

We have Run Out of Time. So What Is There To Do Now.

A Brief Essay about Climate Dynamics and Extremes, Nuclear Weapons and War, and other Global Tsunamis

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This is an excerpt from a conversation started with a friend, and I will simply jump into things mid-stream and make some points.

I was saying, in the conversation, that We Have Run Out of Time.

We = Humanity, our Civilization, our Organized Life on Earth.

Time = Time to avoid the consequences of activities that imperil the Survival of Organized Human Life.

What are these activities? Mainly, primarily, of two types, and they are in many ways entwined together. The Climate Factor of Climate Dynamics and Extremes, and the Nuclear Factor - the proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction and the imminence of their use on a global scale.

We Have Run Out of Time because of how so many things to do with these two factors have escalated and are now out of control or nearly beyond any control by us humans.

At a certain point a mass of rock, snow, and earth begins to slide down the mountain and there is no stopping it. At some point a tsunami begins to swell up and form within the ocean and there is no stopping it. One can only strive to get out of the way as best one can and to be as human and humane as possible in the process.

Had I been on one of those beaches in Thailand when the tsunami began (the receding sea, everything pulling way, way back out to sea at first), I would have grabbed those with me or closest to me and run like hell and in the process shouted to others to do the same and to not go walking Towards the receding ocean, looking amazed, astonished, smiling, and hoping to find interesting seashells! It's possible that under those circumstances, we and more others who may have heeded our shouts at the last moment may have survived. My point is that I (and others) would have been shouting our lungs off as we were running uphill, and I (and many others, surely) would have tried to help anyone who was in a position of danger - and - frankly, rationally - save-able in any reasonable way.

Our planetary situation today, with Climate Extremes and Nuclear Weapons, is much the same as that of being on one of those beaches on the 26th of December in 2004 and seeing the waters receding. To me, any activities - written, voiced, in art, in science, in economics, any actions that are made in the direction of

Solutions - are good, even though we may be "too late". If we can save any part(s) of "civilization" then that is good. The more that we can save, the better.

The biggest problem and danger, the "final straw" as it were - as I and some see it - now, today, is this:

People on the whole, overall, everywhere, have become numbed, and believe themselves to be powerless, and they see all the old and traditional ways that had been used, historically, to accomplish Change (from violent revolution to simply rioting to marches and to the mythical theater of elections and voting) as being ineffectual now. Well, you can see what I and a few, and a growing number, are trying to do, through "kiosks", "graffiti" and "postings" at <http://soul.tdyn.org>. But that is not all that we are doing, and we are emphasizing new methods that are particularly promising because they are not about "opposition and countermeasures" to the things that need to be changed, but rather constructive and cooperative use of science, technology and economics.

Those new methods are part of the reason that I work with on all the STEM and STEAM projects that have engaged my time and energy, some for many years now, even decades. These projects include things that some readers, perhaps yourself, discussed with me in prior years. With various colleagues and partners, we are working through both a corporate business structure and a reformulated and restructured non-profit institute structure. Things are finally moving, and yes, including in the QT domain (but notable, there, it is Q "T" and not simply Q "C" - a big difference!). Bottom line, however, and personally sharing things from my "extended family" (personal) in America, Canaries, Germany, Russia, and Korea --- what we ALL are doing with our lifestyles, properties, and physical resources of land, equipment, vehicles, tools, is something of the equivalent to getting up from the blanket or beach chair, grabbing the most precious - other fellow humans, and - to the extent possible and not deterring safety, those "valuables" that can be carried - and getting the heck out of the way of danger. We have a backup plan, not because we expect everything we and the whole world is doing to preserve civilization and Organized Human Life will fail miserably, but because we know that things will become much rougher, harder, and treacherous on any and all paths of life including everything we are doing, before there are those "sunny blue skies" without the storm clouds and especially without the smoke and fire.

I am not a pessimist nor extremist, nor a blind optimist, either. (I don't think I ever was any of those, but certainly, in youth, I thought a lot of things could be accomplished more easily in life, not only in STEM but in social and political ways.) I am a realist, but one who wants to be optimistic about each step I am taking even though the path ahead is indeed one that is full of smoke, fire, falling rock, shaking earth, and dark storm clouds all about. One can always think, and think of solutions, of actions, along the lines (metaphorically speaking, here) that the forest ahead is on fire, trees are falling, earthquakes are happening, but those quakes will subside, and the storm clouds may be bringing a heavy downpour of rain that will quench the flames and clear the smoke. One cannot simply give up and sit down in the burning brush and wait to be consumed in flames. There is a natural, instinctive, and moral imperative to look for the best way forward and to be guided by the belief that there is not only Doom ahead but a way through the maelstrom and a sunny day with blue skies ahead in the weather forecast.

I had mentioned backup plans and extended families. My approach, our approach, is simple and straightforward. Be Reasonably Prepared for events that disrupt life-as-usual and particularly where all the typical social and economic infrastructures and regular lifestyles are concerned. It is reasonable to be prepared for change, for various hardships, for situations that can include disruption of public utilities and other services, for breakdowns in transportation and the supply chains for food, water, energy, and other things in usual life. This does not mean building a bunker or moving to a remote location or stockpiling on

anything. There will always be people who do “go to extremes” and there is no point to trying to dissuade such people, but there is definitely no reason to follow in their footsteps. Knowledge of how to do x, y, and z in different and simpler ways, is extraordinarily valuable. But one of the most important things we can all do is to maintain good communications with people who are all committed to a level-headed, rational, systematic approach to solving any problems in life, and who are committed to working towards the same basic common goals of what some of us call SOUL – Survival of Organized Human Life. Our locations may be varied, our personal and family economics may be varied. Our skills sets, talents, and personal experiences will necessarily be quite varied, and that is one of the strengths of any group that may someday be in situations where we need to put our minds and bodies together and do something for that mutual and beneficial and sustainable Survival of Our Species.