



Sustainable Development and the Stewardship Ethic

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Introduction

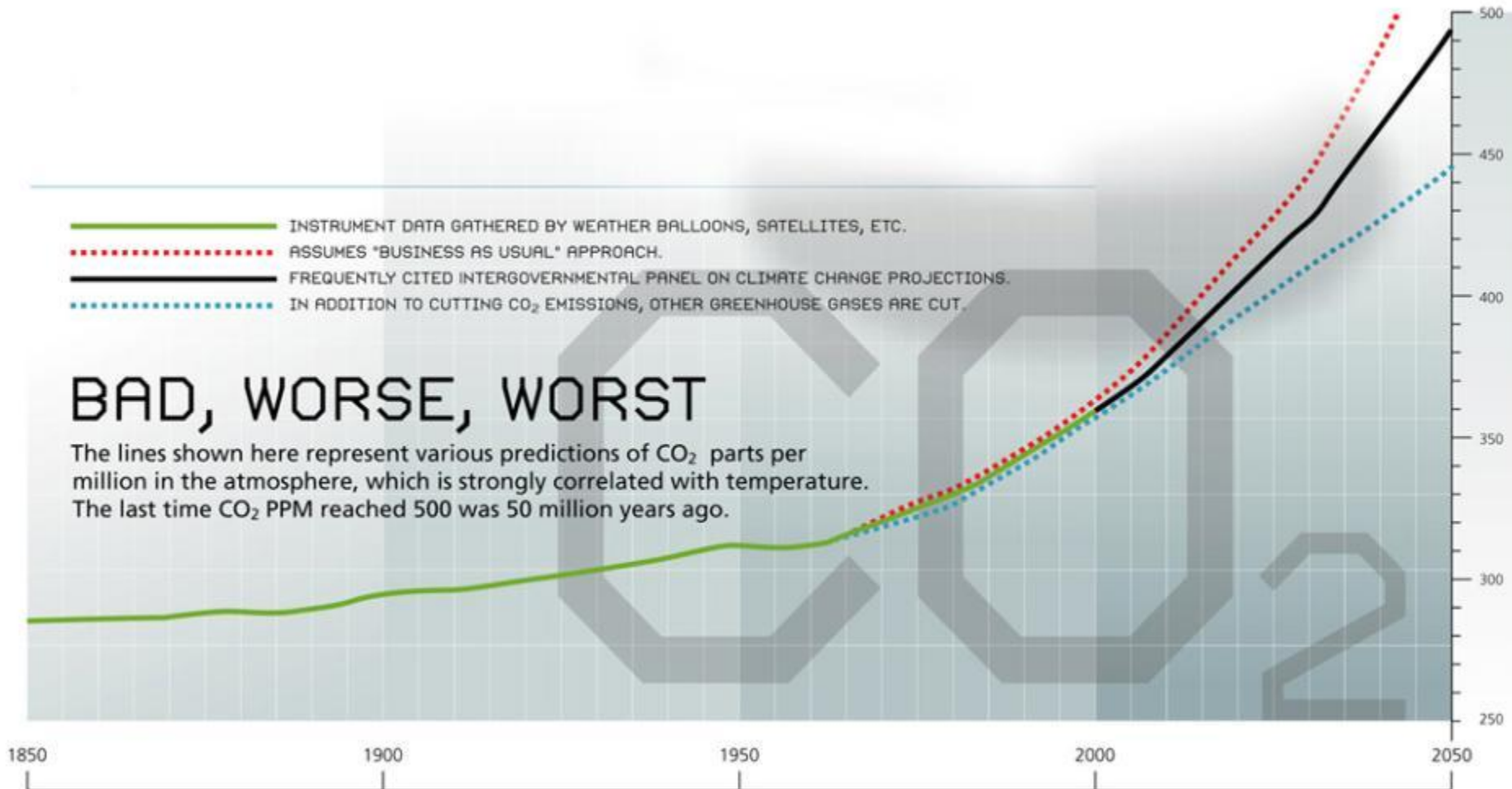
The question is, is the Human Race now a happier race or is the scale of happiness constantly receding? The modern age has seen many drastic events. Most catastrophic of all we have seen the gradual decline of our environment. Today we face overwhelming environmental degradation. The questions that we face now are: How to deal with the increasing carbon dioxide emissions? How to deal with rising sea level? How to address issues such as the increasing energy demands, global warming, population explosion? How to save life on the earth from contamination by radioactive elements, heavy metals, oil spills, biocides, sewage effluence and other pollutants that are poisoning the whole of the food chain and hence threatening the sustenance of life on earth.

$\frac{3}{4}$ of the world's population is living under less than 1 \$ a day hence creating a huge gap between the rich and the poor.

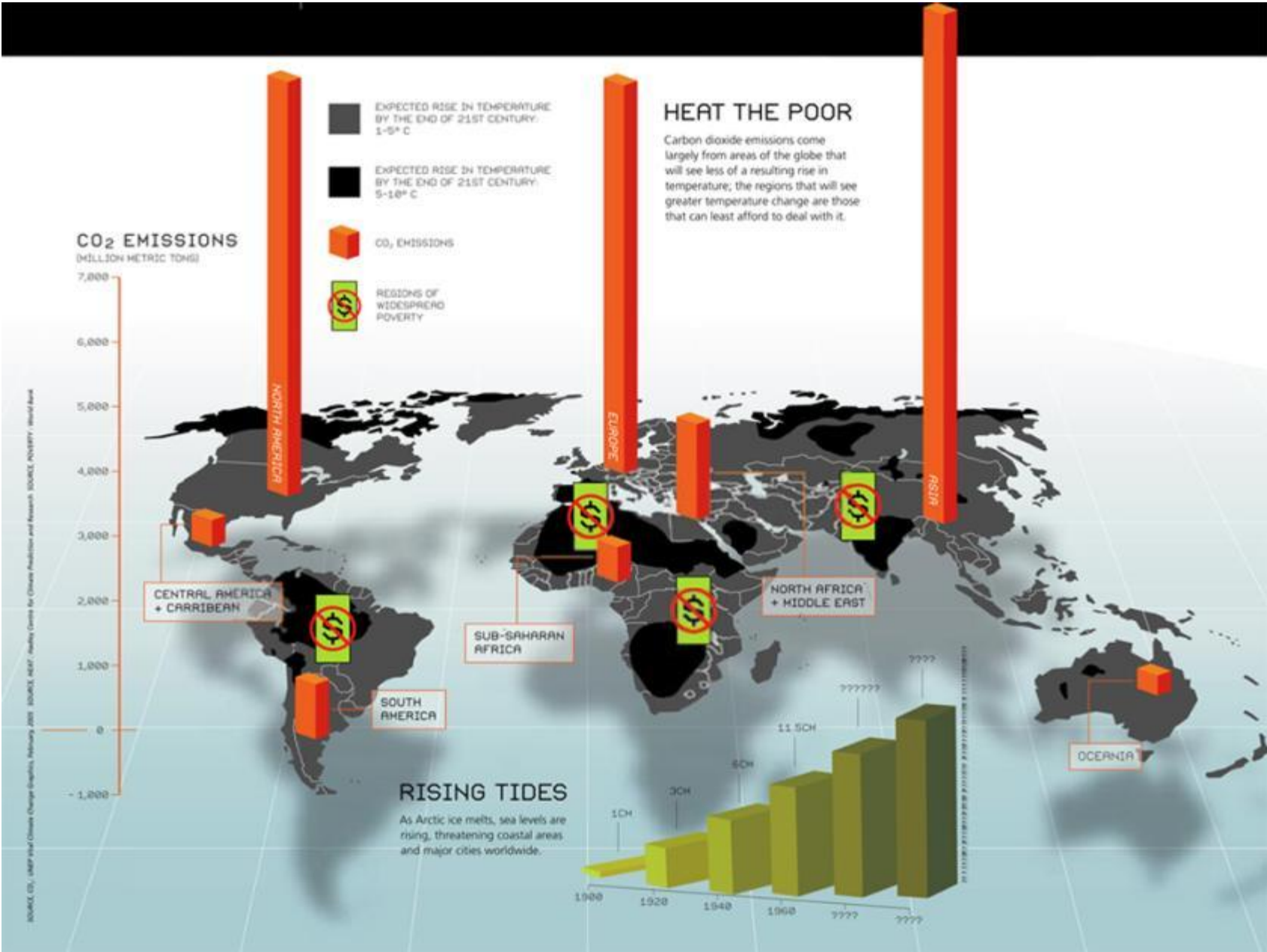
This research will highlight the major environmental issues together with underlining the themes of modern science. A detailed discussion of "sustainable development" and the "stewardship ethic", which is part of a new responsible global leadership, will also be undertaken.

Summary of the Current Global Environmental Situation

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SOURCE: "Extinction Risk from Climate Change" Nature, January 8th, 2009

35%

OF CURRENT
SPECIES
COULD GO
EXTINCT BY
2050 AS A
RESULT OF
CLIMATE
CHANGE.



Summary of the Current Global Environmental Situation

RETREAT FROM THE SUN

The amount of ice cover in the Arctic has been shrinking by nearly 8% per decade since 1980, the rate of shrinkage is increasing and the remaining ice is getting thinner. The effect will have drastic impacts on climate and weather systems worldwide.

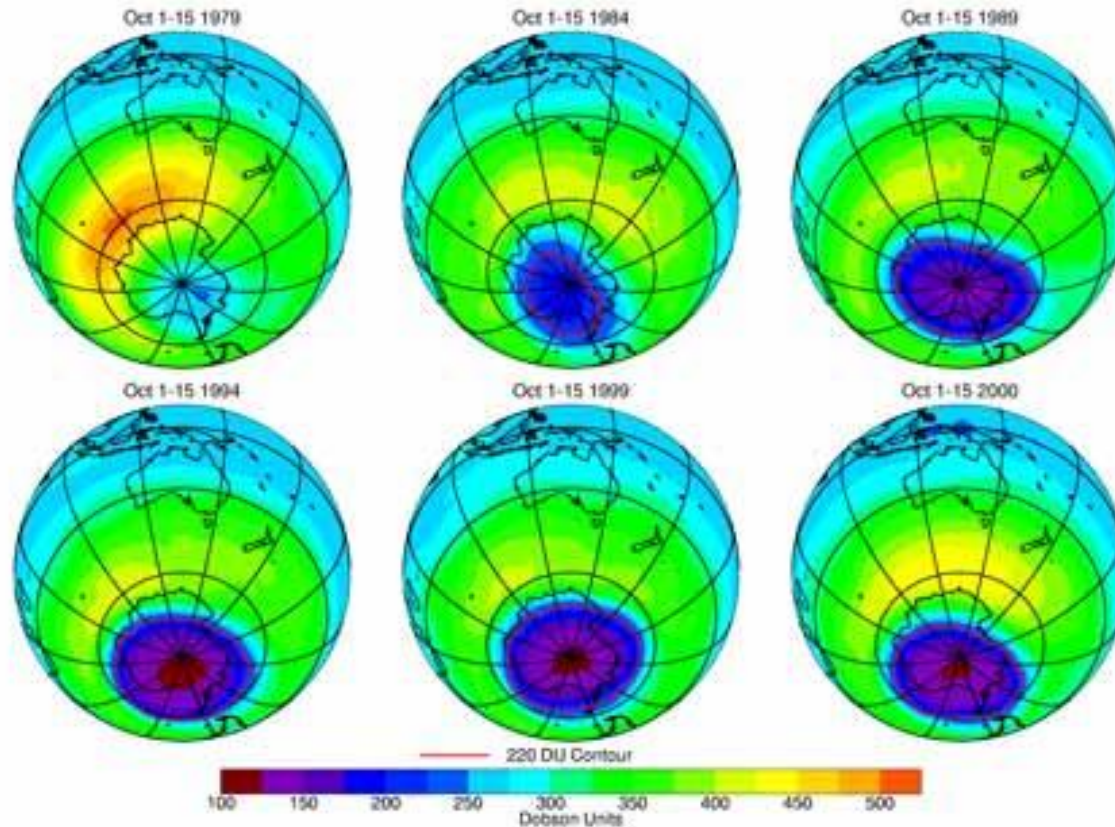


SOURCE: NASA

Environmental Sustainable Development Best Practices Worldwide

CFC (Chlorofluorocarbons) emissions have dropped since the 1970's due to banning of ozone depleting gases used in refrigeration and aerosols. Hence leading to drop in the global depletion of the Ozone layer. This is an example of best practice on a Global scale.

Image of Ozone depletion reduction over the South Pole:



Courtesy: www.nasa.com

Objective Analysis of Modern Science

Objective Analysis of Modern Science

David Suzuki is a distinguished Professor of genetics at the University of British Columbia. In an interview Suzuki states the following:

“Albert Einstein was asked by a good friend of his, “Do you think that everything in this universe can be explained through science?” And Einstein’s answer was that it could be done, but it would be a meaningless explanation. A physicist could describe a Beethoven symphony accurately as simply variations in wave pressure, but that would tell you nothing about what Beethoven’s work really is. What Einstein was saying is that a straight description misses the deeper meaning. If people involved in the Human Genome Project think that by logging the entire three billion letters in the genome they are suddenly going to have an understanding of what it means to be human, they are missing the boat. They’ll have a set of linear instructions, but that blueprint has to operate in a four dimensional world, and we know very little about that.”

(Campbell, 1993)

Miller’s, “Environmental science, Working with the Earth”, is considered as a source book on the subject. He states:

“The world’s military expenditure per year is over \$1,080 billion.”

(Miller, 1995)

Objective Analysis of Modern Science

Collin Tudge in an epoch making review titled, "*The Rise and fall of Homo sapiens sapiens*", states:

"Green philosophers have argued in recent years that we need to create a post-industrial society, but that is nonsense: future generations will need industry, and besides, to blame all present ills on industry is a serious mis-reading of history. Romantics have argued of late that we need a post-scientific society, which is an even grosser nonsense. Leaving aside the philistinism of such a sentiment, we can be sure that our chances of survival will be greatly compromised, and the death of our fellow creatures guaranteed, unless we practice science of a very high degree." "But we do need a post-Neolithic society, which in its attitudes, in its moral philosophy, in its religion, in its politics and economics and in its way of working would be quite different from all that we have been developing for the past 10 000 years. What exactly those attitudes should be, and how they should be expressed; what form the politics and economics should take; those, I suggest, are the most interesting questions now facing the human species."

(Tudge, 1989)

Objective Analysis of Modern Science

Tudge's integrity and eagerness in his review is well illustrated. But his conclusion reflects that his objectivity seems to be puzzled.

He believes that something a new attitude has to develop from the current ordeal of man, but what that new attitude is, is not defined by him.

Although Tudge does give us a clue in the last sentence of his abstract, as he calls it: "**cultural evolution**". My approach to attain this much need but nonetheless theoretically realised "**cultural evolution**" is to define and give it complementary exposition in the "stewardship ethic".

I would go further to state that if it occurred, it would be a step in evolution that would compare in import with the birth of consciousness.

Global Stewardship Ethic

Global Stewardship Ethic

It is my belief that **Sustainable Development is a Global Human Behavioural Challenge**, one that requires an Altruistic Approach on part of an **Arising New Global Well-being Consciousness**.

On the pragmatic front reduced costs of renewable energy technologies and improved efficiency and reliability are daunting challenges and require immediate focus to address and an attention on an inter-governmental level. I believe IRENA is a good step to address these issues.

Global Stewardship Ethic

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 Eckart Tolle is representing this Transcendental Change.

Dr. Deepak Chopra defines it as the junction point in evolution comparing the "required human transformation" to a "Caterpillar that decided to become a Butterfly". Evolutionary Biologists define this metamorphosis as Punctuated Evolution, and have discovered that certain genes referred to as **Creative Genes** get together and synergise to propel in a punctuated leap to transform the obese and dead-end caterpillar to become a beautiful butterfly capable of flying, cross pollinating flowers, mimicking as a self defence mechanism and hence having **an active contributory role towards the bio-diversity of life on earth.**

Global Stewardship Ethic

MASDAR in UAE and the **CSP** (concentrated solar power) Project in Sahara that is proposed to provide Power to all of Europe are living examples of Transcendental Change. Spain is leading the world in solar power technology. This technology must be shared with the developing world. If Sahara can be cultivated with **CSP** probably Middle East can do the same with its substantial finances and year around sun and very sparse cloud cover. It has been proposed that the whole world could run on CSP with Zero Carbon Emissions. The current energy consumption of the Earth is around 13.5 TW at any given moment which includes power generated from oil, gas, coal, nuclear, and hydroelectricity. Over 9 million km² of Sahara Desert is unpopulated, which if covered with solar panels would provide 630 terawatts total power.

The world's largest Particle Accelerator Project (27 Km in circumference) running across France and Switzerland and the Hydrogen Fuel Project are also experiments waiting to show how large scale Zero Carbon Energy can be produced. These are Next Generation Energy prospects and need further marketing, attention and funding channelled from Inter governmental treaties and carbon tax revenues.

Our Technological Adolescence is a natural phenomenon and Human Beings will move on to the next phase of **Global Stewardship Ethic**.

Global Stewardship Ethic

Survival of the Fittest is an old evolutionary adage one that has to give rise to a **New Consciousness** in Human Beings in which Survival of the Wisest and most Altruistic will be the New Way. If this Human transformation is not realised and enacted within the next 50 years, we will most probably no longer be able to survive the Earth's natural Ecological law that will unfortunately cause our own Extinction.

In his world acclaimed book, 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Stephen Covey describes **Interdependence** as the highest level of Human development (Covey,). It is my view that Interdependence between all the diverse Alternative Energy Generation Companies such as Solar Panels, CSP (concentrating solar power), Wind, Tidal, Geothermal, Biomass, Lithium Ion Batteries in Electric Cars etc, can bring about a better synergy in **Raising the Market for Zero Carbon Projects**. This Interdependence can be achieved via IRENA by creating a forum for the above to market, exhibit, create awareness via media, educational programmes, governmental commitments and signing of Sustainable Development treaties including governance by local, regional and international law.

Global Stewardship Ethic

Gandhi's Inside-out approach is similar to Covey's. The problem is Behavioural hence we as a species see the problems Outside in the world out there, not focusing on ourselves, leading to denial.

Gandhi has the distinguished honour of being recognised as the man of the 20th century. Gandhi's life and teachings have inspired many.

Einstein has exchanged written letters with Gandhi, and in a letter calls him "a role model for the generations to come"

(Einstein, 1931)

John Lennon often referred to Gandhi as his inspiration

(Lennon, 2007)

At the Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival in 2007, former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore mentioned of Gandhi's influence on him

(Gore, 2007).

Global Stewardship Ethic

Prior to becoming President of the United States, Barack Obama noted:

“Throughout my life, I have always looked to Mahatma Gandhi as an inspiration, because he embodies the kind of transformational change that can be made when ordinary people come together to do extraordinary things. That is why his portrait hangs in my Senate office: to remind me that real results will come not just from Washington – they will come from the people”.

(The Hindu, 2008)

Obama at the Wakefield High School speech in Sept 2009, stated that his biggest inspiration came from Mahatma Gandhi. A question posed on him as 'who was the one person, dead or alive, that he would choose to dine with?' Obama' quick reply was “Gandhi”. “Gandhi also inspired Dr. Martin Luther King with his message of nonviolence”. “He ended up doing so much and changed the world just by the power of his ethics”.

(Obama, 2009)

Both Dr. Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela were highly influenced by Gandhi.

Global Stewardship Ethic

Our True inner core or consciousness is vastly unexplored. Rumi's work on this Unexplored Consciousness is monumental and has made him the most read poet of the 21st Century. Rumi explains this behavioural dilemma in the most lucid and fresh manner. UNESCO designated 2007 as the International Year of Rumi (UNESCO, 2006), celebrating the 800th anniversary of **Rumi as a message of Global Consciousness**. Einstein explains the same in his, "*Out of My Later Years*" and "*Science, Religion and Philosophy*". **Ralph Waldo Emerson** and Tagore also add to explain a rationale that can bring us to a **New Level of Global Human Consciousness**.

Further interesting readings are "*Cosmos*" (Sagan, 1980), "*Contact*" (Sagan, 1985), and "*Communication with Extraterrestrial Intelligence*" (Sagan, 1973), by the late Carl Sagan representing a great leap in imposed limitedness. Carl gave us the mathematical model which enabled the lunar landing of Apollo. The film adaption of "*Contact*" and the theme that the book/film expresses with a great story is, "*if we are the only ones in the Cosmos, isn't it an awful waste of space then*". Implying rather discretely that as per the law of probability there must be intelligent life elsewhere in the Cosmos. Further also suggestive of the fact that we are stuck on this little lovely planet handicapped by our own **imposed limitedness** and if activated, capable of absolutely anything, suggesting moving as messengers of Sustainable Development and **Shared Higher Consciousness** to anywhere in the Cosmos! Not as gregarious locusts but as pollinating butterflies! Jodi Foster has played a gripping role in *Contact* and she brings out the character alive with all its charged dilemma/aspiration!

Global Stewardship Ethic

This behavioural problem as described by Hans Selye the father of Stress Research, is largely created by a male ego genetically evolved to respond to three stress responses, *fight, fright and flight* (Selye, 1956). Hence the lack of Emotional Intelligence. This reactive behaviour has led to all the wars, exploitation, injustice, poverty. Daniel Goleman in his bestsellers, "*Emotional Intelligence*" (Goleman, 1996), "*Social Intelligence*" (Goleman, 2006), and the recently released "*Ecological Intelligence*" (Goleman, 2009), explains this behavioural handicap in clear detail. 2.6 million years of Human Evolution have taught the human male limited language/communication capability as he was the *hunter* and the female mind in the mean time created language and art, *Lateral Thinking*, the very basis of civilisation and Higher Consciousness, hence the neuronal circuits in the average human female are far too sophisticated as compared to an average male. This Higher Consciousness is much desirable today and it seems like the male brain is partly catching up...**IQ is only the tip of the ice berg, EQ is the ice berg!**

A behavioural problem needs a behavioural solution that is catching pace via the above and a New Language is currently underway.

Conclusion

The scientists warn us of the catastrophic end results of ignoring the “law of balance as set in nature”.

Survival beyond the next century seems to depend on whether or not we can actualize the principles of “sustainable development”, by inculcating a “stewardship ethic” in the New World Leadership.

Conclusion

Let us conclude by saying, “for need there is lot, for greed there is very little and only that way of life can survive which is beneficial for the whole of humanity”.