

Poop

Way back when humans were hunter gatherers like the rest of the world's creatures, the results of our passing were much like what the rest of the world's creatures left behind.

As our cleverness increased the complexity of our lives, so did the complexity of what we left behind. With the advent of the industrial revolution, the quantity, complexity, and durability of the remains of human existence began to multiply. With the advent of the chemical revolution of the 20th Century, the volume, toxicity and durability of human residue has multiplied exponentially, and much of it is not being adequately contained, recycled, or decomposed. This is beginning to pose a serious health and survival risk for all of life on the planet, and will soon force extreme evolutionary change.

It's the durability of human refuse that poses the greatest risk. Most of what we have created will be around for many centuries. A lot of nuclear waste will be around for many ice ages. As our appetite increases for the stuff that fossil fuels and clever hands allow us to create, the toxic residue of our consumption is increasing many times faster than it decomposes. This is not a sustainable system.

The more you eat, the more you shit. We'll either discipline our consumption, or we'll choke on our shit.