Editorial: The War on Civilisation: Illusion and delusion, good and evil and the descent of man

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Historically our great thinkers and philosophers have mostly seen humans as evil, if not by design at least in practice.

In his 1930 book, Civilizations and its Discontents, Freud wrote "…men are not gentle creatures, who want to be loved, who at the most can defend themselves if they are attacked; they are, on the contrary, creatures among whose instinctual endowments is to be reckoned a powerful share of aggressiveness (sic)."

Towards the end of his life, Freud became largely disenchanted with the human species and considered us one of the worst types of animals. Of course he witnessed World War I and died just as another major war, World War II, was getting started. Sadly our history shows a never ending parade of brutal war mongers, and greedy merchants.

Hundreds of years before Freud, philosopher Thomas Hobbes had a similarly pessimistic view of humanity and famously wrote that the life of man in his natural state is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." Essentially, he believed all men were equally capable of killing, and when two people want the same thing the inevitable outcome is war. In his mind, government and civil society were the only ways to curb the brutishness, yet he admitted even governments and the elite were full of corruption.

Havel, who I have only learned about recently, was a Czech statesman, author, poet, playwright, and former dissident. Havel served as the last president of Czechoslovakia from 1989 until the dissolution of Czechoslovakia. Havel's political philosophy was one of anti-consumerism, humanitarianism, environmentalism, civil activism, and direct democracy.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712 1778) a Genevan philosopher, writer, and composer's political philosophy influenced the progress of the Age of Enlightenment throughout Europe.

According to Rousseau, nature is man's state before being influenced by outside forces. At the same time, he asserts:"If man is left… to his own notions and conduct, he would certainly turn out the most preposterous of human beings. This creates a conflict between "nature" and "artifice" in attitudes to society, education and religion. The influence of prejudice, authority… would stifle nature in him and substitute nothing."

In other words, human beings need outside intervention to develop their propensity for good and it is obvious, evil. "We are born weak, we have need of help, we are born destitute… we have need of assistance; we are born stupid, we have need of understanding."

Man needs to work with nature, not against it. Rousseau says, in his treatise, that man is discontented with anything in its natural state and claims that everything degenerates in his hand… "…he mutilates his dogs, his horses and his slaves; he defaces, he confounds."

Prophet Muhammad said Muslims are warned in the Quran to be on guard against greed. A Muslim should not save and hoard great sums of money, but should distribute it to those who are in need of it.

Jesus was said to have thrown the money lenders and traders out of the temple and said
"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:25)

What they witnessed, we witness today with arguably most countries of the world being overtaken by the greedy rich who "own nearly everything" and those 'ruled' by some ruthless psychopathic monster who has amassed inordinate wealth and power and who wants to take out his anger and feelings of rejection and worthlessness on humanity generally. Particularly he wants to murder those in his own country who never bowed and deferred to him until he had amassed inordinate power and a brutal repressive regime. The current global examples can be seen everywhere and the reason they get away with it is they have no conscience about rape, mass murder and genocide. This is allowed to happen because of the evil men surrounding the 'tin Hitlers', jumping to their bidding and, in non-dictatorial states, because of mass delusion and inability to discern fact from fiction. These are the hallmarks of dictatorships and 'failed states'.

Lao-Tzu believed in spiritual immortality, in which your soul does not die, but instead, becomes one with the universe after death. The chi (or qi) is the energy that guides the universe, and he believed that we should exist in harmony.

John Locke strongly believed in all persons' rights to life, liberty, and property, and refuted the divine right of kings. He also believed that if a ruler does not adhere to individuals' rights, the people had the right to remove the king by force. First and foremost, he believed that a government's duty is to exist for the people.

Sadly our current dictators suppress their own people violently and aspire to do that to all humanity.. Confucius, a philosopher from China who lived from 770 – 481 BCE, believed in living life around ethical and moral social standards. He is remembered for wanting to make education available to all and established teaching as an actual career. (It looks like the University of the People and Confucius have something in common: they both believe in making education accessible for all).

He also established Confucianism, which is a school of belief revolving around personal ethics and morality. The four main principles of Confucianism are referred to as his ethics. They include: justice, beneficence, non-maleficence, and respect for autonomy. His five constant virtues that are most referred to are benevolence, righteousness, trustworthiness, propriety, and wisdom.

Even early in life, people show distaste for rule-breakers and wrongdoers. Past research has shown that children, at certain ages, will refuse to help or will even shun someone who's behaved badly. "As young as three months, babies are showing these preferences for pro-social over antisocial characters," says Arber Tasimi, a Ph.D. candidate at Yale. But a recent study by Tasimi, published in the journal Cognition, found that children, even babies will abandon those principles if the payoff's good enough. Children don't just parallel adults in their recognition of moral and amoral behaviour they're also like us, it seems, in their willingness to become more morally flexible for the right price.

The religions, in their pure beginnnings also recognised the fallibility of man and tried to find principles of living that embrace the ideals. But, and sadly, many have become tools of men to secure their own advantages.

So many 'philosophers' have come and gone and spoken their wisdom – sadly most people see that as 'an intellectual exercise' and not as the very means of mutual survival – which it is.

These philosophical treatises were all written as a gift to humankind to take their eyes and minds off the contemporary, the selfie and self-worship and to open their eyes and look around them. These days the dealers of avarice, greed and political monopoly use the self-worship of humans against them. They work on the premise that it is better for them not to have people open their eyes and their minds. It is the reason for fake news as a political ploy to influence those of low intelligence.

Education is something we have always valued. We want to pass on our knowledge to the next generation and for them to build on that knowledge. It is the mark of man and was our path to eternity. The modern day propaganda merchants try hard to counter that and prey on the global population and teach them selfishness and self-worship to be able to continue to profit from human weaknesses, those with frail minds and frail egos.

Studies have shown approximately 90% of humans cannot tell fact from fiction. But when we look at race relations and gender relations, pseudoscience, various political systems and beliefs, it is so obvious.

It comes as no surprise that none of the dictators and despots through the eras have been remembered for their great minds, words or deeds, or their great thoughts; theirs is a horror story, merely proof of the evil within humanity.

The latest thinking in academic astrophysics shows 'we' creatures made of light and electricity (atoms) are 'time-space'. We know so little - we do not even know or see what 95% of the universe is. We call it dark matter and dark energy. I have 'moved through time and space' and dared not even discuss it but quantum physics shows most likely I see 'reality'. Prof Rob Lanza's book Biocentrism offers clues. Our bodies may disintegrate but our minds belong elsewhere. I suspect the answer to this is in the duality (wave/particle) of sub atomic matter. We are (potentially) both here and somewhere else in the universe. We always will be.

A civilised and a caring humanity holds a 'promise' for all but it also requires respect for and protection of all life. The Buddhists got that right. Respect for all life forms who are literally our brothers and sisters, is respect for us. It is all in the genetics and we can all be traced back genetically to early life. Indeed we are all the same self-reproducing organism that has lived relatively safely until these last moments of our collective lives.

When our brothers and sisters die, we all die. That is what life is –an interdependent organism feeding and helping each other. But humans kill other species and their own for the love of murder and their own egos. They think killing a wild animal (or another human) shows their mark, their mettle, when in reality they are just unbelievably brainless cruel brutes..

So here we all stand (crawl) close to the end of time with the monsters blindly trying to grab every last bit for themselves. **They say 'this is the new world order' – they are wrong, this is the end of everything.**

Rape, torture, murder and theft is not a 'new world order' – it is the same brutal, disgusting order humans have lived under since man could pick up a large rock and bash it over the head of another man.

And they know they are wrong in all they say and do,- they are just trying to find justification for, and satisfaction from, their evil. They know it is a lie. This is the end.

Arch Capitalists along with the endless parade of brutal dictators also do their best to rape and destroy our planet and all who walk upon it. They do it at the altar of personal wealth and power. Such wealth can buy them the same altar the dictators worship at. When I started working and earned my own money I wondered how much we all needed to give so that everyone on the planet would have the basics – food, healthcare and shelter.

I did those sums over months and it was, as I recall, (what I and all working people would have to give per month) $243 Australian. So easy to do, so easy for all of us to do, and while charities have done and do their best we all have it in our power to make this place a paradise. It used to be a paradise but we all wantonly destroyed it.

It is not because of their ideology, or racism, or politics that we have to rein in the evil idiots – it is for them as well. No-one will die as hollow and alone as the human monsters. **Their lives are sad and have no value. They secretly want to die. But they want everyone else to die along with them and for no-one to be able to live after they go.**

Humans will never as a whole become 'good'. All we can do is educate people and build modern civil societies that try to rescue and care for those who fall prey to misfortune or ill health or crime and whose circumstances have them fall through the cracks.

It is an amazing universe out there and we all have a job to do here. Sadly, very few work for life itself. Maybe most don't have the capacity to look after themselves let alone the planetary ecosystem they are part of.

The average human suffers from an unrealistic sense of their own importance and an unrealistic sense of optimism. Self-delusion may be a 'survival mechanism' of humans but you dont see other life forms suffering from such delusion. Most have a very good take on what is real and what is not. They treasure their females and protect their young.

My purpose in writing this is not to condemn everyone on the state of humanity. It is too late for that. My purpose is and always has been to try and save all life on earth and lift us from our self-imposed death sentence and to ease the burdens of life through peace and parity. Our current situation is in great danger of ceasing for evermore due to greed and cruelty. These are human 'qualities' alone. There will be no great book saying weren't those humans wise and decent creatures - we will be the failure the universe will learn from.

We delude ourselves and run in circles trying to avoid the truth. **Maybe that is how we survive but it only works for one man/one generation. We are not thinking ahead.**

Diversions and false platitudes and short sightedness have us spiralling into oblivion and, more sadly, taking the rest of life with us.

And the simple truth is all other life can exist without us, but not us without them.

We need to choose a different reality. It is within us to do that. I suspect we cannot see it as our hearts and minds are in the wrong place.

Many of the billions of decent people around the world may be insulted by the premise that humans are evil (OR tend to be evil when society seems to condone it) and it is insulting to me as well, but if we look around the world at the moment or any time during our appalling history on this planet,– then yes, the philosophers words ring true. We have made so many advances in science and engineering but we haven't made any advance in the critical area of planetary survival. Rather we tend to deliberately avoid it and it has resulted in a planetary crisis, one we are still avoiding - aided and abetted of course by the right wing press, with their pockets lined by the wealthy status quo, and along with the propaganda of the dictatorships.

Some women and children have been raped and enslaved by some men forever, and domestic violence is the scourge of human society. When some human 'alpha males' are humiliated by a stronger male, then they turn around, to subjugate those around them.

Is sexual selection part of the problem?

Is the fatal flaw in the very nature of life? – sexual selection and the dominant/alpha male has led to male seals so large they crush their females and babies, along with psychopaths and mad dictators in the human world. They are all abominations. **If we look at sexual selection and the triumph of the alpha male it only delivers in the physical brawn department; it does not make us more intelligent, wiser, more decent, and empathetic or any quality other than brute force and lack of empathy for all others. In fact you can call it devolution.**

Of course we cannot change our physical properties but we can change our mental acuity and our 'heart' .

Life on earth started as fractals which just needed sunlight to grow and fractal life gave back to the planet – indeed it was their good work that current humans are destroying for 'personal wealth'- well what they see as 'wealth' (and numbers of life forms killed, tortured, raped and enslaved).

Certainly many of the anthropologists and philosophers throughout history regarded humans as 'the evil ape' – evil seems to be our speciality. Other species fight to protect their females and offspring and their habitats.

The wealthiest 1 percent of the world's population now owns more than half of the world's wealth, according to a Credit Suisse report.

It is because of these so called 'people' that children starve and die of treatable illness, that the planet is being raped lifeless.

The War on Civilisation

In this time when the barbarians are intent on destroying life along with the planet on which life resides, we need to document what went wrong, as because time does not exist the barbarians will be condemned by the universe eternally, by their own deeds and lack thereof.

Can stars weep? They are the generators and authors of life. I think they can and they must when considering the failed human experiment and its endless cruelty.

What the ancients called heaven and hell, or karma – we now see is written in the mathematics of quantum physics; it is written in the spaces between the stars, those places we cannot see and some will never see.

Not that the rest of us get all things right –most of us are learning and trying within the confines of our own egos and abilities. While we have come a long way with 'tool making' and see the value of education we have not come so far when it comes to decency, respect, empathy, compassion, wisdom and good governance, which we claim as the 'values of civilisation'. The modern civil democratic societies are the best we have at this stage in our collective downfall.

And of course all the tin Hitler dictators would be less dangerous if there were not millions of evil (or stupid) men to do their killing, torturing and raping – **we are now in the classic fight of good vs evil on planet earth** – no need to avert your attention to video games – we have a real game to play now, in living colour, and there are real consequences.

It is mainly the young protesting and working to save our earthly home; the young who will inherit the earth – sorry, who will inherit nothing.

Seems we'll have died out before we reach our potential and a full understanding of who and what we are and our place in the universe.

Herman Hesse in the *Glass Bead Game* (1943) (read it and be shocked by its accuracy) wrote about this time which he called The Age of The Feuilletons.

They were people obsessed with their own image and reading trivia and gossip about each other and trying to star in their own self-made fantasy of their own perceived greatness. Yes, they are a sad joke but that is not how they see it - they are willing slaves to their own delusion and illusion, their own debasement and ridicule. Hesse's is such an accurate description of our current bathos.

John Wyndham, a science fiction great, also wrote accurately about the future in *Pawley's Peephole* about a future where the squalid pastimes of the masses of people were fascinated by anything they think is dirty or rude and they travelled around in space-time to spy on the private affairs of other people. The pornography tours of the quantum era. Maybe the brains of these great authors were not confined either.

One of the saddest indictments of current life on earth is our treatment of women and children – women are the true heroes of the planet; the forbearance of far too many women who have had to endure so much to survive and have their children survive. The Grapes of Wrath (John Steinbeck) was all about the endurance of women. Today far too many men prey on women and deny them their human rights. The most enslaved group on the planet are women and children – those who should have been protected first.

Death is easy - having to stay here and fight for life and the planet is hard– and so many are currently fighting for the planet and life from the Amazon to the ocean depths. They are not doing it for money or personal glory – they are doing it for you and for us and our planet. And they are ridiculed for their efforts by people who know they are right.

Paradise lost - the descent of man

The lineage of life on earth is the most astounding story - we are living breathing universe that has taken eons to bring us to this point- we were born in the stars, themselves created from cosmic clouds and which when hot and dense enough 'switched on' and eventually manufactured carbon in their internal furnaces. Carbon the basis of life on this planet at least, has the aptitude to form molecules with all other atomic matter until life as we know it developed here when these carbon molecules learned to self-replicate and on this planet became timid birds and beautiful flowers, cheeky possums, magnificent animals, creatures that could live under water and fill all habitats and eventually (much later) humans.

But life on this planet has been brought down from its path to universal glory. Seemingly here, life is a failed process. Evil seems to be embodied in some life forms. Not the evil that means you have to kill and eat others to survive, but deliberately destructive evil.

Medically, the psychopathology of the dictators of the world is the worst kind of serial killer – the criminally insane, who in another era may have all been kept away from society in secure asylums. Now they are free to destroy the world and are doing just that, along with genocide, mass rape, mass torture, and mass murder – the list of their insane depravities is endless.

So with what looks like a fatal flaw in the cosmic design of the human, what can good men, women and children do with millions of tonnes of weaponry being pointed at all of us from various locations around the world.

Certainly when the evil ones have used up or destroyed all the food stocks in their destroyed world they will eat us all - there is no depth to which some men will not sink. That is evident around us every day.

The good men of the planet have no power - they are the good fathers, the farmers and the doctors, and that rare thing, a decent politician trying to bring civilisation to their countries.

We can wait for evil men to 'see the light' and the sheer stupidity of their pathetic grossness and turn toward good, or a kinder option for the planet and all life forms would be for all women and girls to show the planet mercy and kill ourselves – then we can let the evil and ignorant feast off our carcases until we all become extinct.

(*... yes, this is satire a la the intelligent Johnathan Swift but truth is often embdded in satire*)

This is the true story, the only story of man currently written in the universe.

This was the true test of man – to continue the path of life in the universe and to play our part in the great and grand scheme of time and space.

But we do have people to give us hope, independent and brave people, the real heros of society who are unbowed by the criticism and ridicule and denial from their fellow humans.

Some humans don't refuse to open their hearts and minds to anything that does not benefit them personally.

Gustavo Francisco Petro Urrego ODB ODSC is a Colombian economist, politician, and former guerrilla fighter who is the current president of Colombia since 2022. He defeated Rodolfo Hernández Suárez in the second round of the 2022 Colombian presidential election on 19 June.

The Colombian president attacks the world's "addiction to power and money" and calls for end to war on drugs

The Colombian president slams destruction of Amazon rainforest in his first UNGA speech

"The climate disaster is full of viruses which are working to overcome us, but you are turning even medicine into business and vaccines into merchandise."

Inside the UN assembly hall, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres echoed protesters' calls for climate action, kicking off the day of speeches with a warning that the planet is burning and global action to stop it still halting and uncoordinated.

The UN chief says that the world must better tackle the climate crisis and end its "suicidal war against nature"

During his remarks at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the world must end its "suicidal war against nature."

He said that global greenhouse gas emissions need to be slashed by 45% by 2030 to have "any hope of reaching net zero by 2050." The UN chief noted that presently "emissions are going up at record levels – on course to a 14% increase this decade."

"We have a rendezvous with climate disaster," Guterres said, adding that **"Planet Earth is a victim of scorched-earth policies."**

"The past year has brought us Europe's worst heatwave since the Middle Ages. Megadrought in China, the United States and beyond. Famine stalking the Horn of Africa. One million species at risk of extinction. No region is untouched," Guterres said.

He continued: "And we ain't seen nothing yet. The hottest summers of today may be the coolest summers of tomorrow."

Bravo to one good man. The rest need to be more active. We can only die trying and that is our lot anyway.