



Biological Lessons in Coexistence

Gabriel Iqbal



Our essential character as human beings is yet a question mark. Are we to be the bee or are we to be the locust. Do we show any promise or are we to go the way of the dinosaurs and the dodo.

According to socio-biologists the bee is a symbiotic animal essential for pollination and without the bee nearly 70% of all known angiosperms (flowering plants) would not be able to reproduce effectively. Not only do they play a key role in the proliferation of autotrophic plant life but they produce honey in which is a healing that is immune boosting, antibacterial, antifungal, anti-viral, anti-inflammatory and much more.

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The locust is all together a different cookie. Gregarious in nature, locusts travel in swarms and act as parasites devouring whatever they get their jaws on. The locust's behavior is typically characteristic of how human being's as a species currently operate.

Another study by biologists revealed that if bees were to become extinct, life on this planet would almost come to an unprecedented decline within one single seasonal cycle. Conversely if humans were to become extinct life would almost immediately thrive!

Something new is happening in the world and the international best seller's like, "A New Earth" (Tolle, 1999) and "The Power of Now" (Tolle, 2005) by Eckhart Tolle is representing this Transcendental Change. Deepak Chopra defines it as the junction point in evolution, comparing the "required human transformation" to a poetic metaphor described by the mystic poet Rumi as a "Caterpillar that decided to become a Butterfly". Evolutionary Biologists define this metamorphosis as Punctuated Evolution, and have discovered that certain cells known as the "Imaginal Cells" trigger genes referred to as "Creative Genes" to get together synergistically and propel in a punctuated leap and transform the obese and dead-end caterpillar to become a beautiful butterfly capable of flying, pollinating flowers, mimicking as a self defense mechanism and hence having an active contributory role towards the bio-diversity of life on earth. Amazingly the same creative genes that code for the metamorphosis from a caterpillar to a butterfly code for the cells present in the human heart. What are the odds of this to be a coincidence! This further proves that life is part of a beautiful grand symphony.

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**Tiger Butterfly (*Danaus genutia*)
Pollinating the Beautiful Purple
Flowers known as Globe Amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*)
Nanshang Park, Zhenjiang, China.**

Will Human Beings rise to such a challenge as Human induced Global Warming, Environmental Pollution, Habitat Destruction, Mass Extinction, crushing poverty and treating the planet as a garbage tip...? Currently no obvious solution is at the helm. However let us say a mystical "Yes" it is possible as there are people the world over who are gradually getting conscious of what requires to be done. Renewable Energy Technologies and Bio-Mimicry projects by planetary futurists is one of the aids for this shift in consciousness.

What are we to be, the bee, the locust or something far beyond our wildest dreams? Whatever we may choose, we better choose wisely as it is for certain that current paradigms of compulsive and reactive thinking are redundant, primitive and if continued may eventually cause our own demise as a species. Can we re-invent ourselves by seeking how a simple organism like the bee operates by Being a Giver, requiring only a little to exist in balance and freely live within the bliss of life.

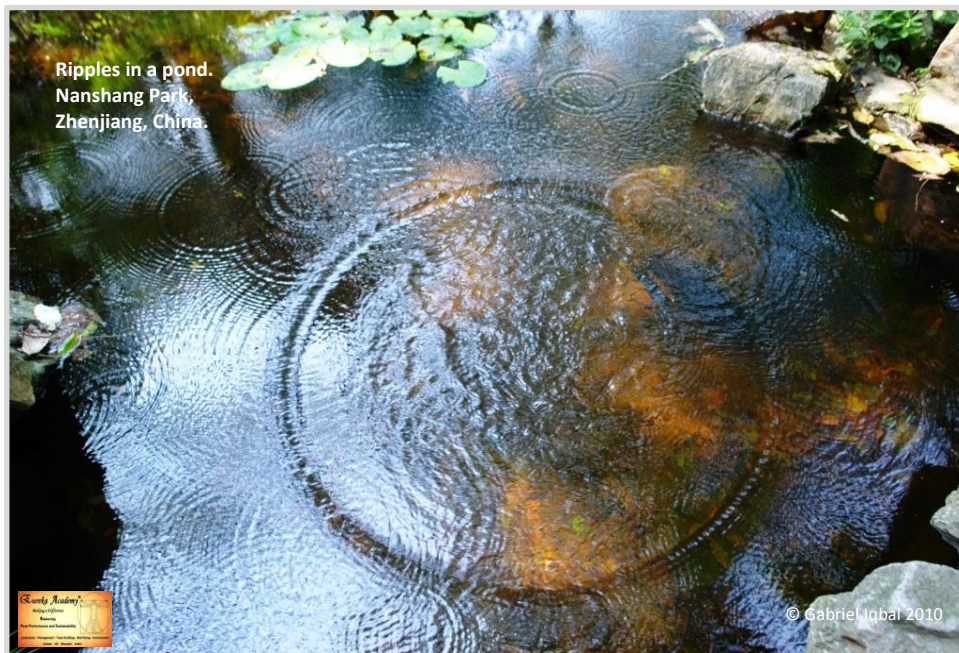
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All life in the macro scale of biological existence is interconnected and can be seen as coexisting as one biological entity on planet earth. The sum total of all biological activities must have a synergistic ripple effect, and if we as a human species do not tango along with the coexisting vibes of our planets collective biological niches, we will eventually be ruled out as an evolutionary dead-end.



In 1975 renowned biologist E. O. Wilson published *Sociobiology*, which is perhaps the most powerful modification of evolutionary theory since Darwin's, *On the Origin of Species*. The theory of natural selection as postulated by Darwin reflected on a barbaric world in which individuals compete and kill for dominance. Wilson supported a fresh perspective: Social behaviors were frequently genetically programmed into species to help them survive, he said, "with altruism — self-destructive behavior performed for the benefit of others — bred into their bones" (Wilson, 1975).

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Selflessness hardly made sense in the Darwinian model. Wilson resolved the contradiction by asserting on the theory of "kin selection". Altruistic individuals could emerge successful because of the genes that they share with their kin would be passed to the next generation. As the whole race is incorporated in the genetic victory of a few, the phenomenon of "beneficial altruism" came to be known as "inclusive fitness." It has since become a core concept of biology, sociology and psychology.

As per the brilliant and revolutionary psychiatrist, Carl Jung, "*what you resist, persists*". In view of Jung's statement human consciousness as a whole needs a renewed evolution, one that is not Darwinian but as defined by E. O. Wilson as Sociobiological and Altruistic; as far too long we have been persisting against our natural biological capacity for coexistence. Perhaps on an optimistic note we can call it as evolution of Human Sociobiological Consciousness.

Lets priorities our priorities' by putting the planet first as our existence depends on the health of our planet. David Suzuki makes it clear by stating, "*For the sake of our health, our children and grandchildren and even our economic well-being, we must make protecting the planet our top priority*".

An overwhelming majority of scientists some of them include Nobel Laureates agree that human activity since the dawn of the Industrial Age is responsible for climate change. The David Suzuki Foundation website states the following:

The debate is over about whether or not climate change is real. Irrefutable evidence from around the world - including extreme weather events, record temperatures, retreating glaciers, and rising sea levels - all point to the fact climate change is happening now and at rates much faster than previously thought.

The overwhelming majority of scientists who study climate change agree that human activity is responsible for changing the climate. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is one of the largest bodies of international scientists ever assembled to study a scientific issue, involving more than 2,500 scientists from more than 130 countries. The IPCC has concluded that most of the warming observed during the past 50 years is attributable to human activities. Its findings have been publicly endorsed by the National Academies of Science of all G8 nations, as well as those of China, India and Brazil.

(The David Suzuki Foundation)

Despite clear evidence and warning from the international scientific community, many in the public and the media seem doubtful. The confusion about climate change is a deliberate effort by a well-organized campaign of disinformation about the climate science involving a few select scientists who are bought and paid by the fossil fuel Industry and who do not and are not credible enough to publish in peer-reviewed scientific journals but are heavily funded to brainwash the policy makers, the media, and the public at large. Their agenda is to derail any action on climate change and the tragedy of our age is that their strong marketing strategies have thus far been successful in keeping the world community confused about what actions to take; hence seriously jeopardizing progress towards all international treaties on climate change, such as the Biodiversity Treaty and the Koyoto Protocol.

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Solutions are within our reach but perhaps the problem does indeed have a different origin then we all wrestling with. It's my belief that we are dealing with an age old psychological vacuum, one without which the next generation is destined to follow the mistakes that it is inheriting. This psychological vacuum is lucidly explained by the psychologist Daniel Goleman as Emotional Intelligence. Our brain is wired up to the Fight, Fright, and Flight response; hence biologically we react to everything. It is an evolutionary response to perceived threat and has been brilliantly explained by Daniel Goleman in his bestsellers, "*Emotional Intelligence*" (Goleman, 1996), "*Social Intelligence*" (Goleman, 2006), and the recently released "*Ecological Intelligence*" (Goleman, 2009).

Power and dominance that seems so alluring is actually a prison and pokes its ugly head in so many realms. True power lies within and not without. A fresh consensus is required, one that harmonizes all apparently contrasting ways of life; but without strife, as the very notion of struggle pushes against the consensus. We must have faith in humanity, we must...

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