

# THE THREE R's: Government that works!

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## Chapter 1: Life Is What You Make It?

Look around. Does everything seem OK to you? Our Earth is an unimaginable paradise. Picture it for a minute, but without any trace of humans. Do you see, as I do, a balanced, perfect, 100% real, authentic, full-of-excitement life? Do you see a life of passion, beauty, adventure, and sometimes horror—all the things that make life interesting in the wild and unpredictable dance of nature?

A squirrel finds a tree and a surrounding area, an environmental niche, and Mother Nature does the rest. Everything the squirrel needs is there: food, shelter, territory, the right climate. That includes the squirrel's own resources, which were developed in response to the niche that the local environment provides: the perfect balance of body, mind, and emotions to survive, thrive, escape predation, mate, and raise offspring in that particular setting. This is the way Mother Nature designed every living thing, including humans.

Maybe your life is going the way you want it to, or maybe not. I have looked at my life over the years—my choices, skills, talents, temperament, successes, and failures—and the environment in which I live. Life is what you make it, right? Yes. But that doesn't mean that I have to eke out some good memories from a hellish environment, especially if there is *any* way I can modify or improve my situation. You wouldn't put human babies in wards with food and basic necessities and no nurturing, or put a tiger in a cage at the zoo, or approach a starving man, and say "Just be happy; life is what you make it." Yes, humans and tigers have endured these deprivations—often these hardships even have a maturing effect. Still, we don't get to impose unnecessary suffering on any living thing and certainly not on ourselves. Life comes up with enough of that on its own.

This is my response to "Life is what you make it." I choose to make my life a life of purpose, meaning, and passion and memories of significant events and struggles overcome. And when I encounter situations in my environment that are standing in my way, I will exert extraordinary powers to mold my environment so I have the best shot at my life of purpose, like when animals literally risk their lives to defend territory, for essential food, or to mate and produce offspring. So I am taking charge of my life (as I see it) by exerting my powers (in my case, by writing this book; in your case, by reading it and taking some action) to protect and improve it, just as if I were a squirrel protecting the boundaries of my territory."

Of course, the wonderful twist is that in working toward this life of passion, you and I together (not separately) find our true desire, though not always in the way or at the time we would have picked! This book is for you, the individual reader, regardless of what culture you belong to or which corner of the globe you are in. It tells how to find the passion and purpose you crave. It is for businesses and corporations. Your business will thrive if you adopt this approach because you are patterning your business to model the way healthy humans live. This book is also ideal for forming or transforming tribes, villages, and towns into centers of human productivity and purpose, especially in the aftermath of eons of oppressive and passion-killing government. Towns (and their

nations) that adopts this approach will see both prosperity and quality of life increase. Finally, this book is for nations and cultures, IF their goal is to see life, hope, and purpose return to the eyes of their people.

So what's in it for you? What is here that will change your life? Read on, and you will be saying, "Yes, this is how I want to live" and then commit, connect, and respond with your input and energy. This book cannot be read passively; either you hop on for the ride of your life, or you don't. The world loves those who are seeking a life of passion and purpose (all the world loves a lover), and the rest of the world *wants* us to succeed and will go out of their way to help us.

The Three R's: Government That Works! doesn't just paint a rosy picture and then leave you hanging. It tells exactly how to get from here to there – now! But first we need to lay some groundwork so we are in agreement (united) re:

- Where we are now
- How we got here
- Where we want to be (the desired state)

You are finally going to understand how happy, healthy humans live. That's important, because you can't have what you want if you don't know what you want. You will never again be faceless, unknown in a big city. Instead, you will be a vital part of your village, community, or tribe. When you and I are living our 100% lives, suddenly it will seem that the rest of humanity is pursuing that life. The threats to us and the planet suddenly diminish, replaced by the power of a vision shared by all of humanity. Humans are freed to pursue their purpose, to be protectors and shepherds of life, and to carry life—the best of life—to the stars. Too good to be true? Read on.

#### WHAT WE CAN'T MEASURE

Love, hope, fear, faith, spirituality—these are what make life ... life. But they are also easy to forget and are hard to measure. Therefore, together we will create and unite around a vision, and we will plan our actions to achieve the results we want. Yet we will fully understand that underneath the courage and heroism lies faith, that difficult-to-quantify variable, which must in a sense originate a little differently in the heart of each of us. Whether you practice a common faith or your faith resides in your beliefs, there should be nothing incompatible in our vision and the pages that follow.

We commonly believe that people of other cultures on other continents are different, think differently, and thus have different faith. Although this may justify our need to be right or to have enemies, it is ridiculous and untrue. A typical family in rural Indonesia, Ireland, or Iran; in China, Chechnya, or Czechoslovakia; in England or Ethiopia; or in the United States or Uzbekistan has the same desires, motivators, passions, concerns, and fears. Certainly, their details vary with their conditions, but humans are 99.99% alike, just as squirrels are. As we unite around our vision, there will be few differences between us, no matter where on the planet we reside.

I have a dream, a vision of the life I want. So do you. Although the details might differ,

the desire is universal. It is a vision of my community (village, hamlet, tribe), some parts of which I have and some which I want to create and which we will create together. The people in my community care about what is happening in the world, and they influence what is happening with the united voice of their community. They demonstrate with actions and activities that they care about the families, youth, and other individuals in their community. Seeing adults in this role, children and youth learn foundations for living that have entirely disappeared from much of society today. And what isn't seen in these communities is chronic anger, hatred, rage, killing, lying, manipulation, selfish materialism, and obsession with self. Situational anger or fear is normal; chronic, obsessive, compulsive anger and fear is not.

If the people in my community don't know, they find out. Their voice combines with the voices of communities all over the world (thanks to modern technology and communication) to direct the sustainable flow of life on Earth. Yet this is transparent—all life on Earth flows in perfect harmony without any manipulating, modifying, or cloning from humans. Often the best approach is to *not* intervene (The Hippocratic Oath: Do no harm). With the energy and money we save by no longer trying to conquer and change life on our world, we can create and enjoy successful lives in our communities.

“This sounds like chaos.” If you say that all the rest of life on Earth appears to run on chaos, then I would agree. Paradoxically, the rest of life is apparently 100% able to manage and succeed singly or in groups according to their design. On the other hand, human life, which we go to such great efforts to manage, subdue, and control, is characterized by destruction, hatred, manipulation of entire cultures, and even mass murder.

“But communities, much less nations, will never agree on anything.” I think you will find that communities globally have much more in common than nations. For that matter, why do communities always need to agree? Certainly, there is unity in our vision, but the details of how a particular locale lives their lives need be of no concern to anyone other than them (as long as their actions aren't significantly impacting others).

*ACTION: In the space below, write three to four statements, like the ones I shared, about the life you want. Pretend you can make the life you want, and describe where you are and what you and others are doing. What is your passion? What purpose are you pursuing? Just capture your first thoughts, without a lot of analysis.*

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office in Berkeley, California—and was booed by most of or all the 300+ people attending that City Council meeting!

Now, many years later, I believe just as strongly as I did as an idealistic youth that you and I can live 100% lives of passion and purpose. But this takes courage. Re-visiting our friend the squirrel, there are many restrictions placed upon it by the realities of its environment, such as foxes, owls, and other predators; the limited amount of territory it can protect; and the availability of food. But, considering those limitations, would any of us deny that the squirrel (or any living thing) is compelled by the very force of life to be 100% itself with all the passion, purpose, immediacy, and danger implied?

Survival of the fittest: we see it clearly in nature, with the food chain and animals vying to mate with the strongest and fittest partners. But when it comes to us humans, we seem to want this concept suspended. “I’m just as good as him or her; everybody deserves the same as everyone else; no one should be hungry or thirsty or denied anything.” Indeed, this represents compassion, but in excess it may lack reality or even good sense. Life without some pain and suffering is unrealistic. In fact, the joy and passion we seek is only known by its opposite. Were there no limits of geography and resources, humans could increase their numbers ad infinitum until they consumed the very Earth that gave them life. “It will never happen,” you say. Actually, it already has happened several times. It happened on Easter Island,\* it has led to the demise of numerous cultures (like the Aztecs and other extinct cultures), and it is happening on a global scale right now.

\* <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/fate-of-easter-island.html>

If you want a 100% life of passion, you have to know the enemy of that 100% life. Make no mistake: We are fighting a battle for survival fiercer than that fought by animals surviving in the food chain. They know who their predators are, and they are designed to survive. By contrast, we fight a predator unknown to any other life-form. The battle we are fighting is with ourselves, with our tendency to give up our freedoms and responsibilities out of laziness or apathy, and then complain when “they” don’t meet our needs. Why should they? You and I should be owning, meeting, and defending our own responsibilities and needs and refusing to give that power over to *anyone*.

This is HUGE. This 100% ownership of our destinies represents life the way Creation intended for us to live. It is Paradise, Eden, Nirvana. We *do* deserve it, just as much as—but no more and no less than—any other living thing. This is the life of romance we dream about when we are listening to popular music. When we start the process of returning to this 100% life, the myriad social problems that seem so overwhelming in the world today will simply dissolve and disappear! They won’t necessarily be solved; they just will no longer matter.

### ***Creation took a terrible chance***

To understand the unique human dilemma, we need to view life from the perspective of Creation. The entire basis of life is the Balance of Nature, this perfect ecosystem where

every living thing fills a niche, creating an endless chain of life. As the ecosystem changes, the niches change. Living things can make small adjustments, but major environmental changes signal the demise of some species and the elevation of others. This is all very academic until you are on the waning side of those environmental changes, as were the dinosaurs several million years ago.

Our ancient ancestors were the first of a strain of generalized hunter-gatherer species. They became toolmakers; observers; and, more recently, potential servants and protectors of life. That would appear to be our purpose, what we are here for—that is our niche. You might say, “How do you know that’s our purpose?” or “There is no purpose for any life-form - we just are.” But the fallacy in that argument is that all life-forms *do* have a purpose. We call it their niche. They are here because they fit somewhere in the environment, in the food chain, in the balance and cycle of life. If that niche disappears (such as with large and fast changes in weather or other environmental conditions), so do the species that fit in that niche. Then new species appear and flourish in response to the new niches.

So what is man’s niche? If your answer is, “We don’t have one,” then that makes humans unique—which we are *not*, except in our own minds. We humans are generalists because we were designed to be servants and protectors of life and to begin the process of carrying life (but only in its best aspect) to the stars.\*

For us to be observers and protectors, Creation had to take a terrible and potentially deadly chance by giving us the ability to temporarily step outside and view the Balance of Nature from a detached perspective (for instance, to see global threats emerging or to develop space travel in order to take life to other worlds).

But we lack the maturity to see the extent of this risk or to realize that the future of this precious paradise that is Life on Earth might be at least partially in our hands. Creation said, “Step outside and look, but don’t live outside.” Ignoring that advice, we stepped outside and stayed there—destroying, consuming, over-populating, and killing.

Would we feel any more urgency if we knew that of all the universes and stars and planets in our cosmos, only Earth has the vibrant and fantastic life that we take for granted? Well, that is indeed the case.\*\* Part of our purpose is to take this beautiful kaleidoscope of life to the stars. But first, we’ve got to get it right on Earth. We have to protect, preserve, and sustain, and certainly not consume and destroy. That is the purpose of this book. The logistics of how we are going to do it (the ACTION), are The Three R’s.

\* My research has uncovered no discussion of the niche humans fill (in the same way that we can describe the niche that the squirrel or the ant fills or that the dinosaurs filled). Most discussions on the subject defer to God. But because God placed every living thing here because it occupies a niche, it is not possible that humans don’t have one. Without a niche or purpose for being part of the balance of life on Earth, we would have to conclude that God put us here to rule over life, to enjoy and destroy it, or just because He thinks we’re cute. I don’t think so!

\*\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extraterrestrial\\_life](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extraterrestrial_life)

## PRESENT SITUATION

### Chapter 3: Humans—What’s the Problem?

Before we can move toward our new life, we have to be sure we know the truth of:

- who we are;
- how we got where we are today (our true history and ancestors); and
- our strengths, given to us to fulfill our purpose.

“What’s wrong with the way things are? There are so many important world problems to address. Isn’t this subject pretty low on the urgency scale?”

Actually, the issue of our personal search for purpose and passion is directly linked to the serious issues we face on Earth. Change is happening. Conditions on Earth are changing, and species that don’t adapt will perish. Make no mistake: If there are millions or billions of humans living apathetic 30% lives of purposelessness and frustration, that is the sign of a sick species, and no species can endure for long in this mode. Life is too competitive. Survival requires extraordinary effort from beings who will risk their lives when necessary to survive, flourish, and raise offspring to continue the species. Even with this extraordinary effort, species may not be able to adapt and survive when the changes come too fast and/or are too severe (e.g., dinosaurs). In these circumstances, old species wane and disappear, and new niches and environments spawn new species, usually from the members of old species with traits that favor the new conditions.

Let’s get right to the point. Picture a planet somewhere where life in some form is developing. Picture this process taking millions of years. Then picture a single life-form, one of the millions that have evolved on that planet, spreading like a plague over the planet, destroying the rest of life. Picture that planet eons later; barren; nothing but dirt, dust, and rocks; and without atmosphere, moisture, or any living thing. That is what is happening on Earth. Can you imagine a species growing out of control and destroying the very paradise that gave it life? It’s similar to a scenario where as soon as you can walk and get your own food, you kill your parents and eat them! If that’s too strong for you, you probably aren’t going to want to read on. We’re doing this, and it must be stopped. This book will explain:

- how we got here;
- why we, of all species, have this ability to step outside, over-populate, change, and destroy; and
- how *you* can re-join life on Earth (the Balance of Nature), find a 100% life of

passion and purpose, and return Earth to the paradise it has always been.

## Chapter 4: Where Do Humans Fit?

We know where a squirrel fits, but do we humans know where we fit? Do we know our niche in the environment?

Every living thing has a story. For a million years,\* every human has had a story not of themselves but of their environment and the tribe, community, or group that they were part of and the passion, purpose, and details of their people's struggles, triumphs, and failures.

These humans of the last million-plus years are our true ancestors. Yes, they include the modern humans who emerged from Africa some 50,000 years ago, but a species is not confirmed in the evolutionary tree in that short time frame—us modern humans may just as easily be a mutation, plague, or blight as we are a successful species. Our short tenure is statistically insignificant: The jury is still out. We don't know if we are an integral branch from which other branches will sprout or a dead-end twig that Mother Nature is hastening to prune. Time will tell.

Modern humans originated in Africa and quickly spread over the globe. Our niche was a planet of basically unlimited geography and resources. Move here; manipulate, modify, consume, and destroy the animals and plants; occupy the land; and then, after everything has been depleted, move on and do the same thing somewhere else.

That virtually unlimited environment—that niche—no longer exists. We've depleted and exhausted it!

\* How long has man walked the earth? Between 150,000 and 2,500,000 years depending on your definition of "Man" or "Human". [http://www.answerbag.com/q\\_view/109093#ixzz1nVT01HwN](http://www.answerbag.com/q_view/109093#ixzz1nVT01HwN)

### ***The moment we stepped outside***

There was a moment in ancient times when we became self-aware (the Bible says that we ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil). All of a sudden, we were individuals. We were separate beings and could have our own private thoughts and even our own possessions. All the world's current human problems began at that moment. In just a few thousand years, a bipedal hunter-gatherer species elevated itself practically to the level of Creation, believing falsely that all other forms of life had been created simply for its control, enjoyment, manipulation, and destruction. As we continue on this path, Easter Island \* is re-creating itself on an Earthly scale. Make no mistake: By Her own timetable, Creation (Mother Nature) is quickly putting a stop to this. It is a measure of the narrowness of our perception that, surrounded by ominous signs, we "intelligent beings" are oblivious to the obvious.

The need for religion, which is unique to humans, began at this same moment. Religion has provided a moral compass and a safe haven for millions. It has also been used to justify some pretty horrible examples of inhumanity. Religion provides the balance for the temptations of self-awareness. Yet humans use religion to say what it was never meant to say. Religion never told people to live 30% lives or lives of apathy and frustration; that it is selfish to desire a 100% life (for ourselves and equally for any other human being or life-form); or that our birthright includes killing other humans and destroying the very planet that gave us life in the first place!

\* [http://www.mysteriousplaces.com/Easter\\_Island/html/tour4.html](http://www.mysteriousplaces.com/Easter_Island/html/tour4.html)

### ***What is our purpose, the purpose of modern man?***

Our purpose began with our ancient ancestors about a million years ago. There was a purpose—a niche—that our ancestors were created in response to, and our present purpose is to simply carry on the purpose that was started in them. This is just like the niche of the modern-day elephant, following in the footsteps of the now-extinct Mastodon and the Woolly Mammoth.

What *is* that human purpose? It was (and is):

- protecting, cultivating, being a servant to life on Earth; and
- carrying life, in its best aspect, to the stars.

Just as a squirrel is given an environmental niche and all the physical, mental, and emotional tools to survive and flourish in it, humans have been given the tools to fulfill the above purpose. This doesn't mean that our ancient ancestors were immediately commissioned to go out and protect the world. But eons after the disappearance of the large animals, a niche was created that favored smaller mammals with brains capable of making tools and shepherding the environment. From cultivating crops to raising livestock, humans have proved their shepherding abilities. *Life was not created for humans. Instead, humans were created in response to a niche and, just like our many ancestors, \* will continue to thrive only as long as that niche remains.*

Much of modern humans' behavior is inconsistent with our purpose. If we were to spread life to other worlds as we live today, the result would be disaster. Before we spread life, we need to define what a good life is. We need principles, and a plan.

Actually, humans already have a vision/code/blueprint for living. It can be found in one form or another in virtually all cultures and religions; you will recognize it in the three following premises. As you read them, though, ask yourself if the world of humans is living by them?

- The Golden Rule: Do unto others (as you would have them do unto you)

There are other codes that address this same life-code from a slightly different angle, such as:

- The Hippocratic Oath (in medicine): Do no harm

And all cultures and religions have their versions of these basic codes.

[\\*http://www.mitchellteachers.net/WorldHistory/MrMEarlyHumansProject/MrMOurHumanAncestorsAssignment.html](http://www.mitchellteachers.net/WorldHistory/MrMEarlyHumansProject/MrMOurHumanAncestorsAssignment.html)

## Chapter 5: Rabbits in the Outback

Say that someone dropped a male and female rabbit in a section of the Outback where there was sufficient food and water and few natural predators. There would quickly be more rabbits, multiplying in comfort and safety. Their outlook (to the extent that rabbits have an outlook) would be pretty positive, right?

But with all those rabbits, food gets eaten, prime spots for warrens get used, and new predators are attracted to this new source of food. Diseases might emerge in such a large population. Before the rabbits know it, there is trouble in paradise. If the rabbits are lucky, their population might adjust and stabilize; however, because they were introduced artificially, it is as likely that these rabbits might disappear. What will be their outlook and attitude as they move into this waning phase? They might be fighting each other for their very lives, so their attitude is going to be nervous, anxious, hostile. The world is going to look like a very fearful place.

### ***Signs of a species in transition***

We can recognize a species in transition by observing their behavior. Of course, they appear fulfilled and healthy when things are good. But whether it is rabbits or humans, when the species sense a threat to the status quo—to the conditions they have thrived under—they are likely to resist it and do everything in their power to stop it. If they can't stop it, they will deny it, ignore it, and negate it. Although ultimately they will likely not be successful, in the short term we will likely see rage, anger, and frustration. Aren't we seeing wars, killing, and destruction as current evidence of an unwelcome environmental and social challenge to humans, and our response to it?

Even in hard times we can try to give thanks for obstacles because they represent the stuff of which lives of purpose and passion are made. As we move forward, we will continue to feel resistance. As we see this happening, we will know that we are on the new path and moving away from the path that got us here but no longer works in the new conditions. This is a paradox that humans lack the wisdom and maturity to comprehend: We must retain the unchanging wisdom of the ages while changing our actions as necessary to adjust to changing needs, conditions, and environments. In this event, existing species will wane while new and emerging ones respond to new niches. This is all well and good, unless you are in the waning group!

There are strong signs that modern humans (species *Homo sapiens*, sub-species *Homo sapiens sapiens*) are feeling the threatening effects of environmental change. One obvious sign is that successful species always control their populations by adjusting to the available resources and needed territory. This territorial imperative \* extends beyond the needs of the individual. When animals drive away their own offspring, we shake our heads and wonder how they could be so cruel. But that choice guarantees the survival of those offspring and many more. Our human approach would have been to feed and nurture our offspring, encouraging them to remain and overpopulate the territory until the resources were exhausted. This scenario happened on Easter Island, and it is happening on a global scale as we speak.

Somehow, we have modified reality to meet our needs by saying that our huge numbers (due to population explosion) is proof of our success as a species. We even insist that we are some sort of divine and godly being above the rest of life on Earth who were created specially to own, rule, and use all of Creation. But the facts say otherwise. Science confirms that we are as much a part of Creation as the rose or lily and are subject to its absolute balance and justice. It is just as inevitable that our species will give way to future species as it is for any other life-form. In fact, it is more so because we are overcrowding and destroying the very environment that gave us life in the first place. We are creating the very changes that we so fear. If we were a healthy, viable, sustainable species, we would be controlling our numbers and integrating with our environment instead of over-populating and destroying it. Communicable diseases like AIDS, which stem directly from our unhealthy and excessive reproductive behavior (often combined with drug and chemical misuse), are further proof that we are an ailing species rather than the healthy and wildly successful species we imagine ourselves to be.

\* The Territorial Imperative, Robert Ardrey, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Ardrey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Ardrey)

### ***How smart are humans?***

Just how smart are we? Our minds and our ability to reason are our strong characteristics and our response to the niche we fill. But are our brilliant scholars and scientists on the verge of creating life in the laboratory or uncovering the mystery of Creation and the birth of the cosmos? In this area, we may have been a little overly self-generous.

Have you ever been in a room when the sun shined through the window and you could see the dust particles in the air? It is perfectly plausible that within each speck of dust, and a million times smaller, are entire cosmos like ours. They developed over eons according to their clocks, but it all happened in just a moment or two according to ours. Wave your hand through the dust, and you may be wiping out entire civilizations.

Likewise, we may be in one of those specks of dust on some world of incredible size, with the entire span of our Creation being just a few seconds by their time scale. So despite our self-congratulatory unraveling of the secrets of Creation, we are instead

*clueless*. We can accumulate scientific knowledge in our little sphere of sensory influence, but beyond that we lack any perspective whatsoever. In fact, our senses work in our surrounding environment only where they are needed; for the enormous range of realities outside our immediate environment, we lack the senses to perceive.

Yes, we are intelligent beings, and we should use that intelligence to live passionate and productive lives. But we are not separate from the rest of life on Earth; rather, we are (or should be) integrated, living within the boundaries of available geography and resources, and certainly not destroying the rest of the ecology. The word for this integration is “sustainability,” meaning that because we are a part of the whole of life on Earth, we are living in an integrated way that supports all life and will continue to do so in 50, 500, or 5,000 years—environmental changes permitting.

## **Chapter 6: Seaweed in the Sea**

(a true story)

I had tropical fish when I was a boy, and I discovered a problem with fish tanks: When you add plants to them, whether for appearance or to add oxygen to the water, the fish chew on and consume them. Recently, some enterprising folks in the eastern U.S. bred a species of seaweed (*Caulerpa taxifolia*) that the fish would leave alone.

Some of this seaweed found its way to an aquarium at the Oceanographic Institute in Monaco (run for 30 years by Jacques Cousteau). When this aquarium was being cleaned, the old water—with the seaweed—was dumped over the balcony and into the sea. Away the seaweed went, growing and multiplying, easily overpowering the natural marine plant life.\*

\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caulerpa\\_taxifolia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caulerpa_taxifolia)

Remember, fish won't eat it. Therefore, all the fish, snails, and bottom-dwellers that have lived in the underwater flora have quickly lost their natural environment and have all but disappeared.

This stuff is practically impossible to kill. It multiplies so quickly that the naked eye can almost see it grow. It is all over Europe and has migrated back to the U.S. You would admire its healthy appearance, until you realize what is happening. Worried naturalists are struggling to know what to do.

The point is that the appearance of a species and its rapid population growth don't necessarily mean success. In fact, the “rapid” part should raise a red flag. Healthy organisms appear gradually in response to gradual changes to the environment, controlling their populations at any cost to ensure survival and health. Mutations rarely occur (like the seaweed), but usually these mutations are not successful because they did not integrate gradually into the Balance of Nature.

## Chapter 7: Who's the Enemy?

The enemy of a living thing is anything or anyone who threatens that entity's freedom, purpose, meaning, or passion. For example, we are robbing living things of their freedom when we put animals in zoos or destroy their native habitat by cutting down a rain forest. For humans, the apparent enemy manifests itself as: big, impersonal, faceless cities; power-hungry governments and their leaders; greedy and dishonest corporations; and even the use of religion to justify aggression or to gain advantage—anything that detracts from the primacy of humans living their lives in their community. The difference is that, with humans, *we* are the enemy, *we* are the ones robbing our freedom from ourselves. Cities and religion are not bad; the real enemy is that quirk of humanity called “free agency,” or human nature, which convinces us to give away our own passion, purpose, vitality, freedom, and responsibility for the false promise of a 7,000-year-old lie.\*

However, it is worth asking, “Then how *do* happy and healthy humans live?” The answer is: “Although the details of our lives and actions differ due to many factors of environment and circumstance, globally humans are 99.9% the same. But every group, community, tribe of humans must own and defend their own responsibilities and way of life. Call it by whatever name you choose, but it is the recipe for happy, healthy humans living lives of passion and purpose.

\* The 7000-year-old lie says that some leader or sage can take care of us, protect us, insure our prosperity, better than we can. Apparently the ancient Egyptians had already bought into this belief, because they submitted to being pulled from their homes and families to build pyramids and fight wars of conquest at the behest of their ruling class.

### ***The enemies of today***

1. Gross over-population
2. Gross over-complexity (the economy, law, politics—anything that excludes you and me from understanding and owning our own affairs and our own destinies)
3. Self-centeredness and the addictive pursuit of materialism, now on a global scale
4. Self-justification – For me to be right, you must be wrong
5. Fear

Here's a present-day example of how self-justification and complexity can create a global problem:

- The Middle East is lashing out in anger at the West, and of course the West believes their animosity to be both provocative and untrue.
- However, decades ago, the West colonized and apportioned the Ottoman Empire, and has since exploited these people and manipulated their leaders in order to benefit from their resources (mainly oil) and labor.
- Now, due in large part to the West consuming far beyond their own available resources, these exploited countries are benefitting from the wealth we have transferred to them; amassing and wielding power; and demanding their

- share of the pie.
- They are rubbing our bullying ways in our face, and of course we don't like it.

So let's not beat around the bush: The enemy is us. All of us. You and I got us into this mess (yes, we did, and we're presently making it worse), and only you and I can get us out.

"Oh, you're being catastrophic. Anyone can predict gloom and doom. Humans will be around for millions of years." No, not on our present course. The way humans presently live, is a way that the Earth cannot support – it is unsustainable.

The one downside of the wonderful ability of life on Earth to bounce back from almost any catastrophe is that it creates a false sense of security. The Earth can appear pristine and timeless just seconds before a tsunami, meteor, or nuclear bomb hits. But in the case of man-made threats, by the time the threat reaches a critical point, it is too late to correct. In the past, even severe problems have been regional. Now they are global and, hence, much more potentially serious or even fatal.

It is tempting as well as pointless to anthropomorphize Earth and life on it. However, one can envision a children's book where we keep cutting down trees and killing billions of animals and plants and wiping out entire species, and the Earth and life just keep innocently coming back for more. We bludgeon and murder animals (for instance, baby harp seals), and in their naïve and guileless way they look into our eyes with no hate or malice, until we have exterminated them.

By contrast, what do humans do when we're hurt or threatened? Often, we live an entire lifetime of hate and rage at those who we believe wronged us. Does that make us a superior species? Or merely an unhappy one?

An example of what humans are capable of doing to themselves, while denying that their actions and choices play a part, is the melting of the polar ice caps. Most of us realize that this is happening and that human activities and numbers are at least contributing to this process. But what many don't realize is that whereas ice is white, the oceans are practically black. Black absorbs heat, while white reflects it. Therefore, as the ice melts, the water that it becomes absorbs the sun's heat that the white ice was deflecting, thus raising temperatures and magnifying the melting effect. Our actions are aggravating the rule of physics that light colors reflect energy and dark ones absorb it. It may already be too late to do anything. If the oceans continue to rise, as predicted, millions of humans will be displaced, will starve, and will die from disease.

Fortunately for life on Earth so far, global natural catastrophes have been rare. Otherwise, we wouldn't be here. But humans have increased the opportunities for catastrophes in at least two ways:

1. There are so many humans, that events that wouldn't normally be a problem become disasters (hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanoes, earthquakes, fires).

2. Humans, by their excessive numbers, are causing catastrophes (e.g., global warming, changes in weather patterns and temperatures, nuclear warfare, wars, fires, destruction of the ozone layer, even earthquakes).

As a result, the chance for catastrophes is escalating rapidly. It is only a matter of time until two or more of these catastrophes happen in tandem. When this happens, the thin fabric of society will be rent, and humanity, supposedly civilized, will revert to a very primitive level. The result will be a reality more terrible than the most frightening horror movie or story you've ever heard or can imagine. Do I know when this will happen? No. Do I know if the events will be a nuclear blast and meteor strike, a mega-volcanic eruption and deadly tsunami, or a pandemic for which there is no immunization and rapid rise of ocean levels? No. But if this scenario is a possibility, whether it happens in 2 years or 200 years, wouldn't it make sense to do our part to protect not only ourselves but all life on Earth? Remember, we are the servants, those picked to carry life (in its best aspect) to the stars.

### ***Posturing is not pretty***

There is a worse enemy than simultaneous natural disasters. ("We have met the enemy and he is us."—Pogo \*) I'm sure I share a frustration with many of you, when I watch the world's leaders, including ours, posturing and prancing and promoting themselves on behalf of their respective nations. They give away or squander our hard-earned money, and in many cases they send it off to Swiss bank accounts for when they get ousted, or give lucrative contracts to their cronies.

What also concerns me is the uneven division of who decides what. A few people spend the money, make the decisions, and wield the power. The rest of us, believing ourselves to be impotent and powerless, do nothing. This is not a recipe for a 100% life of passion and purpose but for a life of meaninglessness. I want to live 100% of my life with all the joy, challenges, suffering, successes, and right and wrong choices that go with it. Do you? Are you as willing as I am to work for it, dream of it, and fight and struggle on the path to it?

Could it be that in this imbalance is the seed of our new lives? Through adversity, we get to see that we have a purpose, a passion, a challenge, and a destiny. For youth who are in this process of passionate discovery, it just doesn't get any better. The same could be said for the youth in us adults!

\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogo\\_\(comic\\_strip\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogo_(comic_strip))

## **Chapter 8: The Way Out**

We have described where we want to be (our vision), as well as the truth of who and what we currently are. Now we need to begin to set some goals, which we shall do in the next chapter. In the U.S., we don't seem to have any long-term goals or any goals at all.\*

Successful corporations use goals and long-range plans, but countries apparently float with little sense of direction, responding to the next political, regional, or international crisis (management by crisis). Worse, politicians avoid committing to long-term plans and goals because for every person who agrees with their approach, there's another against it. So they make vague generalizations and tell each special interest group what they want to hear, without giving any details of what they will actually do or when they will do it.

\* In searching for goals of the U.S., nothing was found. By contrast, The United Nations' Millennium Development Goals are eight international development goals that all 193 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organizations have agreed to achieve by the year 2015.

What do your senses tell you? Does any of what you've read so far ring true? Are you living fully at 100%? Is your life in your community filled with passion, purpose, and meaning? Would you like it to be?

If so, there is one way to get there: We humans need to re-group, simplify, and re-join the rest of life on Earth, where we previously belonged for over 1 million years. The question then becomes, "Can *Homo sapiens sapiens*—modern man—make this re-joining?" The answer is, it won't be easy, and it may be impossible. A species can make small and gradual modifications in response to minor and gradual changes in their environment, but not huge ones. It was the old and no-longer-existing environment—unlimited geography and resources - that created the niche that originally made us successful, and we will do *anything* to retain that former reality. The way nature deals with significant environmental changes is by natural selection, where old species give way to new ones better adapted to the new conditions. As concerning as our many current social issues are, we are amazingly reluctant to change, especially when it means any temporary suffering, inconvenience, loss of comfort, or threat to safety. For instance, we need to stop polluting; however, instead of stopping, we'll let companies buy pollution credits so they can continue making money even if they are polluting. And then there's oil. Our situation with oil has created a possibly fatal worldwide nuclear threat: Countries are developing weapons with our oil money and our technology. Yet we continue buying oil and goods and pouring billions of dollars into the bank accounts of countries that are arming themselves with intent to threaten and destabilize and even to destroy us, and they are enjoying the advantages of our hard-earned money to do it! (this gives new meaning to the saying "A fool and his money are soon parted").

But don't despair. When Madagascar separated from the African continent eons ago, the species that drifted with it and then began to change in response to a changed environment were not aware that they were forerunners of new species. They just enjoyed the success that their individual attributes brought them. For example, one individual bird might have had a smaller beak and was thus able to extract insects from new, smaller flowers more efficiently. This bird did not realize that it passed on this characteristic over generations and eventually created a new species. Likewise, you and I might take one side or the other of the following two premises:

- "Yes, I believe that the environment that favored modern humans has changed,

- and I identify with those who want to re-join the Balance of Nature.”
- “This is the most ridiculous thing I’ve ever read. Life as we are living it now is just fine. Modern humans will be around in a million years.”

This schism in the way we view life is exactly the selection process that begins to differentiate individuals and spawn new species in response to new niches created by changes in the environment. So identify with one side or the other, give yourself to that belief 100%, and don’t look back.

This is one book that can’t be read passively. It must become a living document, meaning you must make this vision yours by adding your input, suggestions, and criticisms. That will lead to a small but critical mass of passionate, courageous, heroic, pioneering new humans, and from there to a new chapter in human affairs.

*ACTION: Write your responses to the following: How has our environment changed, and how is it still changing? Are we the cause of any of the changes? What would it look like for us to live in balance with nature, with Earth and life on it?*

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Chapter 9: How Do Happy, Healthy Humans Live?

ANSWER: 100% Humans live in communities, villages, or tribes (by whatever name).

To understand the new, we need to get to the wisdom of the old. From bipedal Lucy 3.2 million years ago, \* to our recent ancestors, humans lived in groups, tribes, villages, hamlets, towns, communities. We aren't bears; we don't live a solitary existence, no matter what your single cousin in Schenectady tells you. Like chimps and dolphins, we live and find our meaning and purpose in social groups. We require socialization (society) and communication with others (emotion, vocalization, play).

\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucy\\_\(Australopithecus\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucy_(Australopithecus)), and other bi-pedal skeletons have been found, which date back to 4.4 million years.

But with their departure from Africa, modern humans (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) were revealed to be a restless, aggressive species. In the early going, the group or community was essential to survival. However, more recently, we found we could drop our affiliation to the community if we just acquired enough things, power, and material wealth. This is a deadly snare—an addiction—because in the realm of the material, there is never enough, never the promised safety and security. Never satisfied, we compulsively hunger for more. 7000 years ago we sold out to the lie that “governments will take care of most of my needs, especially the ones that I don't care much about, so I can spend all my time in pursuit of my favorite hobby - me!”

Stephen R. Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People*, \* describes three levels of the growth to maturity:

- Dependence (childhood)
- Independence (adolescence) – “I can do it myself!”
- Interdependence (adulthood, maturity) – “No man is an island”

\* [7 Habits of Highly Successful People](#), Stephen R. Covey

You might be thinking that, although the community you grew up in had some pleasant childhood memories, now you are ‘independent’ so you are beyond that, no longer need it. Just give me more land, or new land, or better crops. Then I need a car, a house, and a mate. Or, you live in the developing world where you don't have these things, but the

hypocrisy and over-indulgence of those who do is rubbed in your face and clashes with your beliefs and values. So your attitude is “If I can’t have these things, I’ll resent those who do, and I’ll seek to undermine their life of perceived privilege and expose the hypocrisy I see. “

Although understandable, this is a strange and macabre twist to “The meek shall inherit the Earth.” \* In this scenario, the downtrodden and rage-filled try to overpower and vanquish the developed elite, simultaneously turning on each other. When the carnage is over, those innocents who survived (the meek) start over in another cycle of idealistic growth, acquisition of power and wealth, domination, and eventual overthrow.

Our ancestors struggled against life’s obstacles, gaining maturity, wisdom, and realistic humility. But succeeding generations want the victory without the ownership, the benefits without the responsibility and struggle. That is the process by which people de-mature, regressing to a self-centered, pseudo-adolescent state. It is similar to animals in a zoo, where we pretty up a cage and pretend that the caged animal is equal to and as fulfilled as the same animal in its natural environment.

\* From the Beatitudes in the Bible, see Books of Luke and Matthew in the New Testament

### ***Life in community***

To get to know any species, you observe them to see how they live their lives. Humans, being social animals, have lived in groups since prehistoric times. Suddenly, modern humans emerged and quickly became addicted to expanding, stockpiling food, and accumulating possessions. The development of agriculture allowed nomadic tribes to have stable communities. But manufacturing and technology have significantly removed the social group dynamic, drawing people away from family and community and toward faceless, impersonal cities. The lure is the enticement of freedom from obligations and responsibilities. But this apparent freedom can quickly become loneliness, depression, and bondage.

“Yes, but my family and my small town stifled me. I needed to get away on my own, to find myself.” No, you didn’t need to get away, but rather to insert yourself into your community, insisting that as you participate and do your part, your community meets your needs and those of your family. And, yes, as you are doing your part, your community must also reach out to you and meet you halfway.

“Why should I have to make this effort?” Why shouldn’t you? Freedom is won only through struggle, wisdom, and maturity. Unfortunately, materialism gives us more options to indulge and gratify the “self.” Worldwide media exposure insures that the rest of the world sees our over-indulgence and hypocrisy, and it is sometimes not a pretty sight. They see the narcissism and greed, which the media usually exaggerates, and they resent it, but at the same time they want it for themselves. This illusion of happiness and success in life through the acquisition of material possessions is the biggest of all human lies. It is a deception on the magnitude of mass hypnosis (the neurosis of civilization), \* and it is killing us. Our nations and governments woo us by promising “prosperity,” and

we actually believe them and vote for them so they can promise us more. To unravel this puzzle requires a *very* hard look in the mirror.

We might better understand this false promise if it provided safety and stability and a comfortable life that we could not reliably find on our own. But this alluring promise of guaranteed protection and material prosperity is a house of cards, susceptible to the slightest breeze, and the breezes are currently blowing - just look around. We continue having children with nowhere for them to go and nothing for them to do, and they expect others to feed them and meet their needs. Does this seem realistic to you?

\* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypnosis>, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilization\\_and\\_Its\\_Discontents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilization_and_Its_Discontents)

## **Relationships**

Because humans are such social animals, no analysis of how happy, healthy humans live would be complete without a description of the part relationships play in human life.

Of course, relationships are important. When you listen to music—a universal human constant—you will discover that it deals with relationships in *every* human group and society. What are we singing about as we raise our children, do our work; and build our community? Relationships. They're behind every waking thought and action.

The media, advertisements, and movies are all about relationships. Are they about healthy relationships? I'll let you decide.

People who are 100% passionate and purposeful are immersed in relationships. In fact, they rarely think of themselves because they direct most of their energy outward toward relationships and activities involving family and community. By being in relationships, their personal needs are met.

Likewise, this lack of self-interest is seen in nature. Put a house cat in front of a mirror, and you will find that it shows little interest in self. But bring another cat into the room - that's another story.

Whereas an exaggerated focus on the self is neurotic and unnatural, a focus outside the self is natural. This must be part of our equation for the 100% life of passion. We love the innocence of babies and animals. Conversely, it is sad to observe youth and adults who have lost that innocence of wide-eyed curiosity and outward focus, wanting to regain it, trying and struggling but never quite succeeding. Humans will go through countless surgeries to preserve their youth. They'll use sex to try to restore some passion and self-worth. They mistakenly think that money and material possessions lead to success and happiness.

This book will show you how to succeed, to regain those 100% relationships that our ancestors had for eons, and to identify exactly who and what are the modern enemies of those relationships—that is, who and what we must fight. This return to lives of passion and purpose will be the proof that we have correctly identified how happy, healthy

humans live.

## ***Current social practices and institutions that are broken***

The complex equation of optimal healthy human population size is broken. Many animal species instinctively self-restrict their numbers to the available geography and resources – for the rest, disease and predation automatically control population size. Not so for humans. If the world consumed at western levels (as they are rushing to do), we would require not just all of Earth's resources, but the resources of 4 planet Earths! \*

\* <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2004/nov/11/thisweeksciencequestions1>

The institutions of government, power, and politics are broken, obsolete. Ignoring the inner voice of our passion and purpose, we abdicated our duties and responsibilities, expecting some distant government functionary to provide what we should be providing for ourselves in our families and communities. Every responsibility, every power, and every dollar we give them is a move against our 100% lives of passion and purpose. The clarion call of our movement is to take every parcel of our responsibility back.

How well are your nation and government working? How safe, happy, and productive are you? Do you own your destiny, or do you believe that others hold all the power, with you either focusing solely on yourself or fostering generation after generation of dependency, revenge, and hate?

We hear about liberals and conservatives, democracy and socialism, opposing ideologies and religions. We hide behind these labels to get what we want at another's expense, to justify our excesses, and to be "right."

Big nations and governments are born of a flaw: They are created from the power we give away. "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." \* This is why these institutions are obsolete. They may have served some purpose in the distant past, but now they are robbing us of our lives of passion and authenticity.

\* Baron John Dalberg-Acton

Our vision of governance should be completely consistent with our vision of a self-determined life, asking "How do happy, healthy humans live?" Our 100% ownership of our lives in our communities should be our model for governance. We must take back our ownership and then wage a constant battle to retain it. Divided humans are utterly ineffective and powerless. But there is tremendous power in humans united in a common vision, purpose, plan. Humans thus united are 1,000 times more powerful than the biggest nation, government, army general, or dictator. After all, there are 7 billion of us and just a few thousand of them. Pursuing a life consistent with who we are and how we

live is the basis for the 100% life. Thus united, re-invented, government and corporate leaders will be forced to relinquish their addiction to power and control, and resume their rightful and reduced role as servants to us, the people:

- Governments are now *public servants* who serve rather than dictate.
- Corporations and businesses serve their customers, who are again always (or at least usually) right!.

## ***Steps and actions to define and begin working toward our vision***

The following are questions we need to ask as we do an honest self-assessment. After you consider these points, you will write a mission statement, a plan, and some goals. Of course we hope that joining Community Groove and speaking out with your concerns and ideas, will be an important item in your list of plans:

1. Know yourself; ask “How important am I?” do some soul-searching; be clear about your motives.
2. Take stock; recognize the good and bad things you do.
3. Retain total responsibility for your life and the destinies in your family and community.
4. Sweep your sidewalk; acknowledge the mistakes you (and I) have made, even if unintentional. It’s not that we can go back or make up for something done generations ago, but we *can* change our actions to preclude further harm and even undo damage we may have caused.
5. Be vigilant in maintaining this self-policing process.
6. Make sure all decisions and actions pass the sustainability test. That is, if we take this action, what will be the effect now and in 5, 50, or 500 years?

*ACTION: In the space below the following examples, list a Mission Statement for you, some Values, and Goals:*

Your Mission Statement = A phrase that describes who you are.

Example Mission Statement: “I am a person who wants to change the world. My primary motivator is recognition (and I’m learning slowly to give that to myself). I’m serious, sensitive, and funny in a dry-humor sort of way! I strive to be honest, open, and loving.”

List your Values = 3-5 important principles that guide and define your life.

Example Values:

- I Feel a responsibility to protect Earth and life on it
- I want to love and be loved, and I believe the rest of the world’s humans want this too
- I Want humans in every corner of the world to take back their freedom, passion



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## ***Changes in business, science, and technology***

Happy, healthy humans employ the business process of free enterprise to insure that we get the best products and services for our money. Few would disagree that some wealthy multi-national corporations attempt to wield power beyond the scope of their normal business activities (which are providing goods and services; satisfying customers; making a profit for their owners and stockholders; employing people; being a good community neighbor), and to gain special favors through donations to candidates and collusion with government departments and officials). Next to these coercive activities, the individual citizen and us consumers are powerless, except when united in large numbers. A donation of a few million dollars from a wealthy business or special-interest group can negate thousands of our votes. Why is that wrong? It's wrong because a democracy is a government of the people. We the people have a voice that should not be nullified by those with wealth and power.

Science and technology comprise another institution that is broken in terms of its vision. Don't get me wrong: Science and technology are the most dramatic examples of the unique contributions of modern humans. But picture this: It is a million years ago, and a creative and enterprising human individual suddenly conjures up an idea and creates a knife. Then, in his glee, he starts stabbing people with it. It's a great invention but a disastrous use of it. Aren't we doing the same thing with science and technology? We do basically anything because we can make money or increase our power with no plan or moral filter that asks, "Are there consequences?" We justify: "Well, if we don't do it, the next scientific team or nation will, so we might as well." And if there is profit to be made, then consequences be damned. Money and power seem to trump prudence every time.

The Three R's (Reduce, Return, Results) gives us this moral filter. The pursuit of our vision and principles is what will restore us to the lives of passion that we have only dreamed about.

The rest of science and technology, including medicine, has at least one guiding principle, even though it lacks the moral filter: the scientific method. This begins with a hypothesis and a conclusion; progresses to experiments yielding proof that the conclusion is valid; and concludes with the requirement that the experiments must be replicated by others as the ultimate test of validity. If scientists don't always apply the test of whether what they are doing is good, at least we can have confidence that their assumptions and conclusions are correct factually and to a high degree of probability.

There is one exception.

The science of psychology and psychiatry has regressed and de-matured. The reason is simple: humans have regressed and de-matured. What used to be a genuine personal concern for the emotional and mental well-being of our family members and neighbors has regressed to a species-wide obsession with ourselves and our problems. It makes zero difference whether the patient is in the West lying on a psychiatrist's couch or in the East plotting to kill people and themselves in retaliation for decades of manipulation and abuse.

You might think that when someone is suffering emotionally, this is the one time when they are in need of the healing benefits of relationships. Yet where we once spent time with the patient via counseling and psycho-analysis, giving him/her a chance to work through their issues, we now have no time. We're too impatient; we don't have time for those who are hurting. Those who hurt are lured by advertising and media to the promise of instant relief or a quick fix. Enter science and technology, with pills and the Internet, the latter offering electronic relationships and virtual sex. Now we are seeing kids grow up who are incapable of adult relationships, unhealthy, overeating, addicted to computers, into sinister thinking and acting, struggling to find meaning, and unsure of their worth and sexuality. Can you imagine a world where suicide is the third largest killer of children? How about a world with over 13 million orphans (kids who have lost both parents)? Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

This doesn't have to be. It can change, and it can change quickly. Read on.

### ***Democracy is just a four-letter word***

I know, it's really nine letters. But I'm afraid this word is suffering from overuse and bad associations. Some say "The West thinks everyone should have democracy, so they push it on us whether we want it or not" or "Democracy is an excuse for rich people to buy and do what they want." But it is not up to any group of people to decide how another group should live. Every human community must claim its own affairs. Perhaps it is better to drop labels like "democracy" and just focus on how happy, healthy humans are designed to naturally live.

### ***Prof. Tytler's quote:***

To explain this cycle, here's an interesting quote that has been popular since at least the 1950s and that may have been wrongly attributed to Scottish professor Alexander Fraser Tytler in 1784, referring to democracies in the early city-states of Athens and that region. Regardless, the popularity of this quote has spoken for itself:

"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the

public treasury.

From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship.

The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years.

Great nations rise and fall.

The people go from bondage to spiritual truth,

to great courage,

from courage to liberty,

from liberty to abundance,

from abundance to selfishness,

from selfishness to complacency,

from complacency to apathy,

from apathy to dependence,

from dependence back again to bondage.”

## ***Sex and sensuality***

Mankind got into trouble when we discovered and then idolized self-awareness (were expelled from the Garden of Eden). Nothing better defines the extent of this trouble than the absolute disaster we have made of the most basic, vital, and miraculous process of all living things: reproduction.

In nature, sex has ensured that each species mates and reproduce itself, creates offspring, survives, sends forward its fittest members (those with the most successful traits) to succeed and thrive in their niche.

Thousands of years ago, humans were hunter-gatherers and nomads. The development of agriculture allowed them to stay in one place, put down roots, store food for the winter. To keep these former wanderers in the community, where they were needed to tend the fields and protect the community, women developed permanently enlarged breasts, while men developed larger penises in recognition of the relatively larger role of (or their obsession with) sex.

One thing that maturity (what I have of it) has taught me is to pay attention to the signs that my body and emotions give me. If I'm angry, that is a sign. The signs I receive regarding my sexuality are also very important, and it behooves me to pay attention to them.

Sex gets a bum rap. It is simply the way most animals reproduce. What us modern humans call sex is all about a species that has forgotten how to live fully. Many of us don't acknowledge or enjoy our sensuality. We live 30% lives, lacking self-esteem. We grovel in guilt and remorse and then using phoniness and deception to get what we want. We restrict and inhibit our children's natural curiosity and sensuality. Enterprising businesses and marketers sell our sensuality back to us with toothpastes, breast implants,

and Viagra.

Picture the following scenario: An average Western family is at home. The television is on. The shows—whether cartoons, comedies, or adult themes—are riddled with violence and sexual innuendo. The commercials are worse. Children are exposed to adultery, erectile dysfunction, violence of every description, cage boxing, and rap music (much of which glamorizes hate and vulgarity). From the constant reference to sex in virtually every program, the children observe that their parents and society are obsessed with this subject. Is it any surprise that, after 13 to 15 years of this constant background brainwashing, the average Western adolescent is sexually confused? In the rest of the world, sexuality is dealt with somewhat differently. Many developing countries are very Victorian in their approach to sex, whereas other countries are in denial (often violently), forcing women to disappear as a means to eliminate the very suggestion of sex, and killing those who defy convention. In many homes, children are exposed to adults full of hate who are bent on violence and revenge. We should cringe at all of this equally because it is all the same, all bad, all wrong, and all a symptom of a sick and waning species out of control.

Healthy sexuality is a by-product of the 100% Solution. Healthy sexuality returns when the frustrated and sick obsession with the self leaves. Families live in communities. A community *is* a family—an extended family. Marriage is an institution designed to protect families and optimize the chance for children to get the best start in life. If this equation breaks down, as it most certainly has, the quality of parenting falls and the level of frustration and anger quickly rises, as it has. Perversion, anger, hate, even murder are the result. The dysfunction is seen equally in the West (where liberalism has twisted itself into a people obsessed with and addicted to sex) and the East (where women are oppressed and suicide bombers believe Heaven will reward them with 50 willing and anxious virgins).

## ***Violence***

The fascination with violence is disturbing. Whereas many areas of the world are experiencing violence, other areas are selling it: violent movies, games, songs, and even violent sex. We manufacture weapons of all shapes and sizes and sell them to anyone who can pay for them. This should be an indication to us of a species out of control. If we continue to deify violence (and make no mistake, we are doing this in the U.S., Great Britain, North Korea, China, Iran, and the Middle East), we will bring a horrendous calamity upon ourselves. This is more than a prediction; it is a prophecy you can count on!

## ***Picture the world at peace***

Go ahead. Close your eyes and try it. I want to know what you see, your view of life. It is this view, along with the combined view of others, that is the vision, passion, and power that will transform humanity and restore the Earth. Here's mine:

I'm skimming across the Earth, continent by continent, and I see vistas of green and other colors, lakes and rivers, savannahs, mountains, and hills. I see animals and plants of every description. At intervals, I pass over villages interspersed amidst the landscape. These villages blend into the surrounding environment. Going closer, I see humans are busy, active, involved in their communities. Going into these villages, each is a self-contained group of humans. Lives are being lived; work, love, children, families, all happen in communities. These communities are not isolated from the high-tech world of science and technology; rather, they are connected across the world and have an instant voice in global matters. But other than the occasional larger issue, these villages and tribes are self-contained. Their members own 100% of their responsibilities, actions, destinies. They receive most of the profit from their labors, take care of their own members, and stay connected with neighboring communities and communities all over the world, teaming up with and assisting them when needed. In my vision, here are some of the things I DON'T see:

	YES	NO
Do I see big cities?		X
Large nations?		X
Central governments?		X
Manipulation of others by those in power?		X
Hate, revenge, killing of your own species?		X
Rationalizing, justifying, excusing?		X
Hiding behind religion?		X
Rich and poor?		X
Welfare, foreign aid, "help?" (except in community)		X

In this vision, are people suffering? Some are. However, most healthy species don't suffer—they thrive. "Yes, but you are being cruel. There are people starving in the world today." Yes, some are currently suffering, but that is not a reason for more government, more aid. It is *because* of it. Our very future depends on refusing the outstretched hand of government and taking our lives and freedom back. All the world's communities (not governments) own the task of helping those in need. In fact, if you analyze where help for the world's needy comes from, you will find that this is already happening – help, real help for the truly needy, comes from non-governmental organizations, churches, charities, shelters, soup kitchens, and countless other humanitarian sources.

If you want to create a personal mosaic for a 100% life of passion and purpose, there is no way you can add modern nations and governments to the picture and get the result of happier, healthier humans. Instead, with large and powerful central governments, you get

what we presently have: 30% lives of quiet desperation. This has been going on for 7,000 years – ancient Egyptians were already being conscripted by their government to leave their homes and families to build pyramids and fight wars of conquest. Government intrusion into our lives has been going on for so long that we think our 30% lives are normal and the best we can expect. We’ve never known anything different.

“But that’s the way it is. We may be at 30%, but this is predictable, safe, and even comfortable. Can you promise that if we go from where we are to your vision, there won’t be suffering?”

No, I can’t. But I can promise 100% lives of passion and purpose for those with the vision and courage to dream of what life *could* be. I can also promise this: If we do nothing, but keep doing what is not sustainable and cannot continue, the suffering will be 10,000 times greater than if we summon our courage and do what we know is right. Do the right thing now, or suffer horribly later. And I’m talking about a few years later. Therefore, unless you only have a year or two to live, don’t expect to avoid the catastrophe and pass it off to your kids!

Let’s look at change another way. Our choices are to do nothing, do something, or create a sea change. We are already doing something. Ask yourself if what you see being done will remedy the problems we face and prepare us for those catastrophes-in-tandem (which will come, possibly soon). If not, then you have chosen by default the sea-change option. Now ask yourself: “Can we do it?” My assessment:

- By us (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) doing it alone? NO.
- By Mother Nature, in response to changes that have already occurred and are occurring in the environment, closing out old niches and creating new ones? YES. However, a side effect of this choice could be unimaginable suffering on the part of us modern humans.
- By us uniting in our worldwide communities (not via politicians, governments, or nations) and communicating, cooperating, working together to re-join the Balance of Nature, thus working in concert with Mother Nature and all life on Earth? YES, and RECOMMENDED.

Are you familiar with the concept of the anti-Christ? The premise is that, as things get worse, there will be a single world-wide leader who will rescue humanity. This dangerous situation must never be allowed to happen. Were humans to give all our power to one person or group of people, we would be doomed. Yet through the “economy” (our addiction to materialism and greed) and through wars (our addiction to fear, hate, and revenge), we’re moving quickly to the elevation and deification of some universal anti-Christ. Watch out. Nazi Germany was an example of how quickly a deadly “savior” can sneak up on the unaware. It can happen to any of us.

## **Chapter 10: Alternative Futures**

So far, we have considered humanity—who we are, how we got here, what is our

purpose, and what are our goals. Now we need to address the vital response: “What do we do now and do differently to restore (or progress to) 100% lives of passion and purpose?” What are our roles? Who does what and when?

### ***Life in 200 years***

As we did before, it might help to pretend we are observers from another world. These beings saw the Earth 100,000 years ago, 5,000 years ago, 500 years ago, and then presently. Now we return again just 200 years later (say, in the year 2200).

*I really* want to know what *you*, the reader, see. As I previously mentioned, this book cannot be read passively. It is not a one-way delivery of anything but the beginning of a dialogue, collaboration, a grass-roots movement, and the assembling of a small and courageous critical mass of humans on a new path. Without your effort and involvement, it is nothing; it is worthless. You must share *your* vision. You will be acknowledged and answered. You can easily do this at our website (see Appendix II).

*ACTION: At the end of this chapter, write about the world you see in 200 years. If you describe a bleak world, then describe what your alternative, positive outcome would look like.*

### ***Vision 1***

I have two separate and equally vivid visions. In the first, things look somewhat like they do today, only more so. There is much more technology, science, and medicine. Developing nations have moved closer to Western levels of materialism and consumption. The world’s oceans have risen a matter of inches, with global warming having been a contributing factor. The human population is at 11 billion. Wars and diseases have escalated with the increasing population and massive migrations from countries in Asia, the eastern seaboard of the U.S., and myriad other places where rising sea levels have overcome the property of millions of humans. There is a growing realization that Earth’s resources cannot sustain us. Complexity has advanced, and with it comes a growing frustration, confusion, and skepticism of our leaders, experts, and their motives.

The one thing that is noticeably different is a series of significant natural events. The easiest way to describe these is chronologically:

2018—The continuing worldwide economic instability causes the World Monetary Fund to monitor and control national economies.

2020—A terrorist group who occupies the government of their country unleashes a nuclear weapon before international pressure can intervene.

2030—A pandemic is created because of the over-use of antibiotics and drugs in general and the increase of new virus strains unaffected by existing drugs.

2050—A significant rise in ocean levels forces displacement and massive hunger and suffering of hundreds of thousands of people in developing countries.

2080—A minor asteroid strikes Earth near a highly populated area, killing almost 50,000

people and injuring millions.

2120—A second nuclear attack occurs.

2130—The changing weather patterns unleash a season of catastrophic tornadoes, hurricanes, and cold-weather systems over North America and Europe.

2140—A massive volcanic eruption in North America sends a cloud of smoke and dust over nearly half the planet.

2142—With weather patterns continuing to change, a series of winter disasters surpasses those of 2130.

2150—As natural events increase, a number of nations are accelerating and combining efforts to colonize Mars. A space station already exists on the moon, and a floating station capable of being landed on Mars is being developed.

2160—A coordinated movement by the world's underdeveloped countries is generated in response to the increasing deaths caused by starvation and disease. As predicted, the gap between the haves and have-nots has widened, with media and communications making the gap increasingly visible.

2165—High levels of fear, frustration, and anxiety are seen. Suicides among youth have increased. The value of human life has lessened with the huge increase in population. The abuse of health resources and addictive drugs has increased. Another nuclear strike is predicted within the next 2 years.

2167—Sociologists and scientists note the collapse of certain beliefs and institutions associated with human society. The mistrust of governments and leadership is global. Economic confidence has waned, and progress has been largely replaced by fear. The youth in the world are experiencing a crisis of confidence, caring, and trust and are being taught to be wary and suspicious and that just about any behavior is acceptable if it is necessary to achieve success (or just survive).

2168—A trend of moving away from human relationships and toward individuality is seen. Computers, artificial intelligence, and robotics are doing more of the things once considered human, and civil liberty groups continue to warn of our over-dependence on them.

2170—Citing inconsistencies in the World Monetary Fund, we transfer control of the world's economy to a computer program.

Note that most of the above events are man-made or aggravated by man's actions. They are not problems of Earth or other life on it; they are only problems because of the presence of humans, specifically due to human over-population—the mutation, plague, blight, and infestation that is modern man and our aggressive and destructive behavior. You don't agree? Then picture, just for a moment, if we were to remove all signs of humanity from Earth: no humans, no cities, no pollution, no humanly caused changes in weather patterns, etc. I'm sure you see what I do. I see Earth returned to the paradise that it used to be.

## ***Vision 2***

In my second vision, things start out in much the same way, but progress somewhat differently. Again, there is much more technology, science, and medicine. Developing nations have moved closer to Western levels of materialism and consumption. The world's oceans have risen a matter of inches, with global warming having been a

contributing factor. Again, the chronology (we'll pick it up in 2040):

2040—Concerned about humanity's direction, a small number of people around the globe unite and champion the return to life in communities away from national and international governments and leaders. As the groups receive international attention, governments become concerned because these populations are requesting control and ownership of all services, and thus the tax money that governments would have used is returned to the communities. This movement calls themselves New Humanity (NH).

2050—A significant rise in ocean levels forces displacement and massive hunger and suffering of hundreds of thousands of people in developing countries.

2080—A minor asteroid strikes Earth near a highly populated area, killing almost 50,000 people and injuring millions.

2120—A second nuclear attack is averted non-violently by NH. The country in question backs down in order to avoid the international condemnation led by NH. Leaders worry about a rising climate of anarchy in response to what Earth's 9 billion + humans see as threats to the current world order.

2130—The changing weather patterns unleash a season of catastrophic tornadoes, hurricanes, and cold-weather systems over North America and Europe.

2140—A massive volcanic eruption in North America sends a cloud of smoke and dust over nearly half the planet.

2142—With weather patterns continuing to change, a series of winter disasters surpasses those of 2130.

2150—As natural disasters become more frequent, a number of nations are accelerating and combining efforts to colonize Mars. A space station already exists on the moon, and a floating station capable of being landed on Mars is being developed.

2160—A coordinated movement by the world's underdeveloped countries is generated in response to the increasing deaths caused by starvation and disease. As predicted, the gap between the haves and have-nots has widened, with media and communications making the gap increasingly visible.

2165—High levels of fear, frustration, and anxiety are seen. Suicides among youth have increased. The value of human life has lessened with the huge increase in population. The abuse of health resources and addictive drugs has increased. Another nuclear strike is predicted within the next 2 years.

2167—A trend of moving away from human relationships and toward individuality is seen. Computers, artificial intelligence, and robotics are doing more of the things once considered human, and civil liberty groups continue to warn of our over-dependence on them.

2168—Citing inconsistencies in the World Monetary Fund, we transfer control of the world's economy to a computer program.

2170—Sociologists and scientists note the collapse of certain beliefs and institutions associated with human society and the simultaneous popularity of the NH movement, which started in the 2040. They note that thousands of communities are thriving under the NH model, which includes communication and collaboration between communities globally, and there is evidence that children of the third and successive generations contain DNA that is significantly different from that of their great grandparents.

Although it is too early to tell, this could herald the formation of a new human species.

2200—Human population growth has reversed, owing to the emphasis on community and the need to temper populations to the availability of geography and resources. Portions of or whole cities have been abandoned, as life and work is done increasingly locally. Nations and governments as they existed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are obsolete. What little government remains operates at the pleasure of its citizens, making no moves or decisions on its own. A lot less gets done in the world, which many see as a good thing.

What's the difference? The first vision will progress to an increasingly unstable future, whereas the second vision has a very good chance of reverting to sustainability, meaning that humanity (possibly in the configuration of a new species) is living sustainably instead of destructively and at odds with the rest of life on Earth.

In just a few generations, the people in this second vision could be diverging from their ancestors in the same way as the early citizens of Athens, Greece, and other Greek city-states differed from prehistoric humans. Yet even the scenario in the second vision is full of uncertainty – if manmade disasters turn out to be overwhelming, or the nuclear threat escalates to global proportions, humanity could take a very different path. So WHY WAIT, why take the chance, when we can bite the bullet, stand up in maturity and courage, and correct our problems NOW?

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Chapter 11: First Steps

You might be saying “Yes, this is important. Life is too precious to destroy. I want to move in this new direction and grab that 100% life of passion and purpose in the bargain. But what’s next?”

First, we need a beacon, a guiding set of principles that define the actions we take (and those we forego). Here’s a creed to start with:

### ***Our creed***

Let’s put a stake in the ground. If what we see in the world today isn’t working, then what do we believe *will* work? In our belief, do we have the passion and conviction—the *faith*—to make such a pursuit our life’s priority, no matter the risk?

- I *believe*... in the Balance of Nature, the beautiful ecosystem that is Earth and life on it.
- I believe that the purpose of humans, which began with the appearance of our ancient ancestors well over a million years ago, is to nurture and protect life on Earth and to carry life (but only in its best aspect) to the stars.
- Life on Earth must *not* be changed, destroyed, enhanced, synthesized, cloned, or genetically modified.
- Instead, humans must rejoin the Balance of Nature, living sustainably so that—barring significant changes in the environment—we are as one with all life now as we were for over a million years and will be in 50, 500, or 5,000 years.
- Humans are social animals (mammals) who live in groups. Institutions and behaviors that detract from that primary group affiliation rob humans of 100% lives of passion and purpose. Such institutions and behaviors are obsolete, and we must courageously fight to reduce or eliminate them, and to bar their return. Examples of obsolete institutions and behaviors include:
  - over-population
  - big and powerful nations and governments and their manipulation of other people and cultures
  - corporations and institutions using wealth and power to influence and alter the process of democratic self-government (a million-dollar donation, expecting a favor, can nullify thousands of individual citizens’ votes)
  - killing or destruction beyond basic survival needs
  - impeding the growth and well-being of any other living being (just as we want to live freely ourselves)

We believe in this creed and will face hardships and persecution if necessary to defend it.

A short form of this creed, which exists in one form or another in virtually every human

society, and which was previously mentioned in Chapter 4, is the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

With this creed, the following are some general actions you can begin to take:

- Decide if you believe this new focus on local self-government is something you want to support.
- Take the action of making contact; joining; and responding with your ideas, suggestions, and input (see Appendix II).
- Begin to participate. Attend events. Seek out and meet with other members in your area.
- Begin to change your attitudes, actions, and lifestyle.
- Live within your means.
- Buy local products.
- Re-think your life goals and responsibilities and train the young accordingly:
  - *You* own your children’s education.
  - Train them for life in the community.
  - Be sure they see *you* living life in your community.
- Re-take ownership of *all* aspects of your life, and insist that governments, government agencies, corporations, and their representatives support you and never take responsibility or control from you.
- Begin to insist that tax money that you and your community currently provide be returned for use in your family and community.
- Be a model for this new generation by your words and actions; by your knowledge of your community and its needs and successes; and by what you allow to influence you from external sources like media, music, sports, and entertainment. Make good choices.
- Insist that your community be *your* community. Insert yourself. Every member is important. Your community is where you live your life, so you must expect to be supported and given space and territory to flourish while you extend that same courtesy to the other members of your community. Yes, there will be differences, but differences can be worked out. There are always solutions, compromises, and differences forgotten by the simple passage of time.
- Keep a daily journal/calendar where you list your activities, goals, plans, thoughts, and ideas. As you complete your goals, your confidence grows. Journaling is valuable. What seems mundane today is information highly prized by those of just a couple of generations hence. Plus, you can read your own journals from a few years ago and sometimes amaze yourself with your thoughts and insights.

These are suggestions that will make our lives better, but they are not the concrete steps that will dramatically turn world events in a new and sustainable direction. Those steps are coming.

## Chapter 12: Symptoms vs. Root Cause

One reason that modern social problems seem so complex and unsolvable is that they are not problems at all but *symptoms* of an underlying issue, that is, a root cause. Economic, employment, education, and social issues will no longer need costly and ineffective big government bandages. Addressing and correcting the underlying root cause, and transferring power back to people in their communities where it belongs, will cause current social issues, which are really just symptoms, to begin to self-correct immediately.

"The chief cause of problems is solutions."—Eric Sevareid

And, as a reminder, what is the root cause? It was and is our response to a 7,000-year-old lie, a false promise by some would-be leader, who dangled the carrot in front of us that our lives would be safer and more prosperous and we would be more powerful if we just put ourselves in his/her hands, including the commitment of our time, work, goods, services, and sweat equity. At the time, life was hard—and dangerous—and this solution may have made sense. Looking at history, we can say that humans have evolved, in both good and bad ways, under the organization and discipline of nations and governments. But at what cost? \* Have we given away our souls to the idols of fear and insatiable greed? Can we return to a balance that is natural, healthy, and sustainable?

\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Planet\\_of\\_the\\_Apes\\_\(1968\\_film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Planet_of_the_Apes_(1968_film)). the movie Planet of the Apes, we see chimps who somehow became the dominant life form instead of humans. Organized nationally and globally, the story describes the inhumane treatment of humans that ensues. Of course the twist is that humans are the ones who have nationalized, and chimps (along with an awful lot of the rest of life on Earth) are the ones that have been abused and destroyed.

### Symptoms

If the following were root causes, then you would expect the frustration, hopelessness, confusion, and complexity that characterize human society today. But, happily, these are not root causes but symptoms of the above-mentioned root cause. Because they are symptoms, they will self-correct when the root cause is addressed:

- **Over-population** is seemingly a cause but is actually a symptom. When we lost (gave up) our passion and freedom, we began to lose quality (quality of life). In its place we substituted quantity. Exploding populations are not seen in successful species; rather, successful species control their numbers (or their numbers are controlled for them by Mother Nature), to ensure the success of those remaining. To survive, a species must be in balance with available local resources and territories. Exploding populations like ours are more indicative of cancers, pestilences, blights, outbreaks, viruses, and disease.

“Oh, but you aren’t God. You don’t get to decide who gets to be here and who doesn’t?” Such questions are theoretical and academic. I suggest we unite

around a vision and have faith that, because our vision is just, we will find the correct balance. On the road from here to there, will there be suffering in the world? Yes – we were never promised a life free from trials. Is there suffering now? Yes, and it is not just momentary suffering but chronic suffering, more than any species should endure. Are we that numb to it (Thoreau’s lives of quiet desperation)? We hear about suffering daily, thanks to the global reach of the media, but we take little notice because we don’t know what we can really do. In the new order, whatever suffering we must temporarily endure will be more than balanced by the joy of 100% lives.

- **Large, lopsided central governments** create wealthy, manipulative, dishonest, and ruthless leaders and impotent, powerless, and financially struggling citizens.
- **Extreme *complexity* in human affairs** – Building a bridge, or the workings of a computer, or a mission to the moon, is by nature complex. But the key to human affairs is to keep it simple. Human systems need to be understandable to all involved (and especially, to those who are paying for them!). So complex and theoretical economic theories are out, replaced by common sense systems and values (like being self-sufficient, paying your bills on time, and not spending money you don’t have).
- **Failing economies**
  - The developing world is racing to adopt the Western model of materialistic consumption. Even in the U.S. just 60 to 70 years ago, our lifestyle and values were simple and straightforward. Excessive debt, high interest, and anything more than modest taxation was met with contempt.
  - Modern economies are a prime example of over-complexity. They are based on concepts that you and I can’t understand and that are not simple principles we can all apply. For instance, during these lean economic times, the solution of the “economists” is to spend more; however, we all know intuitively that when we are in financial straits, we work harder while tightening our belts and spending less. We admire individuals and businesses who are debt free. How, then, is one to make sense of a nation of people who have gone to the opposite extreme? The U.S. professes to be a wealthy, powerful, and prosperous nation rich with natural wealth and resources but is \$16 trillion in debt! What is the message to youth or to other nations and cultures? Again, in the U.S., each and every family—rich and poor alike—owes over a half-million dollars (\$546,000 = our share of the debt). This is just to satisfy what we have borrowed against our children and grandchildren and does not include our personal debt.
  - Recently on a news show, I heard a banker acknowledge that global control of banks is impossible because no one can regulate them by determining whether investments by these banks are good or bad. He said that the variables are too complex for even the experts. This is a prime example of a human institution that by its very size and complexity is unworkable and obsolete. With power returned to community, banks (even national ones) are local. That is, each local branch operates like a local bank: it serves the unique needs of the local community; is a good neighbor; and is sustained and evaluated by the community it serves.

- Economic woes will disappear as economies transform from being global and power driven to local and cottage driven.
- **Extremes of wealth and power vs. poverty, and the virtual disappearance of a healthy middle class** (the working class who *are* humanity and who pay for the societies we enjoy). All animals survive, prosper, and enjoy excellent health wherever they live—except humans. With us, whereas the rich and powerful have opulence and access to health care and other advantages, ordinary citizens right down the street lack adequate food, adequate health care, and access to adequate education. The extremes of wealth and starvation, health and disease, are seen *only* in humans and will disappear when power is returned to humans in their communities.
- **Corporate greed**, manifesting as the misuse of wealth, influence, and power to control and exploit. Please note that Free Enterprise is NOT the same as corporate greed. Free enterprise lets the market (consumers) drive markets, so that those companies that provide the best and most innovative products and services at the most competitive prices, profit. A healthy market is a growing market, and growth means progressively more jobs. So Free Enterprise is a win-win proposition. But corporations using wealth and power to lobby and bribe and influence, is NOT part of the Free Enterprise system. A corporation can use millions of dollars to buy influence, negating the votes of millions of us citizens, when it is the many who should have the voice, and not a favored few.
- **Damaged environment**, caused by humans conquering, subduing, and destroying our Earth and its animals, plants and resources, instead of protecting and preserving it:
  - The world is 75% ocean, but we have polluted it so heavily that we advise pregnant women not to eat fish.
  - Our air is polluted and ozone layer damaged; thus, cancer is escalating.
  - There's a garbage patch in the ocean twice the size of Texas.
- **Failing to educate, train, and prepare** new generations so they can survive and flourish in their communities.
  - Ignorance, starvation, illiteracy, and poverty are increasing in absolute paradox to what would and should be happening if we were as successful a species as we fashion ourselves to be. As an example, for the first time in the history of the U.S. (which used to be one of the most educated of the developed nations), children:
    - are less educated than their parents
    - will earn less than their parents, and
    - will not live as long as their parents!
 What are we doing to our kids?
- **Lack of Safety:** The world and its communities can't flourish under the threat of terrorism, war, and nuclear weapons. But the world also can't flourish when wealthy, powerful, developed nations manipulate, control, and dictate how other peoples and cultures should live. Currently, those who have been manipulated for generations are gaining power and are understandably fed up with exploitation, both from other

countries and from their own leadership.

- War, murder, killing: Look at the paradise that is Earth and life on it and realize how diabolically insane are the
  - killing, rage, hate, and human bombs;
  - destruction of buildings, museums, and historical sites;
  - suicides (third leading killer of youth); and
  - number of orphans (132,000,000 youth have lost at least one parent, and 13,000,000 of those have lost both parents) \*

\* <http://abbafund.wordpress.com/2008/10/06/how-many-orphans-are-there-in-the-world/>

- **Addictions:** The world is increasingly addicted to materialism, such as cheap goods and cheap oil. Alcohol and drug use – both illegal and prescription \* - is widespread. Whole countries profit from the manufacture and sale of illegal drugs to the United States. We read about the drug lords in Mexico, but strangely don't connect the fact that they exist because of the nation of druggies to the north. This doesn't seem to be a problem to voters in several states who want all sorts of drugs to be legal and available. I suggest that these immature and naïve voters, especially those with children, spend a little time in a local junior high, to see the downside risk of your indulgent lifestyle on our next and struggling generation. The abuse of food (i.e., obesity) is affecting both citizens' health and their ability to be successful, happy, and productive.

\* <http://www.foxnews.com/health/2011/11/01/prescription-drug-deaths-skyrocket/>. More people die from prescription drug abuse than from abuse of heroin and cocaine combined.

Because these above bullet points are symptoms rather than problems, they tend to wax and wane. The issue that is in the world's news today – contraception, abortion, religion, education - is forgotten tomorrow, replaced by the next dramatic event, complete with media spin. In the absence of a common vision or goal, much of the world is living in the immature, drama-filled, powerless, management-by-crisis mode—which feeds into the hype that has created careers for our politicians and leaders. But when we address the root cause (see Chapter 13), these symptoms will wane, losing their power to drain the passion and purpose from our lives.

## ***Chapter 13: Specific Steps to Re-Take our Power -***

### ***The Three R's: Reduce + Return = Results***

We gave our power away; it's time to take it back. We need to transfer power nationally and even globally to people in their families and communities.

**Reduce** the size of government:

We will take back our power by immediately reducing the size of government by 5%

quarterly until our power, freedom, and choices are transferred to us in our communities. Government size will be reduced until the government performs just the constitutional tasks assigned to it but no longer does anything for us that we in our communities can do for ourselves.

**Reduce Corporate Creep:**

Free enterprise is the engine that provides quality, affordable goods and services and creates jobs for all 7 billion of us humans. That said, businesses and corporations will hereafter be limited to normal business activities. Normal business activities include providing products and services, making a profit, employing personnel. But a new standard of transparency will be required of corporations, businesses, banks, investment companies. Lobbying, buying of influence via donations, earmarks, and collusion with government agencies and politicians critically undermine the voice of millions of us citizens. These activities will not continue.

**Return** the reduced cost immediately to the people:

Doing things for ourselves takes money. Immediately with each reduction of government, the amount reduced (including the reduced waste and graft) will be returned to us in our communities. A small amount will be held back just until we reduce our massive debt to manageable proportions.

**Results:** The proof is in the pudding. All the above is useless fluff unless it results in a dramatic change in the way humans live. Happily, these results will be both dramatic and surprising quick:

Dramatic: Cottage industries will sprout up in community after community, and this will happen the minute people realize that extra prosperity is coming to their community. Of course this translates to jobs, and with jobs, workers need houses and food and services of all kinds.

Quick: The quickness will be the most surprising result. The change will be astonishingly rapid because we are leaving a system that does not work, a system where humans are oppressed and suffering at the same time as they are destroying and consuming the very planet that gave them life. When we change our approach to living sustainably, in concert with Earth and life on it, the change in human attitude will create an immediate upturn in optimism and prosperity.

You might respond that the most needy will suffer when we reduce the scope of government. But this is not true. Those most vulnerable are suffering *now*. In communities, there will be no faceless starving masses. Every soul will have at least the safety net of a community and the global support of communities worldwide. Also, we have been led to believe that governments are helping large segments of the population, when the reality is the opposite. In the U.S., for instance, while we pay billions for welfare and social services, the amount of services provided by government is so small that there will be virtually no impact even as we reduce government in 5% increments.

“Who *is* helping the needy, then?” The real help has always come from NGO’s (non-government organizations), volunteer organizations, charities, churches, civic organizations, and many other venues where humans respond to those truly in need with generous giving of their sweat and resources. Conversely, you might consider whether providing impersonal government welfare to a family who has relied on it for generation after generation (as we currently do to the tune of billions of dollars) is really helping, or is rather destroying, that family.

## Chapter 14: The Leap of Passion

The suggestions above will jump-start your newfound life of passion and purpose. Part of the miracle of this transition is that what you could never do alone comes to you as you combine your passion, dream, and vision with those of others. These actions will become much more clearly defined as you join and add your input. At present, we are a small but critical mass. Soon, if enough of us join together, we will have a voice that humans will want to hear. Of course, there will be those with a serious investment in the status quo who won’t want to hear, and their resistance will be the surest proof that we are on track to the 100% Solution.

The expression of the 100% life is seen in the man and woman of courage—the hero or heroine who goes beyond the boundaries of safety, comfort, and niceties to accomplish the important. In our 30% lives we wistfully observe it in “others” (most of whom don’t deserve our idol worship) while secretly resenting that we are not in the limelight. Expect that to change!

“Oh, but I’m a follower.” The distinctions of followers and leaders are inaccurate and blur in the “we-ness” of community. You as an individual are no longer the focus, but are instead a vital member of your community. In that role, you alternately lead and follow. You do heroic things without thinking, which were never attainable or possible when you and I were functioning as isolated individuals.

## Chapter 15: Cost

### Financial:

What we are doing now (borrowing, spending beyond our means) is killing us globally. When we implement the Three R’s, the gain in our personal and civic prosperity will be globally enormous. Prosperity = human beings (us), living 100% lives of passion and purpose. And communities thriving, providing safety and prosperity, supporting their members and reaching out to other communities worldwide.

### Human resources (that’s us):

We all face the personal responsibilities of paying our bills, working, and raising

families. In the 100% life, that will not be enough. As vital members of our community, more will be required. But the payback for us, our families, and children will be huge. Just having our youth seeing us owning every facet of our lives in our communities will foster a completely new spirit and optimism in youth of upcoming generations, almost as if they were charter members of a new human species (as they may well be).

Time:

Our time may seem like it's not ours any more, but if I can exchange a 30% life for one of passion, then I will *want* to be active, involved, needed, busy, engaged, and excited.

Emotional capital:

Passion is the supreme emotional currency. It is what makes life exciting, like a Roman candle! If we lose our passion, we have lost what life is about. No amount of money or material goods, no illusion of safety, can make up for a passionless life.

## **Chapter 16: How Will We Know If It Is Working?**

We must be able to measure our progress in order to know if we are on target toward our goals and the timetable we have set.

### ***Proof of the pudding***

If what we have said so far is reality, then we *must* succeed because we are 100% aligned with the way happy, healthy humans were designed to live. Is there a way we can tell if this is happening? Yes. The new way of life should offer ready answers and solutions to the many social problems we currently face in the world today, problems that presently seem pretty hopeless and unsolvable to much of humanity.

If our vision and purpose are reality based, truthful, and in line with what humans can and were meant to achieve (i.e., our purpose, the niche we fill), then our actions cannot fail to achieve spectacular results. At least they will seem spectacular to us, but they are more accurately 100% solutions, with humans again living the way they were designed to live. "Spectacular" to us is normal to a squirrel. But 100% living is absolutely spectacular when you're used to 7,000 years of 30%!

Our current menu of global and social problems, though of grave concern to us, is quite fleeting, which is typical of the emotion and hype that comes with the management-by-crisis method. 30% lives *need* the constant drama, and we get it.

### ***The Dilemma of Declining Education***

Nothing will change the path we are on, in the U.S. and globally, faster than a resurgence in the raising of our young. Notice I use raising rather than educating or schooling, because I am approaching education as would any higher animal other than humans

(chimpanzee, elephant, etc.). Their approach to education is to expose the young to ALL facets of life, and train them in the skills and methods required to survive, flourish and reproduce IN THEIR PARTICULAR GROUP OR COMMUNITY. These young don't learn by being told about the challenges to surviving and flourishing, but by observing, practicing, mimicking, participating, playing, doing.

Among other career hats I have worn, I'm an inner-city junior high school teacher (math). Even if teaching paid a decent wage, it is a thankless job.

I have often been amazed at students whose home situation I am familiar with, and the fact that they are able to concentrate and do their school work at all. If it was me in their situation, school and learning would be the LAST item on my list. As a teacher, I have often been afraid – of individual students, of maintaining control of the classroom, of not being able to keep the student's attention and keep them working, learning, on task. 13-14 year old girls have confided their pregnancies to me, when they couldn't tell anyone else. Boys are trying to come to terms with their sexuality, with their role as boys-becoming-men, really with what kind of a man they are or are going to be. On top of all that, inner city schools tend to be lower-functioning as a whole, and the entire blame for this is placed on the teacher. If we were just better teachers, like those teachers at the better schools, these inner city kids would learn, go to college, and straighten out emotionally and behaviorally. Of course, changing teachers never makes much difference. And even the best teachers can't compensate for kids that haven't received the basic tools needed to function – like manners, communication skills, emotional control, a basic amount of appropriate maturity, self-discipline.

What follows are my thoughts on education—what it could be when communities re-take their power and responsibility:

- Communities will educate their own youth according to their own needs. Thus, education is not a cost but an asset, an investment. The addiction to the promise of jobs and income as the goal of education is rendering education superfluous, meaningless, and obsolete. Why spend all my formative, childhood, fun-loving years learning apparently useless facts? And isn't it ironic that, having rendered education ineffective by their intervention (do it our way or you won't get government money), the government now has run out of money and teachers are being fired by the thousands? Meanwhile, sports programs, scholarships, and sports stars and their multi-million-dollar contracts are alive and well!
- The ideal education is as follows: Youth will see their elders living 100%, purposeful, passionate lives; deal with the challenges, successes, and problems of their unique community; and then learn the skills to ensure the community's long-term success. Youth will see their parents in action, owning the issues of their elderly, their poor, and their unemployed and returning them to productive lives. These same youth will grow up thinking of others and their needs instead of themselves.
- As an educator, I can picture a scenario where students, once they reach junior high, come to school and select modules based on life experiences, apprenticeships, and

general interest. Some of these modules necessarily have prerequisites (i.e., basic skills). But school isn't forced on anyone. The motivation—the incentive—must come from the children and their families. If the motivation isn't there, it is better to let the children's choices play out and consequences felt. Certainly, we can promote the value and usefulness of an education for those thus inclined without forcing it on those who lack the ability and/or motivation.

The following are education basics and questions that need to be asked and answered, community by community:

- What are we telling our kids is the purpose of education? What is the payoff we are promising? Happiness? Success? Will money, titles, privilege, or a fancy car guarantee these results? Does education ensure happiness?
- If we don't have these answers, then school is just a game to be played - only results count, not quality. This is a disastrous formula for raising good children.
- In the new community mode, children see their elders, parents, and families in every aspect of living their lives. They are working, helping others in need, communicating, and cooperating for success. It is education, then, that gives youth the training for local tastes, needs, styles of living, and working in their particular community. Is this happening?
- Education should mimic real life as closely as possible. The return of apprenticeships and sub-minimum-wage jobs should be encouraged.
- *Every* student will graduate from high school trained in and ready to practice a viable vocation.
- Critical thinking, reasoning, fact-gathering, and discrimination needs to be taught, raising education up the ladder of Bloom's Taxonomy. \*
- Students need to learn a foreign language, including an understanding of the underlying culture. This is in addition to reading, writing, and speaking their native language.
- Some science, technology, and math are necessary.
- A basic knowledge of history, civic affairs, and society are important.
- Students should learn a lot more than they do about fitness, nutrition, all aspects of health.
- Students must learn how to communicate effectively, how to make friends and be a friend, how and when to express and control emotions.
- Students should also learn Renaissance skills (art, music, poetry, literature, drama, architecture, etc.). Education is not just about job skills. Rounded, expressive, creative individuals make better choices and decisions.
- Should education be compulsory? This should be re-visited, especially in the higher grades. No country or government's success is worth turning off our youth to learning. In the final analysis, we can't force children to become "educated." If education was optional, students and their families might approach it with an entirely different energy, enthusiasm, and motivation.
- Every student will have a school contract every year that is signed by the student, the family or support system, the teachers, and the school administration. It details everyone's responsibilities (student, support system, school, community). The contract is modified each quarter as necessary to ensure success.

\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bloom's\\_Taxonomy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bloom's_Taxonomy), which ranks teaching methods from rote and memorization activities at the bottom to critical thinking skills at the top.

## Chapter 17: Welcome Home

The end of this book is not the end of anything. The new path is being laid out, found, and spotted by you and me together—we are practically compelled to follow it. As we follow our destiny, our lives become mosaics of romance, passion, and purpose. As we begin to live 100% lives, our species evolves and flourishes. Our healthy and happy lives in our communities translate to a successful species with important, sustaining work to do, ensuring that Earth remains healthy (just as it was when we arrived), and assuring that we carry life in its *best* aspect to the stars. Do you really want this 100% life of passion and purpose? If so, join us. You won't be bored!

Visit our website (see Appendix II) and participate in our on-line forums and blogs. This movement will become a reality only when we band together and form a small, steadily growing critical mass of energized, passionate humans on a new journey.

And then the miracle happens: You will attract like-minded humans by your example, the way you live your life, and the gleam and passion in your eye. You will never need to promote your way of life, for your very being will do that. Be prepared for a purposeful, challenging, active, passionate existence—a 100% life with plenty of passion, twists, turns, and challenges!

**END**

## Epilogue—The Next Human Species

Let's make one thing clear: Humans do not usually control either the extinction of old species or the creation of new ones. Nature does that in response to changes in the environment. It is true that humans, by their aggressive and destructive behavior, have accelerated or caused species to disappear in the short term; however, in the long haul, by Mother Nature's timetable, the waning and emerging of life all over the cosmos will be determined by environments and niches rather than by humans. If humans continue on their path of over-population, destruction and extinction, be assured that Mother Nature will deal with this blight with lightning swiftness and power (as in fact She is presently doing).

Yet we have been describing the emergence of a passionate group of humans living in a completely new way in response to a new, changed environment. Over just a few

generations, this new way of living could favor new traits that get passed down in the genes to begin creation of a new human species.

Of course there is no definitive proof that a new human species is emerging. But we can look to what is happening in the world today, and see if there are similarities with how new species have appeared and evolved in the past:

1. The environment (unlimited geography and resources) that spawned us is gone, never to return. New environment = new species.
2. Faced with small and incremental environmental changes, species may be able to make the necessary adjustments. But faced with huge changes over a short period of time, they cannot, whether they are dinosaurs or humans. In fact, huge changes are a direct threat to a species whose niche resides in the old environment. That species will fight (unsuccessfully) to retain the old way, even when the inevitability of the transition is obvious. That is just what is happening with humans today, as evidenced by the turmoil, destruction, killing, and loss of the precious value of life that exists in 21<sup>st</sup> century human life on Earth.

And what if a new human species does not emerge or emerges so gradually that we can't measure it with our short-term frame of reference? Do we still know for certain that this emergence is not happening? And whether a new species of human is emerges or not, if we restore our 100% lives of purpose and passion... who cares?

### ***Characteristics of the next human species***

Similar to what happened with the animal species on Madagascar,\* the newly emerging human species—I will call it HS3—looks similar to or indistinguishable from its *Homo sapiens sapiens* (or HS2) ancestors. The differences appear only upon closer inspection and over time. They first appear in temperament, in the exercising of different choices, in a different pace, and in choosing how we spend and live each day.

1. Because HS3 has rejoined the Balance of Nature, its members live sustainably and integrated with the rest of life on Earth now and in 500 or 5,000 years (the environment willing).
2. They live their lives and play them out in their group or community. The obsession with self as the primary goal of survival is replaced with the primary emphasis on their village or tribe, and the surrounding and global environment.
3. There are no anonymous, faceless people. There are no faceless cities or power-hungry, impersonal nations. Nations, big governments, and the leaders addicted to them (national egos) are obsolete.
4. The success of HS3 is defined by the aggregate of the successes of each individual community in every remote corner of the world (just as it is with squirrels and the millions of other animal and plant species).
5. The population size is naturally fixed at a healthy level based on available

resources and geography.

6. HS3 doesn't need a global polarizing enemy such as communism, capitalism, imperialism, or other beliefs which insist one side is right and the other wrong. Its members are too busy living 100% lives of passion and purpose, raising their young, and handling every facet of their lives in the way they choose, in their communities worldwide.
7. Members of HS3 are truly free. They appreciate what they have. They retain and fight for their freedom by owning all responsibility for their lives in their community. They do everything for themselves, make their own decisions, plan their own priorities, and allow other communities worldwide the same freedom.
8. Government—or what little of it remains—operates solely as a servant to the people, doing only the few things that are beyond the scope of the people in their communities (e.g., protecting our shores, ensuring fair commerce between communities worldwide, etc.). These servants do nothing on their own initiative. They act only on the people's wishes, and the people maintain an active voice in all aspects of their lives. Technology for HS3 is a blessing - the people can communicate with, share with, and help both neighboring communities and those all over the world. Together, the people can inform their public servants of their preferences on any subject at on-line speed.

\* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madagascar> - Madagascar lies off the coast of Africa, having split away from the continent of India some 88 million years ago. Many of the animals and plants, thus isolated, developed into separate species found nowhere else in the world

Regarding the response of present leaders (the establishment, the status quo) as this new species begins to emerge and differentiate itself, you may expect with 100% certainty that as the locus of power shifts from large, impersonal central nations and institutions to us in our families and communities, this loss of power and control will be difficult to accept for any but the most courageous (or desperate!) leaders. They will fight it to the death with logic and weapons because they perceive it as a deadly threat. As you see this happening, it will signal the waning of the old reality and the emergence of a new, sustainable era of humanity.

“Oh, you make it sound easy, but the issues today are too complex.” Yes, they are. Understand that this is proof that present humanity has reached a state of dysfunction too great to correct. The *only* way out is to *simplify*. Live naturally and simply, in community, as nature intended.

“This is the world of today; you can't change what is.” That is true; you and I can't. But nature can change, does change, and is changing what is. As environments and niches change, species come and go.

## ***APPENDIX I: Bio for Tony Horn, Author***

Tony Horn is an author, teacher, and instructional designer with degrees in Psychology and Education. He has done volunteer work in Ghana, West Africa, and has traveled to Asia, Europe, and Central America. He writes about contemporary political, social, and global issues.

## ***APPENDIX II: Who Is Community Groove, and What Do We Believe?***

Our website, blogs, and other social media postings address current issues, showing how global outcomes can be completely different when humans take back their power and freedom, community by community. So please visit our site, join if you wish (no cost or obligation), and give us your input. Make this movement *your* movement, your new direction, and your choice - to take back your passion and purpose.

Now go to our website at [www.CommunityGroove.org](http://www.CommunityGroove.org) and join us.

Who is Community Groove, and what do its members believe?

Community Groove is a group of Community Advocates. Our goals are the following:

- Simplify and enrich human life by reducing government in 5% increments, and by restricting corporate creep (activities beyond free enterprise, such as lobbying and making election contributions in exchange for political favors).
- Generate an exciting resurgence of cottage-industry prosperity and jobs, in communities worldwide.
- Attract people like you.
- In strength, numbers, and unity, to make our voice heard nationally and globally.
- Hold events and activities to strengthen our cause.

What does Community Groove do?

We are planning events and activities so that as many of us as possible can meet and interact. But most importantly, by joining, you will add your name to thousands of others, making this your passion and your movement. As we grow in numbers, reaching a critical mass, our power will be undeniable and our voice will be clearly heard.

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."—Confucius

What does Community Groove believe?

Are you frustrated with the abuses of politics, government, and big business? How about the endless passing parade of economic and social problems? There is a solution.

The source of our problem is the loss of power to control our own lives and choices. We are living lives dominated by fear and greed; we are addicted to the lure and promises of big government/big business/big wealth. But these institutions are out of sync with the natural, healthy behavior of people. This leaves society feeling frustrated and powerless. We need to transfer power, nationally and globally, to us in our families and communities.

- The Rule: The government does *nothing* for us that we can do for ourselves. We want businesses, corporations, and financial institutions to perform their normal business activities in a transparent and ethical manner—and nothing more (such as using wealth and power to influence government).
- The Result: There will be a new era of passion, purpose, and prosperity for you, your family, and your community. People will have a new sense of freedom, passion, and purpose. The economy will bounce back, offering new cottage industries and jobs.

A note about politics, parties, and partisanship: Instead of liberal vs. conservative, party against party, how about a third Moderate Vision-for-the-Future Party (MVP) that complements and enhances how all people naturally live? This could be a 3<sup>rd</sup> virtual party we could all join in addition to our choice of political parties. The MVP represents our vision, our mission, our long term goal for our community, nation and world. It is the roadmap that officials and politicians and leaders follow, knowing that it is the will of us, the people they represent.

For example the U.S., at its best, stands for the needs and rights of all citizens, just as strongly as it favors limited government and free enterprise. But in our modern and complex age, do big businesses and corporations sometimes lie to and even steal from us? Yes. Can government grow too big and powerful, over-taxing people and undermining their self-determination? Yes. Can social programs that were originally designed to help people expand way beyond what is good and healthy for society? Yes.

Present political factions and parties do nothing to restore balance – in fact they are making it worse. The key to eliminating this excessiveness is not to create more pages of laws, rules, and regulations, but to expose the root cause, simplify, and return power to us in our communities, then continually fighting to keep it there. This is what freedom is about.

"That government is best which governs least."—Henry David Thoreau