massively contracts, quite possibly experiences extinction.

Quite a worthy challenge for the species of thinking people. Only a few generations are left for the culture of human life to mobilize our incredible capacity to think and solve; then unite in action. Along the way, we humans must reengineer, adapt, adjust and invent life-supporting systems.

One proposal might suggest, we will carve out massive underground caverns, below the water table, perhaps where earth's bedrock meets mantel, and locate power plants and factories there. We could also redesign our sewage pipes away from rivers and oceans. Instead send our waste underground, back down into oil wells we have drained. And it would make sense to eventually relocate our transportation network by designing and building an underground grid of tunnels and tubes. It is quite possible that: by mobilizing our collective genius and working together future humans will no longer pollute the biosphere's land air and water. When our progeny arrives they will join the effort bringing into being the sustainable world civilization. That is some fine destiny to make ourselves part of. Because we are creating it for them, we will become heroes to posterity. Our strivings recounted in the fantastic stuff of legacy and legend.

Wrapped up in the approaching convergence, or collision, of biology our destiny awaits. For many, the way forward is daunting, preposterous, or just not enough about them to be interesting. At every turn the path is blocked by privileged orthodoxy, malicious cynicism, willful ignorance, moral indifference, fanatic reactionaries' violence or nihilist's visions welcoming human demise. But failure is not inevitable. News of change has already begun. Creative activities are already shifting the direction of our culture. Once stories about them start to get told, the awakening will hit the web. The best ones achieve broad circulation, and rapidly bloom into common knowledge.

Very soon after, a tipping point will occur. No more than five or ten years from now the larger population will behold, and grasp the significance of the seminal moment hanging out there: just over the horizon. Our collective consciousness will foresee the future, then engage. Some people already know the outcome. As if at once, we will realize the choices we make will affect its outcome. That's when humankind's imperative to continue our genetic strain will guide us to manage our affairs capably.

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As soon as people get it in their heads, the alternatives are readily available. People, filled with energy and enthusiasm, will rise to the task. Humans possess unmistakable genius. We have devised and mobilized a cornucopia of aggregation, production, assembly, and distribution systems to adequately care for our needs. As a bonus, we can do it again this time without disrupting nature. And why not make the system better; leave off devoting so much of our life's energy to reward exploitation?

Something so profound as the welfare of our posterity won't be all completed this year. Turning away from paths of pernicious indifference, brutal competition and surrender to sadistic urges: even blood lust won't be done away with, especially in our lifetimes. But in ten years the steps we are starting to take now will have been refined. Great feats of engineering will be well under way. Moreover, once we are free: lifted up out of life's current obsessive burdens, needless complexity and waste: broader horizons of even grander destinies come into view. More and more people will understand life's underlying reality not so much as competition for survival; but more as the dynamic interplay of symbiotic coexistence.

We can look upon most of these activities, which our cultures are about to take up, as not only the fulfilling triumph of applied science, but, at the same time, and equally, as inspired edifying works to glorify faith. They both arise from methodical analysis of observable experience and spiritual revelation coming through numerous versions of sacred prophesy.

Finally, as we connect life in our time to all future generations, it provides tantalizing first glimpses of our true place in the universal scheme of things. Hopefully we will free up the mechanism driving our culture. Instead of war, profound passions and compassions simultaneously binds each one of us to the other. By working to consciously support the forces sustaining natural life we can become a permanent part of nature.

Look at our lives at this time and place as the link in the unbroken DNA connection to creation that at all costs must continue. Seen in this way we will not die and vanish into oblivion. Instead we will continue to be part of the line tracing human evolution. And, before the next millennium, when our kind profoundly understands life and experiences higher physical and spiritual realms, we will also be somehow present. When such wonders happen, all the lives that went before, though long dead, will achieve new heights of meaning and significance.