

A View from Afar

Imagine yourself far away in space; on another planet. You can give yourself any form that pleases you. You are an awareness, living in a time stream different from our earth's time: earth time goes very much faster, so that a million years on earth, you perceive in, let's say, a few months. You have wonderful senses with which you observe; perhaps augmented by sophisticated instruments, (as we have telescopes and microscopes to see far and tiny).

You are sitting at your window watching planet Earth. Of course you have ways to "see and hear" what happens "out there," from your point of view.

You witnessed Earth go through the many changes we call evolution. Upheavals, fire and brimstone, volcanoes spewing fountains of molten rock, swirling storms making patterns (as we see the storms on some planets in our solar system, Venus, Jupiter, and others). You have seen the first oceans, and then the eager bubbling foam from which the first life forms emerged, spreading, changing form and function. All the while spinning around that far away star that we call the Sun. From your perspective, you see and recognize the biosphere, that thin, pulsing, live skin around the Earth globe. Everything that happens on the surface of Earth, happens to the whole.

We cannot see the "whole;" we are too close.

You, on your far planet, hear murmurs of sound and movement. You smile: another planet birthed its Life. Your people have always known that Life is everywhere, it is an integral part of What Is. Life is not something added to, but an indivisible part of... *everything!*

We, on this planet, at this time in our history, are raised to see differences. As babies we are taught to see reality as a field with different objects in it. learning this is a nose, this an ear, a ball, a bunny. This is a spoon, that is your mama. Seeing, hearing, knowing. it all becomes the ability to distinguish — and so we have lost the ability to naturally and easily see connections.

You, from your faraway observation spot, see wholes. Everything is related to everything else. The flowing, changing skin of planets is, of course, an integral part of the planet, and it is what receives the star's (our Sun's) energy: heat and light, gravity, and...).

When you look at details you see large chunks of material that stick out of the all embracing water, slowly gliding away from each other, to bump into other plates in time, a long time, even for you. One day, you see the whole that is earth going through visible changes very quickly, from your point of view. Suddenly (from your distant observation point much of the planet's skin is covered in white (ice), which reflects some of the energy from the sun back into space. It is only a partial cover of ice, mostly around the poles, but it changes the radiance of the planet from your faraway spot, and you deduce that it must make the earth's atmosphere colder, and who knows what other energies might interact differently in a colder environment.

Then you see the ice melt ("climate changes" have been happening all through the history of this planet as scientists have learned). The ice retreats, oceans rise, land bridges disappear, islands emerge, until some million years later another ice mantle

covers part of the Earth planet; and eventually that ice recedes as well.

Life blossomed first in the ocean, then, after many millions of years Life carefully moved onto land, developing ways to feed on the energy of the sun, directly or indirectly (animals eat plants that absorb energies from the sun). You, who see everything in fast forward, so to speak, see the billion different forms Life tries out: some make it, some don't. Earth's Nature is whimsical, playing with colors, feathers, hair, shapes and functions. Four legs, six legs, eight legs, two legs, no legs... But every single shape, form and function today a different shape and function tomorrow. Change is the name of the game.

Then you, the observer from afar, see a bubble of explosive energy radiating from earth (when time is stretched out a change over only a few hundred years is "explosive").

Studying all these energies, you realize they are artificially modulated. *There is a sentient something that makes these energies!* (radio, television, atomic energy, world-wide electricity, phones, and all the other man-made energies). When you look closer you see other changes happening with explosive urgency: large areas of forest disappear, the very atmosphere is changing through the emission of unusual gases. And in a biosphere where everything is related to everything else, the emission of man-made gases in planetary quantities, and the destruction of large areas of land, obviously cause far-reaching changes in the biosphere. Sudden (from your point of view) changes in the atmosphere, the ocean and on land cause the extinction of thousands of species. The planet you are observing is explosively impoverishing itself.

And, you observe that evidently the one species that is behind that evident explosion of energies, is reproducing itself at a cancerous rate — "cancerous" in the sense that the increase is apparently in no relationship to the carrying capacity of the planet.

From your point of view you see one species of a billion that has learned to use enormous energies that in a very short time (a few hundred years here) does so much damage to the entire planet that it endangers its own survival.

How can that be?

And then.....?