

The Environment, Population and Greed

by

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It can be argued that Fear often propels human behavior. Fear of being hungry, of no place to live, fear of not being liked, fear of never amounting to anything, fear of inadequacy, of meaninglessness. It can also be argued that Fear is the basis of Greed. To have as much as possible so as to never be without a place to live or food, or companionship or anything else one might fear losing or never even obtaining. More children, more money, more respect to alleviating these fears and to give one meaning and comfort in old age, a legacy. And what one might have to do to attain this lack of fear is of little consequence to most. Even the best of us. And unfortunately for the human race, no matter how far we advance in our understanding of our own behavior, most humans will revert back to their genetic nature when things go bad. And it will, often, as history has shown us.

And how does our Greed affect the Environment? We know without a doubt that the Environment is a complex, dependent web of existence and paramount to human survival. And yet most don't care when there is a personal Fear that Greed will alleviate. Most people don't realize, or care, how alone we all are in this universe, in this plane of existence, and how the Environment of our Earth is the only sanctuary we have for now. Much of the blame for this ignorance and lack of concern can be placed on religious

belief as well as Fear and Greed. As though some god controls or will intervene or dictates what is or should be. But then, that is another story.

It is also abundantly evident that the Earth and our Environment cannot withstand the onslaught of human population growth. Even now we are overpopulated. And yet daily I see families of three, four, five and more children. What can these parents possibly be thinking? They don't care...are they foolish and stupid...maybe they are just greedy and afraid? Mostly I think these people are just ignorant. They don't realize that there really can be only one primary concern and philosophy - protect the environment...our home which gives life to all human beings. Why? Because otherwise we, the human race, are doomed to extinction. Now that is not to say we shouldn't do all we can to control and make better the Environment so as to sustain we humans. I am all for that. The key word, of course, is to make it "better". I argue for that train of thought in my essay "Do We Need Nature", the conclusion being of course we do and that we should be its Master.

And so we should make the Environment paramount in our lives. Surely we should provide for its protection and development and that part of that solution involves population control. We must further concede that those that damage the Environment deliberately and for personal gain are indeed Greedy, the definition of which is a person "having or showing an intense and selfish desire for something, especially wealth or power." I surely think to be thoughtful and Fearless individuals we must overcome our selfish individual desires, our Greed, and look to the success of the Team, which is, of course, comprised of all of us.