

The Rhetoric of Chiasmus #10

Society

Where would we be without society? Is that like asking where would we be without ourselves? What comprises society? I can't even count the ways. Instead, let me comment on just some of the key aspects of all societies....

People

We are strange animals: a mix of smarts and stupidities, of generosity and greed, of courage and cowardice, and so on. We build castles in the air, yet we sow destruction on the earth. Individually, **some are just rushing to get their next dream; while others are just dreaming to get their next rush.**

So how *sad* is that? Well ... it's not all bad, of course; nor is it *all* sad. But, **it's too bad there are so many sad people; and it's too sad there are so many bad.** Bad, of course, is a loaded term, full of contradictory meanings. Concerning dreams, though, one thing is certain: in a competitive society, there's no time for wasting time. **The rich may well be idle, but the idle will never get rich.** And while I'm on the topic of wealth and money, **have you noticed how many keep spending a lot to save while others keep saving a lot to spend?** I know where I fit in....

And fitting in *is* a watch word within society, no? Just look at the numbers who Facebook, Twitter or whatever. Despite the cry for individuality and freedom, some get bullied for trying to be different. Conformity is condoned; discrimination is bad, bro! And yet, **discrimination is simply noting the difference between somebody and me; prejudice, however, is bullying somebody not to be different to me.** Hence, fear often sets in....

So much so, **many people truly live in fear while others simply fear to truly live.**

Well, then ... have some pity for a select group known by all: graffiti artists who are bullied for livening up drab city and subway walls. Hence, **is the writing on the wall for all those graffiti artists who continue wall writing?**

Business & Money

Too long ago, when I was young and idealistic, I quipped: **money won't rid us of problems - the problem is to be rid of money.** Money - all types - is the life blood of all business, however. The real problem for **business is management - which probably spends too much time with money - when it should concentrate on the management**

of business. Maybe more of those in management should read and digest the late Peter Drucker's consummate book *On Management?*

Management is only one side of the coin, of course, the other being the workers, without which nothing really works *anyway* (although, the robotics revolution in progress will see massive change in that). My observations over many decades show **some people like to work until they drop; others simply like to drop the work.** And, while some people have a 'better-late-than-never' attitude about work, I recall one boss whose attitude, especially to new employees, was something like '**better never than late, bucko**'.

Have you ever been to a sales convention? Did you know **conventional wisdom would no doubt say there's not much wisdom at conventions?** And what about all those sales reps where they're **all trying to out sell each other or ... maybe sell out each other?**

How about the most important player: us, the consumer? With prices as they are, when do we *ever* know **when fixed pricing is simply price fixing?** Our necessities breed consumption which feeds production, and so on. So, are we at the point **where the consumption of production makes a production out of consumption?** Where will it all end, if at all? Probably with a complacent and quiescent consuming population epitomized, perhaps with the savvy shopper's slogan: **A day well spent is money spent well!**

So, getting back that filthy lucre for a few moments, Wall Street of course is the poster child for all those excessive handouts to those banksters, as they're called. But, are they totally unprincipled? Well, seems like **some banksters' interest in principles is often confined to just the principal plus the interest to get the sum.** Can I imagine any trader in that arena ever coming to this realization: **will money make me its master, or will money master me?** Sure, there are plenty upsides to making pots of dough, but **trouble starts when you get more money than you need; it worsens when you need more money than you get.**

Above all, keep in mind that **ills beget bills just as bills beget ills.** And vice-versa....

Globalization

Would we all be better off *without* globalization? Guess what: it's been around for multi-millennia, ever since humanity decided to leave Africa and explore the planet. The rest is a ... history of misery?

In some ways, yes. But: things have changed for the better, overall; equally, there are, and will continue to be, significant downsides, one of which is **the first rule of the global market: the global market rules first.** Not quite Fight Club yet, thank you. But, **if you dread the globalization of terror, do you also dread the terror of globalization?**

Today, now, at this moment, every minute, somebody is dying in a war - one of too many wars - in progress around the world. So, **does the present state of the world allow rational hope for a future world state?** Why not? Nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and

biological weapons have been around for over half a century. We're still functioning, fumbling around, feeling our way to creating a world fit to live in for all. Well, maybe....

I'm *more* concerned about the continued concentration of wealth in all societies: **that inequality of concentrated wealth has necessarily resulted in a wealth of concentrated inequality.** To the detriment of all, including the fabulously rich (not that I worry about them) who (the 1%) must realize that less wealth in the pockets of the masses (the 99%) means fewer opportunities to consume, baby, consume.... Like some might say, **the way of the world for the 99% is a world away from the 1%.** Occasionally, I'd fantasize about consigning the 1% to another planet, yes siree....

The real problem, in my opinion, for globalization is the creeping invasion of robotics within many, and inevitably most, industries. Job losses are catastrophic now. What will it be like in fifty years? Right now, **robots are slaves for humanity's use; but is humanity also slave to robot's use?** And as for killer robots - of all kinds - it does make me wonder about humanity's sanity to even contemplate developing such instruments of death.

Think of it: since humanity began we have slowly been poisoning and destroying this planet. In the next hundred years, we may succeed in developing humanoid machines capable of destroying us. How crazily stupid is that? Makes me think that **the tragedy of human existence on earth is this: On earth, the existence of humans *is* the tragedy.**

No, I don't *really* believe that, of course. So, let me lighten the fog of words with this comment from an ethnic Scot I know: **Does the misery of the world no' prick your conscience? Och, well ... no' if ye have the conscience of a prick, Ah s'pose.**

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