

Let's Schmooze

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Climate Change? A red herring?

We are all concerned about climate change. After all, we see climate change all around us. Extreme weather, rising sea levels, global warming ~ all of them are constant reminders that our overall climate is changing, and not necessarily for the better. Climate change is a legitimate concern for humanity, and we are completely justified in worrying about it.

However ~ is it possible that in a certain way climate change is a "red herring" (a misleading distraction) ~ in view of another worrisome change? After all, the Smithsonian recently announced that humanity has caused a major shift in planetary ecosystems starting about six thousand 6,000 years ago, in the process upending previous planetary ecosystems that had lasted a whopping 300 million years. What else have we upended besides climates?

Think	industry
Think	industrial processes
Think	industrial outputs
Think	industrial pollutants
Think	industrial toxins

That's our concern ~ the increasing toxicity of our environment caused by hard science and unrestrained industry. Think about it. It doesn't matter whether the climate gets warmer, or colder, or stays the same. In all three cases, the toxicity of the environment will remain the same, poisoning the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, and the food that we eat. Let's consider just a few recent examples of the effects of industrial and scientific toxicity as teased out in our media.

Humanity's use of pesticides has been linked to the deteriorating ability of bees to pollinate food crops essential for human survival. That's bad for us.

Humanity's use of drugs such as antidepressants has been linked to the rise of autism in human children. That's bad for us.

Algae toxins blooming from toxic discharge from humanity's farmlands have been linked to brain damage. That's bad for us.

Humanity's use of antibiotics has been linked to the rise of super-pathogens resistant to human control. That's bad for us.

Radiation from the Fukushima nuclear reactors in Japan has irradiated the entire Pacific Ocean basin. That's bad for us.

We're shooting ourselves in our collective foot. We started changing things about 6,000 years ago, and apparently our changes have come a full circle to bite us on the rear. Are we a species actually destined to poison ourselves out of biological existence?

We need to step back for a collective moment and take a look at what we are doing. If our so-called "improvements" on Mother Nature lead to the dead end of species extinction, then our so-called "improvements" were not improvements after all. They will have been the disastrous results of human foolishness laced with a generous helping of human arrogance.

Let's step back for a moment and consider where we have come from, and where we are headed. Let's take a really good look. An attitude of kindness, moderation and humility may be a good start. Pulling in our horns and tucking our chins in might keep us from taking too badly of a beating.

Climate change is not our worst enemy. Toxic ecological change is where the real danger lies ~ whether our climate warms, cools, or stays the same.

~ 'til we meet again ~