



## It makes you think...

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**T**he juggernaut of unfettered progress is fed by *our* wants, *our* wish for an easier life... If we were all to wake up... what a world this would be.

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Oh! Did I press the wrong button? Did I just contribute to our ineluctable progress towards a dead end?

I could blame the business men and women who feed the juggernaut with their self-interest. I could blame the politicians – those elected representatives of our collective aspirations.

Who am I to stop this thing? I am not some superhero who can stand in front of the rolling monster and expect it to come to a grinding halt at the command of my hand held up imperiously.

If I am to claim the right to criticise, I must wake from the collective dream. I must be prepared to step off the pavement and get mud on my shoes. I must be willing to get dirt under my fingernails from weeding out ignorance and prejudice and fear.

I must be ready to climb onto my roof and shout. I must also be willing to do a more difficult thing: approach individuals on the street below and invite them to wake up and to then act with the scales removed from their eyes; to do whatever they are able, to call others out of the collective stupor.

I must remember that those driving the machines are not monsters; they are human, as I am. How would I act if I were handed the reins of immeasurable power? Would I have the wisdom and fortitude to control this beast and have it work for the good of as many as possible without hurting others and without damaging the fragile earth? If I had been smart enough to invent and develop something that the multitude would pay me handsomely for, would I be able to control myself? If I were born into wealth and privilege, how would I handle my station?

We are all imbedded in a matrix and it is the nature of any such matrix that we are unconscious of it. When someone points to its existence, I have a choice: to wake up or to remain asleep. This is a choice which cannot be avoided and, once made, I must face the consequences of that choice. If I choose to open my eyes, I must take responsibility and act according to what I then see. If I choose to stay asleep, I can no longer pretend that this is the only way to be and I can no longer blame others for my condition.

The matrix consists in part of the collective consciousness of the society in which we live. It includes its assumptions and prejudices and fears, its aspirations and dreams. It gives power to a few who are willing to take it and rewards

them handsomely. But it is still a dream, although most of us take part in it. And most of us fail to see the illusion for what it is.

And what do we do with those who abuse the power they have? If we respond out of our own ignorance and fear and prejudice, we repeat the same mistakes they have made. Yes, sometimes they need to be stopped forcibly and sometimes they need to be taken out of harm's way – ours and theirs. But we need to do so through our humanity, so that we do not breed more ignorance and fear.

The juggernaut of unfettered progress is fed by *our* wants, *our* wish for an easier life, *our* unwillingness to get our shoes or our hands dirty, or to make fools of ourselves, or to look out of place. Those who choose to wake up are often shouted at by the others to get back to sleep so that everyone can sleep. If we were all to wake up and use that wakefulness, what a world this would be.

It would be a world in which no-one would blame, no-one would complain. Being awake would lead to seeking solutions, and seeking causes would only be in order to find those solutions. In many instances no cause will be identified, but solutions may still be found. All would slough off their fears and abandon the stories which lead to those fears. We may not always know how to act, but we would test possible actions leading to the results we can imagine.

In such a world we would find that our needs are met by our meeting the needs of those around us. Treating others as we would want to be treated will have real meaning.

In such a world we will cease to regard ourselves as permitted to exercise domination over all of this planet and will see humans as an integral part of, and inextricably bound in, a vast network of organisms and environs and recognise it as axiomatic that our health and wellbeing – even our survival – depends on theirs.

