



Foreword: We Have Come So Far....but

There are several grave concerns that face humanity at the present time and threaten our collective survival. Chief among these concerns is environmental collapse which has proven frustratingly difficult to acknowledge and address because comprehensively solving the problem would appear to doom the current framework of civilisation. That framework is partly built on an economic model which always was fundamentally flawed but had remained manageable due to the absorptive capacity of the natural system within which it existed.

In the great game of traditional economics it is considered quite normal for players to set a goal of growing their 'wealth' year on year, indefinitely, which either relies on the misfortune of other players and/or leads to ever greater consumption of natural resources. This highlights an inherent volatility to human interaction and exposes the inevitable outcome: a reduction of available resources toward zero until natural ecosystems collapse. The game ends; everyone loses. To avoid this endgame a complete dismantling and recasting of the core values and organisation of society is needed. In a word, what we need is an OVERHAUL.

Too bleak? Too serious? Maybe, but this time in history is also an opportunity: never forget the capacity of mankind for self-preservation. We can be cautiously optimistic and, in the meantime, enjoy the METAL we have prepared for you!

EDUCATE THE MASSES

Real positive change will be achieved by either violent insurgency resulting in the installation of a benevolent dictatorship or a well-planned people powered movement. Either way, to be properly empowered and more importantly informed, the populace need honest/unbiased schooling and to learn from the mistakes of the past. In short, the single greatest asset an intelligent species can have is effective education of its young and old alike, because education amplifies intelligence and begets progress. Such an exponent will enable, ultimately, a flexible system with no boundaries by virtue of the ingenuity of those within it.

I, the Everyman
Born defenceless...trusting guiding hands

There is a fountain, from which flows:
Knowledge, usurped for deceptive goals

Educate the masses
The only sure reliance
To lessen isolation
Conceive freedom
In the here and now

Urge original thought

Unknown expanse, we must enter
Simple pleasures, human purpose

Hereditary power levelled while deconstructing wealth
The spirit of inquiry draws the battle lines of intellect
Banish speculation and open up your eyes
Hatred breeding scaremongers, with conviction...belie

A seed is planted, but a great disruption looms ahead

TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE

Critical thinking, not argument for arguments' sake, will help to lift the veil on how and why the present organisation of society is not adapted for the common good. More and more people will realise that they have been blind-sided into consenting to their own slavery. Once realisation hits it is a simple choice...to do what must be done....

It functions by dysfunction, became a matter of belief
Debt created slaves, made legitimate the thief

Sinister concept of property became master of all

Awakened, from heads buried in sand
Plan of action, to do what must be done

Paradigm mind shift, possessive antithesis

Who owns the sun or moon?
The title has not been laid claim to

Whether by intervention
Whether by natural force
Too much reckless consumption
It is a certainty that this empire must fall

In a finite system
We must arrive at zero growth
With a war bearing and common focus
Forge a sustainable civilisation

OVERHAUL

After arming the masses with the intellectual tools needed to recognise how misguided humanity has become, the next step is a global revolution of thought which simply discards the current paradigm. This could lead to a dangerous power struggle as vested interests see their empires crumbling. However, perhaps, there is hope for a bloodless rebellion if the dying system itself can be harnessed to smooth the transition.

As the façade melted
A lucid moment exposed the flaws
In a ghost of progress, the red herring of "gain"
It turned out to be a retrogression

So what we need ...is an overhaul
To rewrite what we thought we knew

The ruins of the old construct must be left behind
A complete rethink of what motivates us, as our very reality unwinds

This must occur - before a point of no return
The choice between dystopia or a promised land

TRIAL OF THE SENTIENT

Few can guess exactly what form the new era will take but to reach it will require a great deal of soul-searching. What is it we want out of existence? Hopefully it is as simple as a chance for happiness for every person. There is no cosmic arbiter, as we are responsible for our own fate, but yet it is interesting to take an outsider's view as we consider our triumphs and failures to determine Homo sapiens' right to exist.

For its crimes: the human condition, standing trial
In geological time, the scratch so far: barely perceptible

Cutting edge of moral philosophy
Moving concept of right or wrong
One might wish for assured stability
Attend the trial of the Sentient

Will this imperfect race be the first to document its own ascension?

Here is the Judgement delivered:
"Flawed as you are; the human brain is still the most complex thing in the known universe, with the potential to further evolve into an immense intelligence."

PENULTIMATE

"The Great Filter" is a theoretical barrier which is encountered at some point during the evolution of intelligent life. It is presumed to exist simply because, in a vast Universe, it is strange that we observe no other intelligence of any kind. This unknown probability threshold is what defines the possibility of further advancement for humanity or total annihilation.

Emerge through the Great Filter
Achieve longevity escape velocity

Penultimate age, the fringe of fundamental change
Our time has always been on the steep rise of an exponential curve

Project ahead to the future
There is no limit, but imagination itself

Considering Fermi's Paradox
A species as unique as it would seem
The pinnacle of creation from chaos
Transitioning to universal understanding
The rhythm of existence might be the most profound thing you will ever hear



RESOLUTION

The message so far is that, to have any hope of passing through The Filter, the foundations of civilisation must be rebuilt. If the goal of intelligent life is to secure equality and its own prosperous survival, then the lumbering social and economic framework which has evolved with us is no longer fit for purpose, certainly not if we remain bound to our home planet for the foreseeable future. Even if it were possible to have access to new resources somewhere else, it is wise to develop a sustainable paradigm because the Universe, though vast, is ultimately finite.

And so we stand contemplating...

"Just a simple choice, right now, between fear and love. The eyes of fear want you to put bigger locks on your doors, buy guns, close yourself off. The eyes of love instead see all of us as one. Here's what we can do to change the world, right now, to a better ride. Take all that money we spend on weapons and defences each year and instead spend it feeding and clothing and educating the poor of the world, which it would pay for many times over, not one human being excluded, and we could explore space, together, both inner and outer, forever, in peace."

-Bill Hicks

Eureka moment dawns
Collective conscious alive
That feeling was dulled and distracted
Unable to reach its potential...and be free
Deliberate step to evolve
As far as the mind can see

What will be the legacy?
A dead fossilised rock floating in space
Or a vibrant enlightenment
Stretching across eternity
Until and beyond the end of time

Successive iterations
Essence of what was human
Shaped by Earth, our perception
Its cycles decide the limitless forms

The scale at which life was defined
Seemed so small, nearly invisible
Yet from humble beginnings
It could become what we called God

On the other side
Having passed through the rabbit hole

Perhaps the one thing we may never understand
Is the glory of sound to move all flesh to tears

A musical analogy to the Universe
From a quantum inception to heat death

That is the true higher power
Dependable sacrament
Embodiment of ...grace

From tribal genesis
Became altruistic
Like fire to the primitive
It's magic in the sky

The last question to be answered
Will see entropy sent in reverse
But that is some way off from now
In the meantime live life well

After twilight in the garden
The empire greed built is fading away
To the observer, observe yourself
Honest assessment,
through shades of grey
Ultimately find.... resolution


(post script)
I live in the real world
Flesh and blood
Physics and chemistry
Stars and gravity
The average dreamer

Image is nothing; Metal is everything.



M O N S T E R W O R K S

Hugo :: Bass
Marcus :: Guitar
Jon :: Guitar and Vocals
James :: Drums

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Music :: Blade/Monsterworks
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