

SCALE OF PROCESS

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NO ONE KNOWS IF IT WAS WILLY BRANDT OR ACTUALLY ABRAHAM LINCOLN WHO SAID:

“THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT.”

I WOULD SAY:

“THE BEST WAY TO LOSE FEAR OF THE FUTURE IS TO COCREATE IT.”

IN ORDER TO COCREATE THE FUTURE WE NEED TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF PROCESS. OF PATTERNS OF PROCESS AND OF SCALE OF PROCESS.

We use to talk about climate change as if it was something we can work on, in the same time frame as if we for example changed the organisation of an institution or as if we developed a product in a matter of years. But even if the process of climate change might follow the same or similar patterns as other processes, the scale is fundamentally different. Shifting the course of global civilization dramatically takes time. And many humans on the earth have not even started with addressing climate change, they are still in the process of getting a decent, healthy, safe and free life.

On the other hand, from the perspective of the evolution of our global civilization, what we experience now is gaining immense momentum, moving towards climax, crisis and most certainly deep transformation. This is something which has built up not over the last decades and years, getting faster every day. And it gained momentum as we more and more understood our codependency and coevolution with the earth as a whole.

A VIEW OF THE EARTH

For example: I have been growing up with a frightening scenario of the future, i.e. with the image of the exponential growth curve. The notion that we push almost every resource of the earth to its limits and far beyond, the notion that this exponential growth would never stop, was the basso continuo to my late childhood, early youth and early adulthood.

While starting to read “Der kleine Tierfreund” – a children's magazine about nature and conservationism – and later on the Greenpeace Magazine: the exponential growth curve was always with me.

I knew as sure as anything: the earth and her resources are limited and humanity's hunger for those resources was insatiable.

For eons the earth had been our hunting ground: an endless space of natural abundance for us to devour. Plato was probably the first to reason that the earth must be a ball and therefore limited. Columbus wanted to prove exactly that in 1492. Today we know for sure that the earth is a ball in space we - at the moment - cannot escape from.

The first image of the earth from space was taken on the 24 October 1946. Rocket scientists captured the first images of Earth taken from a German V2 rocket confiscated by the Americans at the end of WW2. While the V2 was one of the most feared weapons at that time, shortly after the war, scientists removed the warheads and equipped the rockets with scientific instruments.

This picture was a small blurry black and white section of the earth. But still: those who saw it, felt that something new was emerging, that humanity was beginning to enter a new phase, the space age, the age of sputnik and apollo.

After two world wars and after the detonation of the first nuclear bombs, the idea that we are rather a disease than a blessing for the earth was not farfetched. The hope that by reason, modernity, technology we could somehow prove this image to be wrong was tempting.

In the aftermath of the second World War two ideologies took on the battle to prove to be the better architect of society: Individual Freedom was the creed on the one hand side and collective solidarity on the other side. Both sides promised a utopian future, both failed in one way or the other. Just think about it: two years after this picture had been taken, in 1948, my grandfathers were prisoners of war, my grandmothers waiting for them. My mother and father weren't yet born. But scientific progress was moving at an ever faster pace already.

1960 pictures of the earth were taken from the first meteorological satellite. With these images a new era of meteorology was suddenly possible. With this it became possible to observe the weather patterns of the planet from above. Together with the advancement of the first

computers it was suddenly possible to work on complex climate models and weather forecasts. Mind you, this was only 60 years ago! In the middle of the cold war!

Two years later Rachel Carson published her book *Silent Spring* on the use of pesticides in agriculture and the extinction of birds. This book sparked a new environmental awareness: While we started to see our planet from above as the finite space it was, we also started to notice that we were destroying the fundamentals of our survival and that of the rest of creation possibly, too. And now we had the means to scientifically understand what was happening as well and to project possible future scenarios.

But only in the 1970 it was really possible to follow large weather patterns on a daily basis by satellite images and it became clear, that those patterns were global, and they did not care for national boundaries or political ideologies.

Soon, first colour pictures of the earth were shot, but it took some time, until 1972, that, by the last Apollo mission, the most important picture of the earth was taken: The Blue Marble became the iconographic image of the whole environmental movement and since then was depicted on many publications. It was, probably not by coincidence that the Club of Rome published its famous report "The Limits to Growth" in the same year. There was no denying the fact anymore that our ways of life – the consumerist capitalist western lifestyle as well as the exploitative communist lifestyle – were both failing us massively in saving our global community of man and nature.

Many of you were already born at that time. I had to wait for another 4 years before I started to walk on the face of this planet, though.

Then, in 1985, we found out about the ozone hole. Again, a sign of both our negative impact on global ecosystems but also of our ability to understand global processes, of e.g. climate interactions. The international community acted fast on this finding. Today this threat is not entirely over, actually it gives new causes for concern. Still: the fast international reaction was a success story.

The problem though was by far not as complex as climate change in general.

In 1986 we were confronted with the nuclear catastrophe of Chernobyl .

1987 the United Nations published the Brundtland Report "Our Common Future". From this time onwards the concept of sustainability was set on the political agenda never to leave again.

By the way: in 1990 before turning off the camera to save energy Voyager 1 takes a photo of the earth from 4 billion miles away. There is no other picture from that far away. The earth is

nothing but a tiny small pale dot in the vastness of space. A picture which makes you cry: it is so small, so lonely, so fragile!

1995 Paul Crutzen was awarded the Nobel Price for Chemistry for understanding the ozone layer. This was when I graduated from school. The same guy coined the term Anthropocene in the year 2000. A term that stood for the notion that humanity had become the strongest earth changing force on the planet.

And now we are in 2020. We can take ultrahigh resolution pictures any second of any angel of the earth, we get fast internet via satellites. Every one of us has chips in their pockets with the processing power thousandfold as much as the computers in 1960. We are in the middle of a pandemic, we see a rise in populism, we have polluted our soils, the oceans, and most of all: we can already see the first effects of global climate change: forests burning in California, the Amazon and Siberia, we measure the hottest and driest summers. So where does all lead to? Are we going to fail or are we just in a difficult phase of transition from one developmental stage to another? Are we a disease reaching its peak spread or are we rather a teenage civilization approaching adolescence? Or are we the cause and the solution in a scheme we do not understand?

Let's take a breath for a moment after this tour de force through history and our growing image and understanding of the earth.

PROCESS

There is a lot of evidence, that we screw everything up, no doubt. There is also a lot of evidence that we are doing exceptionally well. The later voice is heard less though, which doesn't mean that it is not true. What I want us to reach at, is a sense for the scale, the dynamics and the speed of the process we are in at the moment. Just ponder for a moment how your life has changed over the last decades.

I would like to invite to appreciate the incredible speed on an intergenerational level of development: to the worse and to the better. There is no doubt that we have made immense progress in the last 100 years in overcoming those ills we defined as our biggest threats. Think about: hunger, illness, poverty, mobility, education and most of all: peace! On an international level as well as on a level of just around your corner: the world has never been more peaceful than today. We tend to forget the achievements we have already accomplished.

The process we talk about is maybe 80 years old. If you want to go back to the early beginnings of industrialization with the invention of the steam engine in 1769 by James Watt we are talking about 250 years! Can any of you even start to imagine what the world will look like in 20, 40, 60 or 100 years? Or 250 years from now?

UTOPIA

Today we meet here at the former Politbuero, the offices of the first central committee of the German democratic republic for ironic reasons – and for reasons of making a statement in our own narrative. We know about the need to make sense of history and process in order to cocreate the future. We know that we have to create meaning, new ideas and new ways to look at our world, our planet, the earth. We meet here, because we at the Cocreation Foundation also know of the deep codes of political ideologies and what they can do to societies and individuals for the better and the worse. We also know that it is extremely hard, to face and change these codes. Still, we know that we have to face them none the less and that we have to create new narratives and meanings in the midst of collective trauma, hurt and fear of the future.

Communism in real life failed, Neoliberalism is losing its grip on having the hegemonic interpretation of the world as we speak. But what is to come? And what will be the role of Cocreation Foundation?

Should we create just the next new big narrative, the new ideology, the new total world view? Should we design Utopia and then take every measure to force it upon this earth?

Of course: we will not! We cannot and we will not for obvious reasons: the time of big totalitarian ideologies and narratives is over. We have learned this lesson from our own collective history, especially in a city like Berlin! But also, the time of cynicism and destructive critique is over. We know that we have to develop and progress in some way, which gives us hope and joy rather than despair and depression.

Yet, if both ways are no option any more: what are we to do? How can we survive and engage on and with this planet, how can we provide ourselves with meaningful stories, positive directions and empowering ideas that we all so desperately need?

I think we have to learn those processes of cocreation, where meaning, direction utopia, is always in the making, always negotiable and always a way of expressing our best ideas, innovations. It is about engaging in our processes and moving forward with them and it is about facing our fears and providing support to each other while doing so.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO

A major source of fear is the feeling of moving into the unknown. Fear is what takes hold of us, when we stand in front of new challenges we cannot avoid. Fear is a feeling that befalls us when we shy away from unfolding our potential.

The truth is: we cannot know how all of this will end. But we are 7.8 billion consciousness processors on this earth and we can start facing these challenges and we can just start

cocreating the future we want to live. This is what cocreation is about after all: making meaning without any solid ground, in constant process and in the light of the diversity of all viewpoints and angles to reality and experiences.

A participatory, sustainable, generative future is only likely to emerge through cocreation. And we will not be able to predict it, but we can be open and curious about it.

Cocreating the future is the best remedy against our collective fear of deep transformation. Instead it will unlock our courage.

Here are three things we can start right now:

- we can start to think about the governance systems the best possible future needs and we can start to design, prototype, test and implement them now
- we can start to face our own personal and transpersonal developmental issues and start growing into our potential as to become the beings we were meant to be and unlock all those great features which are part of our design: love, passion, empathy, creativity
- we can start to engage in humble, joyful, open process of cocreation with our human and non-human kin as a global democratic ecociety

Today when we look at the earth from above, what do we see? What do you see? A cold planet inhabited by strange creatures changing the face of the earth?

I want to share with you what I see, and maybe you want to share with me your inner pictures, too: I see an organism, Gaia, a symbiotic being, comprised of a myriad of interacting entities, participants, streams of energy, information, rhythms and processes. A breathing and pulsing being, constantly developing and transforming. A goddess? Yes! A cyborg? For sure! A supreme complex being, the most beautiful experiment and wonder in the vastness of the universe we know. And the best part is: we are already an integral part of that being: you, me, we, us.

I think this is breath-taking. To think that we are Gaia in an aspect called Jascha, Roman, Sonja, Yantin, Karde, the Cocreation Foundation. We celebrate the inauguration of the Cocreation Foundation today. A foundation who's goal is to foster and promote this positive, nondual attitude to cocreate a future in an open emergent process we will not have to fear but we can actually look forward to eagerly.

Please raise your glasses with me for the Cocreation Foundation!

Press Photos → www.cocreation-foundation.org/press