Earth's SOS to Humans



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As life evolved on Earth, some five to seven million years ago, in the process of nature's evolution appeared a specie who could stand and walk on both the feet habitually. This unique creation of nature was hairless, furless, did not possess fangs or big teeth or claws and on birth could not walk or swim or camouflage itself to hide from predators or even hunt/graze to eat.

This unique specie, on birth needed constant care to keep it safe from vagaries of nature and from predators, till it reached the age of one or one and a half year when it could stand upright and thereafter possibly till the age of twelve, when it could defend itself. This rather unusual creation of nature, our ancestors, in their fight to survive against all odds stacked against them, developed a keen sense of observation. They observed that bigger animals which preyed on them got equally hurt by sharp objects or stones and they started using them as weapons. The early humans observed that 'fire' was created by friction of wood or of rocks or by lightning and that all animals feared it. The early humans started harnessing fire and kept it burning in front of their caves to ward away the predators. They also found that the heat of the fire kept them warm and it also roasted fruits etc. which then tasted better. That a round stone rolled easier possibly led to the creation of the wheel and that dry wood floats possibly led to the creation of rafts to cross water obstacles. The early humans found that in numbers, they were a 'force' and their joint action in catching a prey/ warding it off was done better as a team and that a team needed planning, communication, and a leader. Such teams became social groups.

It was around 130,000 years that humans with brain size as big as ours, evolved. As the humans evolved and mastered their surroundings, they tamed many ferocious animals and made use of them in hunting, in cultivation, in carrying heavy loads and for own protection. Their keen sensory powers sharpened their intelligence and

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memory and like many others in the animal kingdom, the humans too passed on their knowledge and skills to their children.

Small societies outgrew their domains and they sought to expand, leading to human conflict and amalgamations of societies led to birth of great civilisations. These civilisations started schools to impart education to pass on the knowledge and stored them in libraries for posterity to refer to. From Nalanda in 427 CE to Oxford in 1096 CE and to many that followed, humans' unquenching thirst for knowledge led to many inventions, all which made humans more powerful than any other specie in the nature. The invention of steam engine was a path breaking moment and heralded the Industrial revolution which not only helped in production and transportation of goods but also increased human travel and expanded the human domain on earth.

From the days of Industrial revolution, the age of automobiles and aircrafts, the age of communication and computers followed and today we are at the cusp of another scientific revolution, in the combination of Robotics, Quantum technology and Artificial Intelligence. Our quest for knowledge now incorporates the entire Universe, which encompasses many solar systems like ours and many many more mysteries. It appears that we, the humans, are the most in intelligent living being in this Universe and that possibly "Earth" is the only planet on which life, as we know, exists.

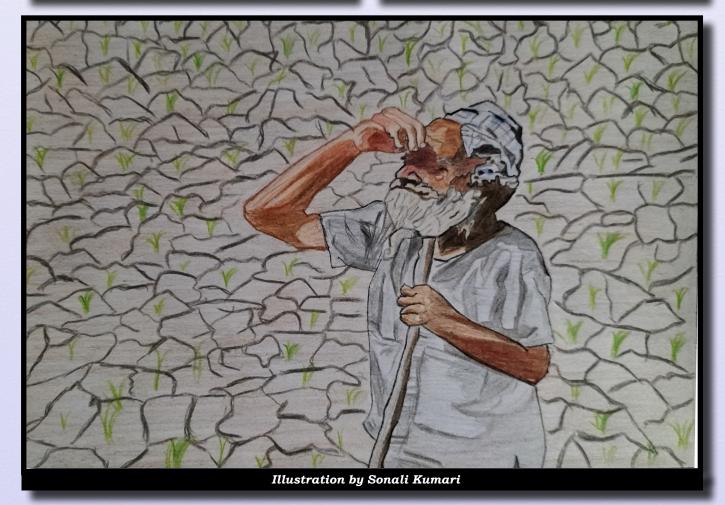
But all human developments, the power of its intelligence, have come at the cost of the nature in whose lap the humans survive. As humans expanded their domain, they cut down forests, polluted water resources and the air. Possibly the earlier humans understood the importance of nature and killed only for the pot or practiced "jhoom' form of cultivation. But as humans started competing with each other and wealth became a measure of success, their greed started making them insensitive towards the very nature which had created it.

This insensitivity has taken a huge toll of Mother Nature. This September of 2023 was the hottest September recorded on Earth as the average temperature increased by point five degrees or half a degree and on many days the temperature of Earth crossed the tipping point of plus 1.5 degrees. Readers must have read of increasing numbers of the wildfires, typhoons, floods and droughts and famines which have been/are ravaging the Earth this year and in places where such phenomenon were unknown. The latest in this has been the catastrophe which has struck our North-East state of Sikkim.

And in each catastrophe around the world, we humans rush to provide aid to the victims but nature does not provide any succor to the lives of countless number of other species that are lost. To maintain the balance in nature, all species are equally important and each has a role to play has been understood by humans, probably as long back as they started living in social, groups.







Why is the Earth becoming warmer, why are many species of animal planet becoming extinct, why are schools of fishes dying or mass beaching of whales or disappearance of sparrows, butterflies and bees from neighborhood becoming common? Is this a natural phenomenon or is this destruction of nature the product of the activities of the most intelligent specie on earth "us humans"?

If we trace human development from Industrial revolution and till date, we will realise that our exploitation of natural resources, the pollution we have added on the earth, be it on water, land or air and now in space with debris of dead satellites, have all resulted in increase in the greenhouse gases, warming of atmosphere, depletion of the protective ozone layer and disappearance/retreat of glaciers and ice at the poles.

Rising sea levels and inundation of low lying areas, persistent droughts, floods have all forced humans to migrate, increasing human conflict and adding to pollution of environment. Humans can relocate but what about the other species of life in such areas who are left with no choice but to perish.

In evolution of humans, given their low chances of survivability, have been endowed with the boon to procreate any time of the year, unlike most other species in nature. In the turn of the 20th century, we humans were 1.6 billion strong on this earth. Today we are 8.045 billion and counting. This exponential rise, has exacted a very heavy price from nature. In addition, science has reduced infant mortality and increased human longevity, creating additional demand on nature.

And the irony is that as humans prospered, they have turned out to be the most invasive and most destructive of all species and in front of their onslaught many many species, each a marvel of nature, have bowed out. Therefore, this is an SOS from the Earth to the Humans, PLEASE DECREASE, DEPOPULATE.

Postscript: -Young minds reading this article will recollect the recent COVID times when human activities on earth came to a near standstill. They will remember how refreshing the air felt, how azure the blue of the sky was, how dazzling were the celestial bodies in the night sky and how the absence of human activity prompted the wild animals from neighbouring forests to come into our neighborhoods, to reclaim what is genetically mapped in their brains as their territory. Even the 'hole in the ozone layer' in the atmosphere repaired itself to a great extent.

This then is a clarion call to 'you' the Gen AI's, to act or witness many form of lives including humans, perish, for there is no other home for LIFE in the Universe and this is the only 'Blue Planet".