

FLUTTER DREAMS (B)

TOMORROW'S WORLD

This is simply one person's dream of a better tomorrow. Everyone has their own idea and it's fun writing down your thoughts.

Here we go!

Let's go forward about 150 years, about the time it takes for a giant oak to mature or about five or six generations in terms of the human family.

Let's start with the world's population - this is the base point - because we humans are, of course, the biggest users and polluters of the earth. Without 'us', we wouldn't have our current environmental problem.

Just say everyone begins from today to exercise the most important aspect of his 'individual responsibility' towards the environment, namely restricting his family to one, or a maximum of two children.

With luck, in 150 years time, the world's population may have been halved.

To achieve this would be a major success, even if nothing else changes, because simply halving the

numbers would halve the demand on the world's resources and reduce pollution by half.

But the picture is even more hopeful when you consider other factors.

1. Because of the increasing awareness of the 'green problem' via school and TV, THE DEMAND PATTERN WILL CHANGE. So not only will people be demanding less from nature, but also the 'type' of demand will be less damaging to the environment. In other words, everyone, every company, industry and nation, will be practicing better manners towards Mother Earth.
2. Coupled with the changing demand pattern will come - as we are already witnessing - *a whole lot of new inventions and scientific advances to benefit the environment.* The market dictates where the money goes, and money or profit will go to any invention or system that produces goods that people want AT THE LEAST COST TO THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. The gradual strengthening of 'THE STICK' - namely stiffer rules and punishment to make sure individuals, companies and countries obey environmental laws, so that those who violate nature really feel the sharp end of the law.

So to repeat - if you take the above three factors, and combine them with the HALVING of the population (and human demand), then there really is hope for a much better tomorrow for us humans and for our animal brethren.

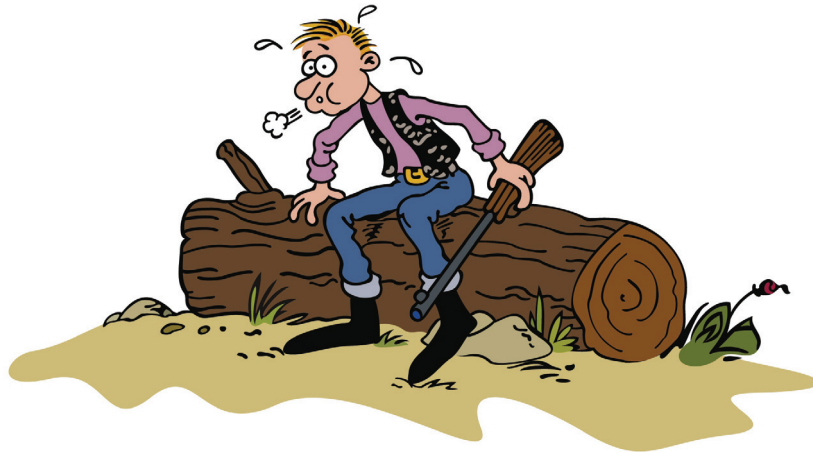
But to realize that hope, we all have to start now with our own tiny little individual responsibilities. The world is like a giant oil tanker. The captain may put the gears into reverse but because of the momentum, the tanker will continue on its course for some time before the ship comes to a halt.

So don't be disheartened if nothing happens immediately. As long as you are holding on to your tiny thread to slow down the tanker, you're doing as best you can for the team.

Now let's put a bit of icing on the cake!

1. In 150 years time, 50% of the world's land would be handed back to the animal kingdom and nature, aided by man, who would replant the forest with all the lovely hardwoods he has destroyed in the past. These areas, once grown to maturity, could be harvested very carefully so that the earth would never again suffer from deforestation and desertification and, at the same time, man would have a source of beautiful natural building material. (This process might

take a lot longer than 150 years since man has been destroying forest for 20,000 years.)



2. With forests and animals 'strong' again, hunting would be allowed for those who need the excitement, but under different rules than practised today. One man, one gun with 6 cartridges, to be helicoptered into the middle of the jungle will have a 50/50 chance against those he is hunting. A bit different from our brave moose hunters of today! (The animals may even appreciate the sport. They might even have their own bookies taking odds against catching the human! Imagine a giraffe yelling out the odds, with all animals placing their bets.)

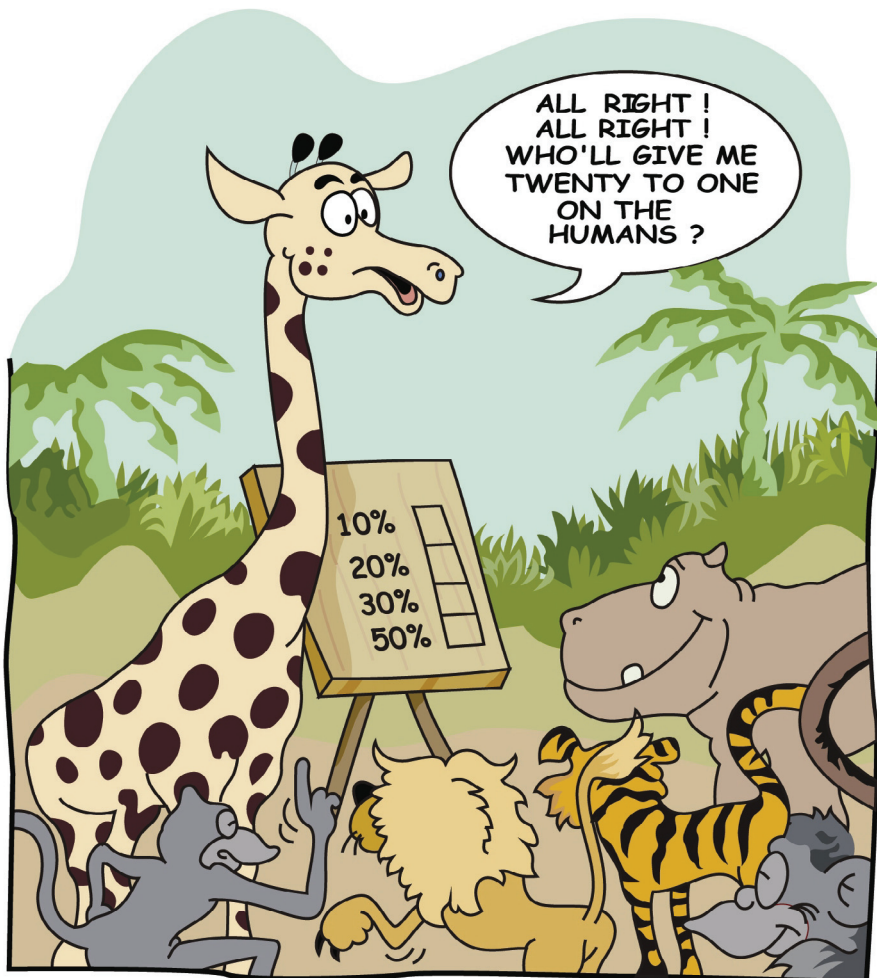
3. Our fresh water rivers and salt seas would be free from sewerage and industrial waste, and be thriving with life. And we humans would once more be free to swim in the oceans, rivers and lakes, and sail normal sail boats, without fear of being taken ill or chopped up by 'macho' speed boats and water scooters which do nothing for your health but simply pollute the good sea air.
4. All religions would be more seriously practised. They have been with us for ages and are a guiding light as to how we should lead our lives, and they part of the fabric of life which helps to give man his 'soul. All religions would be more involved with population control and nature's well-being than in the past. All religions would be freely practised and freely tolerated.
5. Together with the resurgence of religion will be the strengthening of the family which in turn will lead to the better teaching of the 'manners of life'. This in turn will lead to far less State interference with the individual. Stronger individual responsibility combined with stronger moral force of your own neighbourhood will help push the 'State' out of our lives.

6. Man will again become more of a social animal and less cocooned in his own selfish ways.

This will be aided by-

- Public transport which will be a pleasant and sociable way to travel.

-The growth of local markets, where you take your glass or containers to be refilled. Plastic packaging will be a thing of the past.



- More people will *actively* play sports and indulge in all kinds of pastimes instead of passively watching sports on TV, thereby using up energy in a safe way and enjoying the benefits of friendship and camaraderie. In fact in 150 years time there will be 10 times more sporting pitches than there are today.

-The strengthening of the neighbourhood unit, and the more active participation of the individual in the manners of his own neighbourhood.

7. Politics would be far less important than it has been in the recent 100 years. In 150 years or so, people would realize that *governments should only be around to make sure there is a good pitch (economic and social infrastructure) for people to play their game of life on, and make sure the rules of the game are fairly enforced.*

There is only one game of life, as described earlier in this book, so there would be less cause for political opportunists, but more of a need for simple and honest administrators to make sure all the players competed fairly against each other and within the newly enforced environmental rules.

8. By the year 2150 the economic pains of the last 150 years, brought about by a shrinking world market and the basic change of demand patterns, would just about be over. There would be a few

second-hand car businesses and instead there would be lots of second-hand wood merchants, efficient paper and plastic collectors and reprocessors, and the sewerage and drains man would be held in far more importance than he is today. In fact the song 'Dan Dan the Lavatory Man' might even have to be rewritten for cricket dinner recitals.

Trade unions will be nearly a thing of the past because the individual worker will wish to be out of 'the economic cage' to which the union subjects him. He will be playing his own particular game to the full and also will be sharing more actively in the profits his company makes.

As such, he will feel more a part of the company team, and will be doing his best to push himself and his company into a higher league.

There will still be rich and still be poor people, depending on how your particular team (company) is doing. Although there still would be a welfare net to stop the poor from falling too far, there would be less inducement for man to be lazy since nature never designed our bodies to sit at home and do nothing.

The rich would still have their privileged ways, but less would be spent on sheer extravagance like huge

cars since, even if they still existed, anything environmentally damaging would be frowned upon.

Not a bad dream eh! And it's perfectly possible if we press the 'START' button today.