

Survival

There are major changes coming soon for the human community. The oil harvest will soon be over, a major climate change is within sight, birth control is steadily dumbing us down, and we're living a non-sustainable lifestyle. We have no historical precedent with which to judge humanity's ability to cope with the magnitude of these changes, but it's certain that a new vision of mankind's purpose must manifest and proliferate if the thread of civilization is to remain unbroken thru the coming challenges.

The current availability of fossil fuels provides us with an easy wealth, but very little of it has any chance of surviving the coming changes. Most of the production of contemporary industry will be in the dump within a few months to a few years. Most of the rest will need a fresh dose of oil to recycle. In the midst of the current feeding frenzy brought about by the industrial revolution, it's easy to lose sight of many of the traditional mainstays of human life on this planet. It's time to reinvest in quality and simplicity. We have sufficient technological expertise to cope with coming changes, but only a small percentage of the population seem to have a sufficient combination of intelligence, knowledge, competence, discipline, and motivation to actually get the necessary work done. I see precious little attention being paid to long term solutions to major challenges just around the corner. The American Dream is over. Wake up. We're late for work. If we can live another day we'll get to dream again.

Most people seem to think that some people called 'they' will find solutions to our problems, but when asked who 'they' are, very few can come up with even a single name, or tell you anything factual or technical about how 'they' will do it, and asking them tends to make them uncomfortable and sometimes angry that anyone should challenge their faith. 'They' can be a lazy, sloppy word that is often used to temporarily avoid facing reality. 'We' are the only ones who can do it. It's not enough just to have good intentions. Most people seem to unquestionably assume that, since they have good intentions, they'll do good things. Sadly, such is not the case. All the good intentions in the world ain't worth two dead rats if they're not enabled by good actions.

Life is far more important than lives. Several hundred thousand people die each day. Many more are born. The amount of livable and farmable land on the earth is substantially declining. As the population density of humanity increases, we are steadily trading quality for quantity. Above a certain density, there tends to be a direct inverse relationship between population density and freedom, sanity, happiness, and enough to eat. In the end, if we don't control population and consumption, calamity certainly will.

Life is a concentration of energy resulting in a local interruption in the flow of entropy. The fossil fuels are ripe and human life is currently flourishing on an abundance of energy that is measurably finite. As we look back in time through history and archeology, we see the rise and fall of many civilizations. It seems that we're about to see the demise of one more. Like Wile E. Coyote, who never falls till he looks down, we're just beginning to notice that we're running on air.

We've been cruising along in free fall for a while now, riding on the immense inertia of the industrial revolution. How we fall determines how we land. How far will we fall? How fast will we fall? Where will we land? Will we land on our head or on our feet? Do we have a parachute? Or maybe even some wings?

It's quite likely that most people won't see what's coming in time to change their behavior, and the ensuing catastrophe won't discriminate all that much between those who are desperately trying to change course and those who are completely unaware that things need to change, but despair and fatalism are not viable options. If we have the necessary courage, this transition to the next age of man can be very exciting and fulfilling.

The focus of responsible endeavor needs to evolve from the consumption of the earth's resources to their stewardship; from the attempt to prevent changes already happening to the mitigation of their negative effects and adaptation to their consequences; from the disappearing comfort of the status quo to the urgent conversion of our infrastructure to new energy sources; and to the overall instigation of positive change and rebirth. See to the education of the children in terms of the survival of community and its infrastructure. It's time to plan and create the new civilization that will rise into the next age of humanity.