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This Time We're Taking the Whole Planet With Us

http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/this_time_were_taking_the_whole_planet_with_us_20110307/

Posted on Mar 7, 2011

By Chris Hedges

I have walked through the barren remains of Babylon in Iraq and the ancient Roman city of Antioch, the capital of Roman Syria, which now lies buried in silt deposits. I have visited the marble ruins of Leptis Magna, once one of the most important agricultural centers in the Roman Empire, now isolated in the desolate drifts of sand southeast of Tripoli. I have climbed at dawn up the ancient temples in Tikal, while flocks of brightly colored toucans leapt through the jungle foliage below. I have stood amid the remains of the ancient Egyptian city of Luxor along the Nile, looking at the statue of the great Egyptian pharaoh Ramesses II lying broken on the ground, with Percy Shelley's poem "Ozymandias" running through my head:

"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

Civilizations rise, decay and die. Time, as the ancient Greeks argued, for individuals and for states is cyclical. As societies become more complex they become inevitably more precarious. They become increasingly vulnerable. And as they begin to break down there is a strange retreat by a terrified and confused population from reality, an inability to acknowledge the self-evident fragility and impending collapse. The elites at the end speak in phrases and jargon that do not correlate to reality. They retreat into isolated compounds, whether at the court at Versailles, the Forbidden City or modern palatial estates. The elites indulge in unchecked hedonism, the accumulation of vaster wealth and extravagant consumption. They are deaf to the suffering of the masses who are repressed with greater and greater ferocity. Resources are more ruthlessly depleted until they are exhausted. And then the hollowed-out edifice collapses. The Roman and Sumerian empires fell this way. The Mayan elites, after clearing their forests and polluting their streams with silt and acids, retreated backward into primitivism.

As food and water shortages expand across the globe, as mounting poverty and misery trigger street protests in the Middle East, Africa and Europe, the elites do what all elites do. They launch more wars, build grander monuments to themselves, plunge their nations deeper into debt, and as it all unravels they take it out on the backs of workers and the poor. The collapse of the global economy, which wiped out a staggering \$40 trillion in wealth, was caused when our elites, after destroying our manufacturing base, sold massive quantities of fraudulent mortgage-backed securities to pension funds, small investors, banks, universities, state and foreign governments and shareholders. The elites, to cover the losses, then looted the public treasury to begin the speculation over again. They also, in the name of austerity, began dismantling basic social services, set out to break the last vestiges of unions, slashed jobs, froze wages, threw millions of people out of their homes, and stood by idly as we created a permanent underclass of unemployed and underemployed.

The Mayan elite became, at the end, as the anthropologist Ronald Wright notes in "A Short History of Progress," "... extremists, or ultra-conservatives, squeezing the last drops of profit from nature and humanity." This is how all civilizations, including our own, ossify and die. The signs of imminent death may be undeniable. Common sense may cry out for a radical new response. But the race toward self-immolation only accelerates because of intellectual and moral paralysis. As Sigmund Freud grasped in "Beyond the Pleasure Principle" and "Civilization and Its Discontents," human societies are as intoxicated and blinded by their own headlong rush toward death and destruction as they are by the search for erotic fulfillment.

The unrest in the Middle East, the implosion of national economies such as those of Ireland and Greece, the increasing anger of a beleaguered working class at home and abroad, the growing desperate human migrations and the refusal to halt our relentless destruction of the ecosystem on which life depends are the harbingers of our own collapse and the consequences of the idiocy of our elite and the folly of globalization. Protests that are not built around a complete reconfiguration of American society, including a rapid dismantling of empire and the corporate state, can only forestall the inevitable. We will be saved only with the birth of a new and militant radicalism which seeks to dethrone our corrupt elite from power, not negotiate for better terms.

The global economy is built on the erroneous belief that the marketplace—read *human greed*—should dictate human behavior and that economies can expand eternally. Globalism works under the assumption that the ecosystem can continue to be battered by massive carbon emissions without major consequences. And the engine of global economic expansion is based on the assurance that there will always be plentiful and cheap oil. The inability to confront simple truths about human nature and the natural world leaves the elites unable to articulate new social, economic and political paradigms. They look only for ways to perpetuate a dying system. [Thomas Friedman](#) and the array of other propagandists for globalization make as much sense as Charlie Sheen.

Globalization is the modern articulation of the ancient ideology used by past elites to turn citizens into serfs and the natural world into a wasteland for profit. Nothing to these elites is sacred. Human beings and the natural world are exploited until exhaustion or collapse. The elites make no pretense of defending the common good. It is, in short, the defeat of rational thought and the death of humanism. The march toward self-annihilation has already obliterated 90 percent of the large fish in the oceans and wiped out half of the mature tropical forests, the lungs of the planet. At this rate by 2030 only 10 percent of the Earth's tropical forests will remain. Contaminated water kills 25,000 people every day around the globe, and each year some 20 million children are impaired by malnourishment. Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is now above the 350 parts per million that most climate scientists warn is the maximum level for sustaining life as we know it. [Editor's note: The preceding sentence has been revised since this article was first published here.] The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that the measurement could reach 541 to 970 ppm by 2100. At that point huge parts of the planet, beset with overpopulation, droughts, soil erosion, freak storms, massive crop failures and rising sea levels, will be unfit for human existence.

How do you get people to look at the big picture when everyone is staring obsessively into a small one in their hand?

Jared Diamond in his essay "The Last Americans" notes that by the time Hernan Cortés reached the Yucatan, millions of Mayan subjects had vanished.

"Why," Diamond writes, "did the kings and nobles not recognize and solve these problems? A major reason was that their attention was evidently focused on the short-term concerns of enriching themselves, waging wars, erecting monuments, competing with one another, and extracting enough food from the peasants to support all these activities."

So much more comforting than to look at the 'big picture'. Pumping that oil, cutting down those trees, and catching those fish may benefit the elite by bringing them money or prestige and yet be bad for society as a whole (including the children of the elite) in the long run," Diamond went on. "Maya kings were consumed by immediate concerns for their prestige (requiring more and bigger temples) and their success in the next war (requiring more followers), rather than for the happiness of commoners or of the next generation. Those people with the greatest power to their own children in our own society today regularly make money from activities that may be bad for society as a whole and for their own children: those decision makers include Enron executives, many land developers, and advocates of tax cuts for the rich."

obviously a typo - should read "392 parts per million"

It was no different on Easter Island. The inhabitants, when they first settled the 64-square-mile island during the fifth century, found abundant fresh water and woods filled with the Chilean wine palm, a tree that can reach the size of an oak. Seafood, including fish, seals, porpoises and turtles, and nesting seabirds were plentiful. Easter Island's society, which split into an elaborate caste system of nobles, priests and commoners, had within five or six centuries swelled to some 10,000 people. The natural resources were devoured and began to disappear.

This is possibly the most coherent, accurate depiction of life on Earth today I've ever seen. FINALLY someone has mentioned the 800-pound dead end of the growing herd of crays we've had to feed for the population increase, but also the wonder of food on the planet soon, no degree of conservation or innovation will save the human race. As Mr. Hedges points out, Earth, like Easter Island, is a finite place, and once fertility, eye-growing population depletes the resources of damages them beyond repair, we've done it. Trees and shrubs would also be cut down for canoe building, firewood, house construction, and for the timbers and ropes needed in the movement and erection of statues. Palm fruits would be eaten, thus reducing regeneration of the palm. Rats, introduced for food, could have fed on the palm fruits, multiplied rapidly and completely prevented palm regeneration. The over exploitation of prolific sea bird resources would have eliminated these for all but the offshore islets. Rats could have helped in this process by eating eggs. The abundant food provided by fishing, sea birds and rats would have encouraged rapid initial human population growth. Unrestrained human population increase would later put pressure on availability of land, leading to disputes and eventually warfare. Non-availability of timber and rope would make it pointless to carve further statues. A disillusionment with the efficacy of the statue religion in providing the wants of the people could lead to the abandonment of this cult. Inadequate canoes would restrict fishing to the inshore waters, leading to further decline in protein supplies. The result could have been general famine, warfare and the collapse of the whole economy, leading to a marked population decline."

Clans, in the later period of the Easter Island civilization, competed to honor their ancestors by constructing larger and larger hewn stone images which demanded that the best elements of the timber, crops and animals on the island be thrown away or sold like bones in the pursuit of an empty environmentalism in the hands of small, conscious communities hidden away here and there will meekly survive and to that end I will work tirelessly... www.apramwaterharvesting.com

The desperate islanders developed a belief system that posited that the erected stone gods, the moai, would come to life and save them from disaster. This last retreat into magic characterizes all societies that fall into terminal decline. It is a frantic response to loss of control as well as despair and powerlessness. This desperate retreat into magic led to the Cherokee ghost dance, the doomed Taki Onyok revolt against the Spanish invaders in Peru, and the Aztec prophecies of the 1530s. Civilizations in the last moments embrace a total severance from reality, a reality that becomes too bleak to be absorbed.

THANK YOU!!!

The modern belief by evangelical Christians in the rapture, which does not exist in biblical literature, is no less fantastic, one that at once allows for the denial of global warming and of evolution and the absurd idea that the righteous will all be saved—floating naked into heaven at the end of time. The faith that science and technology, which are morally neutral and serve human ambitions, will make the world whole again is no less delusional. We offer up our magical thinking in secular as well as religious form.

We think we have somehow escaped from the foibles of the past. We are certain that we are wiser and greater than those who went before us. We trust naively in the inevitability of our own salvation. And those who cater to this false hope, especially as things deteriorate, receive our adulation and praise. We in the United States, only 5 percent of the world's population, are outraged if 300 million people in the rest of the world are not allowed to consume the goods of our civilization. The growth of a world population that is larger than anyone has ever known is a triumph of our technology, but it is also a tragedy. The growth of a world population that squander 25 percent of the world's energy. President Jimmy Carter, when he suggested that such consumption was probably not beneficial, became a figure of national ridicule. One's nose is never allowed to sniff the aroma of Mr. Hedges or some fundamentalist Christian and Muslim. But such comical faith-based claims should be looked at askance by those who know history and have enough sense to know that the same claims have been delusion are, because they make us politically passive, lavishly funded and promoted by corporate and oligarchic forces. And by the very end we are joyfully led over the cliff by simpletons and lunatics, many of whom appear to be lining up for the Republican

very end we are justifiably led over the cliff by simpsons and romanes, many of whom appear to be lining up for the republican presidential nomination.

Lee Nason

“Are the New Babel of the Mesopotamians 8,500 years ago on a small remote island of any significance to the world at large?” Bahn and Flenley ask. “We believe they are. We consider that Easter Island was a microcosm which provides a model for the whole planet. Like the Earth, Easter Island was an isolated system. The people there believed that they were the only survivors on Earth, all other land having sunk beneath the sea. They carried out for us the experiment of permitting unrestricted population growth, profligate use of resources, destruction of the environment and boundless confidence in their religion to take care of the future. The result was an ecological disaster leading to a population crash. ... Do we have to repeat the experiment on this grand scale? Do we have to be as cynical as Henry Ford and say, “History is bunk”? Would it not be more sensible to learn the lesson of Easter Island history, and apply it to the Earth Island on which we live?”

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Human beings seem cursed to repeat these cycles of exploitation and collapse. And the greater the extent of the deterioration the less they are able to comprehend what is happening around them. The Earth is littered with the physical remains of human folly and human hubris. We seem condemned as a species to drive ourselves and our societies toward extinction, although this moment appears to be the denouement to the whole sad show of settled, civilized life that began some 5,000 years ago. There is nothing left to seize. We are now spending down the last remnants of our natural capital, including our forests, fossil fuel, air and water. In addition, you need to add the crisis in the past 5000 years, as EVD civilization has created and collapsed there were, every one of those who would say exactly what you are saying and refuse to look around them at reality.

There are ALWAYS plenty of fools like you who utter, “What are you worried?” and insist there's nothing we can't overcome if we just “Stay the course!” After all, WE'RE AMERICANS! We can do anything! We're number one! This time when we go down it will be global. There are no new lands to pillage, no new peoples to exploit. Technology, which has obliterated the constraints of time and space, has turned our global village into a global death trap. The fate of Easter Island will be writ large across the broad expanse of planet Earth. There are a lot of people in every collapsing system who cling to the false sense of entitlement and moral certainty of manufactured destiny.

Chris Hedges is a weekly Truthdig columnist and a fellow at The Nation Institute. His newest book is “Death of the Liberal Class.” I just hope you live long enough to see the utter collapse. It IS coming. Our course is set, and the engineers of that course are counting on people like you to tell the others that there's no need to be alarmed, let alone armed.

"But such counterfactual faith-based claims should be looked at askance by those who know history and have enough sense to know that the same claims have been made for millenia."

The lack of common sense in people like you who think this way would merely be amusing if it weren't so critical to, and exacerbating of, the problems we face.

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Loup-Bouc 2011-03-07 12:02

+1

Mr. Hedges wrote: "...this moment appears be the denouement to the whole sad show of settled, civilized life that began some 5,000 years ago."

No. Civilization began more than 8,500 years ago, but, contrary to Mr. Hedges's musings," not in Mesopotamia, The West, the land of "Caucasians." It began on the northwest coast of India about 3500 years before it began in the West, and the people were dark-skinned and did AP / Mahesh Kumar Indo-European" or Semitic language.

People collect scraps from a garbage dump in Hyderabad, India. Those "foreign" brown-skinned Indian people had advanced agriculture and engineered irrigation and a written language and stone buildings and a city of paved streets and plumbing and jewelry and pottery and metal tools --- when the West was still populated by illiterate hunter-gatherer primitives.

In China, too, agrarian, permanent-village civilization began (and had pottery, hoes, polished axes, and weights for digging sticks) 1500 to 2000 years before it began in Mesopotamia.

How pathetic. Even Western political progressives cannot bear the truth that Asia's brown-skinned and yellow-skinned ushered humanity into civilization.

Descartes, Pascal, Gutenberg, Galileo, Pasteur..... stole the myriad mathematical and scientific inventions and insights of India and China and treated the East as if wastes of little better than savages.

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Loup-Bouc 2011-03-07 13:34

0

I need to correct one paragraph of my previous post, # Loup-Bouc 2011-03-07 12:02. The paragraph is:

"Civilization began more than 8,500 years ago, but, contrary to Mr. Hedges's musings," not in Mesopotamia, The West, the land of "Caucasians." It began on the northwest coast of India about 3500 years before it began in the West, and the people were dark-skinned and did not speak an "Indo-European" or Semitic language."

Civilization began in India about 7500 years before the oldest Mesopotamian civilization. It began about 13,000 BC, in what is now the Gulf of Cambay, northwest India. See, E.G., <http://www.archaeologyonline.net/artifacts/cambay.html>

Loup-Bouc

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Dennis 2011-03-07 12:45

+13

the bumperstick comes true "Earth First we will stripmine the other planets later"

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Lee Black** 2011-03-07 12:58**+5**

The International Data Base states that the earth's population in 1960 was 3 billion and it estimates 9 billion before 2050. This is surely analogous to Mr. Hitchens description of the Easter Island story.

Soon you will see the 'elites' preparing; more gated communities; hoarding of water (already happening); etc.

It may not be the religious "end times" scenario-there will be a few survivors, but I don't think it will be a life worth living.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **aikidokurt** 2011-03-07 14:47**+5**

"they have ears, but cannot hear; they have eyes, but cannot see..."

and they have religious nutters and zealots who refuse or choose not to teach rational thought and what such lines REALLY mean and imply... now its more like: "you hear our conservative dribble but do not evaluate...you see our hateful acts but choose to be blind ..."

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **genierae** 2011-03-07 14:53**+7**

Sometimes I think that we were brought here by aliens. Think about it, we don't fit in. We are the only creatures on earth who don't live in harmony with our environment, the only ones who foul our own nest. I think that we were seeded here by aliens as an experiment of some kind. Or maybe our ancestors were taken off a planet that was overpopulated. However we got here, we now seem to be in a race between attaining spiritual enlightenment and suffering egocentric global self-destruction. Please God, help us to wake up!

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **rf** 2011-03-08 05:31**+6**

There is no God! Get over it and figure out that you will have to save yourself or die. Quit expecting something else to save you...nature holds no deus-ex-machinas...wake up.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **genierae** 2011-03-08 06:58**-2**

rf: I was being intentionally dramatic, but I see that anyone who is expressing their own enlightenment is a threat to those who prefer to remain comatose. It is you who needs to wake up, my friend. I see that you reject God, but do you reject love as well? I mean real love, not the erotic kind. Do you know what it is to love your fellow man and want the best for all of humanity? If you have ever had a hint of this all-pervading love, then you have had a glimpse of the divine. You then can use that glimpse to expand your consciousness and rise above your cynicism. Once you take your first step on that good road, you will never want to walk any other road again. When I speak of God, I speak of higher power, spiritual enlightenment, divine presence. Someday you will wake up from your particular dream and realize that love is God, and "God is love". May that day come soon.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Glen** 2011-03-08 16:47**+2**

Are you expecting your god to save the planet? Maybe through love?

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Gary Ray Pierson** 2011-03-09 07:13**0**

Quoting

Are you expecting your god to save the planet? Maybe through love?

Don't know why Glen but, that remark just cracked me up... Hell people, you've got eyes.... Your supposed to have a some what rationale mind... Any one with sense enough knows were wasting this planet and ourselves at the same time... I feel like a chicken.. They eat us before were born and after..... Sunny side up and fried some times.. And about there being no god.. How the hell do we know there is one.. This is how I look at it. We got here some how and were some where.. To simplify the reason, A three letter word works out well enough for me.. God put us here.. Now.. what the hell for, to just watch us destroy ourselves or maybe, save ourselves? Testing our resolve? His cable bill came in and he's broke according to televangelist and has nothing to watch but us? If so.. Wake up Omnipresent one.. You fell asleep way back when.. Look at what your little creatures are doing... Were creatures..... That go along with the features... On this fragile planet... And it is fragile.. Be nice to it and it may be nice to you.. People, well... Nice is a bigger concept to them than God... Cpl. Pierson 101st Vietnam

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **genierae** 2011-03-09 12:43

0

Hi Glen: All I know is that love saved me. (But I had to meet it halfway.) My point is that many people reject the concept of God, but don't reject the concept of love. And so that's why I asked rf about it. The word God is rather generic, what it means depends on who you ask, but I think that the word love is pretty clear in definition, most people know what it is. As for the planet, I think that it will eventually save itself, mainly by getting rid of us. We are a plague upon this earth, and we don't yet have enough collective sense, to stop our madness. Who knows if we will wake up in time?

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Gary Ray Pierson** 2011-03-09 07:17

-1

Quoting

rf: I was being intentionally dramatic, but I see that anyone who is expressing their own enlightenment is a threat to those who prefer to remain comatose. It is you who needs to wake up, my friend. I see that you reject God, but do you reject love as well? I mean real love, not the erotic kind. Do you know what it is to love your fellow man and want the best for all of humanity? If you have ever had a hint of this all-pervading love, then you have had a glimpse of the divine. You then can use that glimpse to expand your consciousness and rise above your cynicism. Once you take your first step on that good road, you will never want to walk any other road again. When I speak of God, I speak of higher power, spiritual enlightenment, divine presence. Someday you will wake up from your particular dream and realize that love is God, and "God is love". May that day come soon.

"You know when I talk to god I know he understands.. He says stick by me and I'll be your god in hand.. But don't ask me what I think of you,I might not give the answer you want me to.." Fleetwood Mac. "Then play on." garyray

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **genierae** 2011-03-09 13:01

0

Mr. Pierson, any answer that you might choose to give would be welcome, no matter whether I like it or not.

"O wad some power the giftie gie us,
To see oursels as ithers see us!"
Robert Burns

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Joyce Tarnow** 2011-03-07 14:53

+7

Population reduction--first and foremost of the lessons we have failed to learn. Whether two billion or three billion is the sustainable number need not be debated. It is certainly not SEVEN billion.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Frank Dolan** 2011-03-07 15:47

+5

Donella Meadows, et al authored The Club of Rome report entitled iirc, The Limits to Growth, the simple conclusion of which was: You can not have infinite growth on a finite planet. These days are those days...and we need more than Zero Population Growth to remedy the situation. The Laws of Life, which govern all species, will not exempt h.sapiens from the consequences of its actions. TANSTAF... (especially in physics)
Good Luck to us all...say 'Good Night, Gracie'.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Denis Frith** 2011-03-07 16:39

+3

This article blames the demise of civilizations on the unwise decisions of the elite. There is mention of the consequences of the ravishing of the natural life support system. However, there is no mention of the fact the natural forces always determine what happens. Humans can only make decisions about using what is possible. The operations of civilization have irreversibly used up limited natural capital. Wiser decisions would have been made if there had been this understanding of the dependence on nature for the operation and maintenance of materialistic civilization during its life time.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Demfatale** 2011-03-07 18:29

+4

There was a time, in the '70s and early '80s, when humanity was still lovable. The Human Potential movement was in full sway, whispering of greatness to come. How could we have known, then, that we had already peaked ... that from Reagan on, the degenerative disease of Doris Lessing's prophetic Shikasta novel would bore into the species and pull us down to mindless brutality, all within a couple of generations?

Today I would be content to see our species go extinct. Better that than taking the planet down with us, as Chris Hedges has aptly declared the possibility for this evolutionary round.

Earth is not a Kindergarden of Eden.

It takes a mature consciousness to run the planet, not this infantile selfishness that's taken over the Republican party and is trying to take over the world. It's clear: humans aren't ready to handle real power, not by a long shot. I would rather see the planet take a long spa day, maybe 10,000 years, and heal herself of human destruction than see her suffer one more decade at our hands. If we're about to repeat the Easter Island lesson, then let that climax come soon, while there's still enough ecosphere to regenerate a paradise and perhaps brew some desirable human DNA changes, like more skin color varieties, mosquito immunity, extra civility and NO, repeat, ZERO neo-con genes on the chain.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)



Frosty Wooldridge 2011-03-07 19:43

+3

This piece by Hedges represents the best writing and understanding of humanity's predicament in the 21st century. As a 6 continent world bicyclist, I witnessed what he writes about. I will submit my latest series on overpopulation in America. It sobers, educates and offers solutions, but it may be too late, but we must attempt to save our civilization by our actions. Frosty Wooldridge www.frostywooldridge.com

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)



Beth Brant 2011-03-07 21:10

+3

Unfortunately, the article mentioned nothing about the extinction of all that is beautiful and wondrous in this world- the animals and green things that make living a joy. The factory farms, the gmos that have invaded our food, all are obscenities that have tainted our natural world. And WE let it happen. I never dreamed that I would live inside a Philip K. Dick story, and I never thought tigers would become extinct in my lifetime. I have tried so hard to do what I could to save this awe-inspiring planet and as my days are coming to a close, I despair over the loss of so much.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)



Chacka Garcia 2011-03-07 22:46

+1

PLEASE READ! And then weep if you're one of the many who are unwilling to enact change by first questioning your dogmatic faith in 1) the politicians, who promise you that they are protecting your right to obtain your dreams, while they play Ivory Tower chess, using us as pawns, and 2) the economic system called capitalism, which is founded almost entirely on -- dare I say it -- GREED.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)



Meriwethers son 2011-03-08 21:26

+1

There are still pathfinders in our modern wilderness. I too despair at this cycle of self destructive behavior, but one must look beyond our earth for a larger context, for comprehension, and peace. Our founding understanding of the nature of our universe leaves us in awe of what we don't know yet. The next evolution is at hand and it comes out of us-see Ray Kurzweil's "Singularity"- There is truth in degrees in all said here....but we must get beyond cynical,jaded,hopeless, naive, nihilistic. God doesn't exist in any anthropomorphic sense, but (as said before) Love is God and God is Love... I have experienced this without seeing Jesus in a tortilla chip etc. We must keep trying for the sake of that...for the sake of building a new paradigm/reality...for the sake of our children...and even the sake of whatever it is that is coming to replace us.

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