

COLD FUSION

Only humans have the means and the folly to destroy the world.

Pictorial representation – 38"x50"

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In the prolonged and complex history of our planet the human specie, thanks to its successful propagation and development, is the only one on the verge of displacing practically all other organisms and endangering the survival of all life at a global level.

One can infer from Charles Darwin's views on evolutionary biology what seems to be a kind of *mechanism of automatic adjustment*, which balances out and preserves biodiversity, thus avoiding the cataclysmic collapse of the biosphere. "As all the living forms of life are the lineal descendants of those which lived long before the Silurian epoch, we may feel certain that the ordinary succession by generations has never been broken, and that no cataclysm has desolated the whole world. Hence we may look with some confidence to a secure future of equally inappreciable length." (Darwin, Charles – *On the origin of species by means of natural selection*, J. Murray, London, 1859, page 459.) Of course, at that time the increasing degradation of the terrestrial environment as a consequence of our technological and reproductive success was yet to be seen. (For a detailed explanation of the issues involving environmental degradation and biodiversity see: E.O.Wilson, *Biodiversity*, Harvard Univ. ed., National Academy of Sciences & Smithsonian Institutions, 1988.)

One can equally derive from Darwin's principles of evolution a fundamental mechanism capable of restraining the destructive dominance of a single specie. There is what can be referred to as the *point of extinctive saturation*. When an organism overwhelms its own habitat to the point of depleting the basic nutrients and resources required for its own survival, it produces enough toxins and by-products to provoke its own extinction. The only recourse at this stage in the evolutionary cycle of any given specie is to transform itself through an accelerated cycle of successive and successful mutations.

The origin and development of the human specie is but a single instant within the ample process of life on earth. It is worth recalling the countless billions of other forms of life that have risen, become extinct or mutate and transform themselves through natural selection. Within these parameters our existence is today no more than a hindrance and a thread to the balance and continuity of life on earth.

The inexorable laws of physics, chemistry, and those that govern the functions of atoms and subatomic particles at the cosmic level trickle down to fully condition all biological organisms. In the natural order, all known living structures are capable of surviving in a given environment to the point in which said organisms are limited by other competing organisms, by the depletion of resources or

by significant environmental changes. All of the above is particularly relevant to the present critical conditions facing the human specie.

The pictorial representation which accompanies this writing speaks to the premise that the evolution of human intelligence, which accounts for the supremacy of our specie, has also provided humankind with the means to make possible its own demise. It is ironic to consider *extinction by intelligent means* as the ultimate consequence of our technological and industrial success.

As a result of our evolutionary origins we carry over a significant degree of aggressiveness, a thirst for power and domination, and crude territorial instinctive behaviors. This, in broad terms, is the fundamental source of human folly. Tragically so, the products of human intelligence that have made possible the global dominance of the human specie are ultimately controlled by the irrationality of human folly. This is our ever-present deadly and fatal risk!

Cold fusion is just one of the ways in which the raw energy to build or destroy can be produced and multiplied at “low cost” under our present economic system. “Cost effectiveness” can work in two opposing directions with either beneficial or catastrophic results!

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