

The Free Thinker

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Contents of this issue :

The Musician	2
The Misleading Musician	2
The Irish Argument, <i>after John Bede</i>	3
Marlowe and Shakspere	4
9/11 and all that	4
On the Death of Anna Politkovskaya	6
Another brave journalist	6
Political murders	7
The eternal flow of life and love	8
The Crying Tree	8
The Fifth Element	9
Darjeeling	10
Himalayan Realism – from a traveller’s diary	10
The Exile	11
Himalayan Global Warming Report	12
From the Leh Conference	15
Disappointment	15
A Bush Quicky	16
The Rainbow Warrior	17
Comment on the Situation in Tibet	17
The Poisoned Falun Gong Practitioner	19
Climate Change Will Destroy Us	20
How to save the Planet	20
The Ten Commandments of Pantheism	21

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The Musician

A victim to her beauty and transcendent talent?
Many geniuses of music have been this, not only Mozart,
who was only number one.
Through initiation in a world of beauty
that transcends all others
the musician has a liable propensity
to more than others be the victim of a self-deceit.
Through his harmonious outlook
and capacity to see life through the temperament of music
she unfortunately can more cruelly be deceived
and on a much profounder level,
since her bid is more than just her life but even all her soul,
and if then it is being dragged down and deceived,
for instance by an opportunist or a life-abuser,
the catastrophe must be much more severe
than if it only was material.
Through his poetical and musical temperament
the true musician can but see her fellow beings positively
since her basic attitude is pure idealism
and so idealistic that it must exclude the contrary.
Thereby we have cases such as Schubert, Schumann,
Hugo Wolf, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, Bellini,
crushed by the awakening from their ideal dreams
which but consisted of the highest good
and which could but be wakened by its contrary,
by what can only be described as mortal violation.
That is the dilemma of musicians: their ideal
can not be understood by those who do not have it,
they see an additional dimension and a life of beauty
which is cruelly denied by those who do not grasp it –
from ignorance, stupidity or just indifference,
which is the most stupid thing of all.
And still, in spite of so many musicians' personal catastrophes,
they are so much more fortunate and happier than those poor devils
who can never understand what music is.

The Misleading Musician

What's his skill worth
if he only drowns it in booze?
For me, those musicians are false
who abandon themselves to addiction
and thereby destroy their own music,
that gift of divinity that they were given to cultivate.
That isn't music to me
which compels the musician to paths of destruction,
which has been the destiny of most musicians
that gave themselves only to jazz and to rock.
For me, music is only music
if it is enough pure and leads but to purity

and to a higher degree of spiritual clarity
than just sobriety from common drunkenness.
Music which tempts to abuse of narcotics and liquor
is not really music but merely sound abuse,
better than which any silence would be;
for the most true and pure kind of music
is that which can only come to you in silence.

The Irish Argument

(after John Bede)

Going down the bleeding heart of Ireland
the depth of history reveals innumerable wounds
like of a raped mother,
since Ireland was christened long before the English,
who for centuries were arduously compelled to seek protection
against civil wars and barbarism in most remote and isolated places
such as Lindisfarne and Iona just to survive,
while Ireland was gloriously alive and making harps
committing all their life to culture and to music.
All we could do about Britain was to pity their barbarity
as they oppressed us in the middle ages,
occupied us and turned Ireland into endless civil wars
and slaughtered us through centuries
to crown their senseless cruelty by ethnic cleansing,
planting protestantic Englishmen in Ulster,
the worst thing that England ever did to Ireland;
and so we pitied them and even more
when they went into the Great War
partaking in the massacre of humankind
and of civilization,
at which point the best thing we could do
was simply finally once and for all to leave them on their own;
and thus we still continue pitying them today
but think they should be better off without us.

Comment by John Bede:

"Since you make so much of it, here is my original wordings in that post. Remarkable, how you almost used them verbatim for a poem. Thanks for quoting me. "No, it's a more difficult issue than just of morals, an issue which goes down deep into the bleeding heart of Ireland, which was christened and reached a high cultural level long before the English even found any safe resorts from their own violence (Romans, Anglo-Saxons and later Normans) at remote places like Iona and Lindisfarne. When the English started oppressing the Irish in the middle ages we pitied them, when they occupied us and turned all Ireland into endless civil wars we pitied them, when they slaughtered us and bestowed on us the Plantation of Ulster, the worst thing ever done to Ireland, we pitied them, when they went into the Great War to partake in the world massacre of civilization we pitied them and left them on their own, we still pity them and think they are better off without us." JB

Marlowe and Shakspere

I cannot help it, but in those dramatic lines
for centuries now published under Shakspere's name
I keep on hearing Marlowe's mighty line,
as if behind Macbeth and Hamlet, Julius Caesar and Othello
there was Tamburlaine behind them all at bottom,
buried deep but never dead
in ever resurrected unsurpassed consistent cruelty,
a theme recurrent constantly in Marlowe
in the Jew, the duke of Guise, the fate of Faustus
and poor royal Edward; buried to the triumph of the boring Puritans
obscurely atheistically and anonymously whisked away
to be replaced by Shakspere's chastized mollified modification
without controversial stuff but with the poetry triumphing
over death and vanity the more in booming verse
in straight continuation from the drama launched by Marlowe.
Well, it has been proved that Marlowe was in difficulty
seriously accused of atheism and homosexuality
and other controversial stuff most insolently published by himself,
like pamphlets against church and order and an atheistic lecture,
which would mean, if he did not abscond,
then he would certainly be executed.
Now his death appears as the most masterfully staged
of all Elizabethan plays, a well concealed intrigue performed obscurely
just to make a show of a most controversial poet's demise
for the obvious purpose to just let him be, remain alive
and go on with his work, but under cover, for security.
Thus Shakspere enters as a mediator
for the continuity of Marlowe's drama, although modified,
to let it grow in ever more astounding glory
in its mighty lines on stage
to never die, like Macbeth, Hamlet and Othello,
Julius Caesar and the mighty Tamburlaine the great,
most threatening and most immortal menace of them all.

9-11 and all that

When anger hits you on the nose
the urge to strike back gets on overwhelming,
but you can't strike back while still your nose is bleeding,
you just have to swallow it and bide your time,
and as your anger thus is laid to rest
you soon forget about it,
and the motivation disappears
to do something about it,
and thus nothing sensible gets done
about the insult, which remains
buried alive, where it infests and grows
until it reaches some infection stage,
and then the trouble is completely introvert
like a sore inner wound you only feel but cannot dress

and turns perhaps into some metastasis.
Still, that is far better than to actually strike back
in blindness, hatred and revenge
of short-sighted brain-bankruptcy
with no idea of the inevitable consequences.
Thus we have this vicious circle of political insanity,
each madman of his own fanatical establishment
just thinking of his own group egoistic interests,
manipulated into power for destructive reasons,
like the Bush impostor in the White House
stealing presidency from Al Gore, whose main concern
is universal welfare, global warming problems and the future,
while the short-sighted impostor lunacy
by sheer incompetence turns international discussions into failures
triggering the 9-11 sabotage attacks against civilisation,
which politically then are turned into a crazy war merry-go-round
manipulated forth against Afghanistan at first and then Iraq
by the oil mafia governing the president –
and thus is world politics turned into a mess of trouble
just to close the eyes to much more vital problems
like the melting ices in Antarctica and Greenland
that will drown the world if nothing brings it to a halt,
natural problems of man's own short-sighted making
that concerns humanity, the future and all nature
clinically free from egoistic thinking and vendettas –
say no more, I stifle and can only pray and cry,
forgetting all about my bleeding nose.

“You missed the nose all together. And, you hit the wrong person, establishment,
government leader, etc, etc, etc. We were attacked!”
by: KL 2006-09-11

“Is Bush also to blame for all the other attacks on Americans dating back to the 70's?
There have been seven, two while Clinton and Gore were in office. These people hate
freedom. It has nothing to do with oil, the environment or politics. They are
worshippers of evil.”
by: PJR 2006-09-11

“With my bleeding nose I am hitting no one and defending no one, least of all any
terrorist. The inconvenient truth is there was an important world meeting in spring
2001, which the US walked out on, refusing to deal with global problems. Some
people say there would have been no 9-11 attacks with a different administration –
this can neither be proved nor disproved. The Afghanistan war of 2001 achieved
some important and constructive results, let's not speak about the gas pipe lines from
Central Asia to the sea through Afghanistan that were impossible to construct before
that war; but the Iraq war, everybody agrees, was started on false grounds, there
having been no weapons of mass destruction on Iraq's side, Bush's excuse for driving
over the UN and starting the war, while Dick Cheney and D. Rumsfeld pressured the
CIA into advocating the war although there was no ground for it, if it were not for
the oil. See Al Gore's film and do something about the US being responsible for 30%
of the pollution of the planet. President Bush has refused to see it.”
by: the author 2006-09-12

"This is a very, very significant poem.
It is so sane and asks the relevant question, so forcefully and directly without mincing any words...
Ultimately the fact remains that no war can bring peace.
No peace can be brought about by violence.
No violence can be ended by violence.

Bravo dear Christian!

((warm hugs))

Love,
Zoya"

On the Death of Anna Politkovskaya

Careful with that lethal weapon,
you might kill somebody with it
and, what's worse, make martyrs
that you afterwards will nevermore get rid of
since their testimony only will the more be sharpened
and kept furiously alive if they are killed for it,
you clumsy hooligans, that make a mess out of a decent work,
a brilliant journalist world famous for her courage
and her boldness to report on all the murders
and atrocities of our authorities
incriminating our whole government;
and you, deranged torpedoes,
just walk in and make a carnage out of a celebrity
respected and adored by all the world of conscience freedom fighters
and a lovely woman, and a mother at that, also,
like the idiots you are, instead of simply forcing her abroad,
no matter how, thus silencing and keeping her efficiently away,
like the Chinese do
with whoever dares to implicate the criminal authorities.
What can we say? You made a mess of it,
now everyone call us accountable,
and we can not even defend it.
All that I can say is, the less said, the better.

– Vladimir Putin.

(Few media have dared to observe that Anna Politkovskaya was murdered on Putin's birthday, obviously as a birthday present to him.)

Giuliana Sgrena has written a book about it, "Friendly wars".

Another brave journalist

An investigating correspondent of the war scene in Iraq,
she made sure to be friends with everyone
and most especially with the Iraqis and all common people

but was shocked to see how by the mere existence of the war
all people became brutalized and alienated
and especially her friends, the common people, the Iraqis;
and before the war was ended she was kidnapped by Iraqis
for no purpose, just because she happened to be foreign.
After a few weeks they realized they had no reason to keep her as hostage,
so she was released and could return in safety to her friends.
In safety? With her as a bodyguard was her best friend,
and as they came back to the lines of the Americans
they opened fire on her without any warning.
She was well protected by her friend the bodyguard
who shielded her with his own body
but was shot to death himself – by the Americans,
the leaders of this "friendly war".
The incident led to a crisis in her country's government,
the Berlusconi government of Italy,
who enthusiastically and uncritically had joined up with Bush.
She just told the truth and risked her life for telling it,
investigating what went really on behind the war scenes
and is clear about it: US loaded the Iraqi government
of Saddam Hussein with mass destruction weapons
for the use against Iran in that war twenty years ago.
When Bush embarked on this war in Iraq some years ago
it was with the excuse that Saddam Hussein still
had all those mass destruction weapons and was dangerous,
which proved a fable, since he did not have them any more.
So America gave fuel to that oven,
that got burning hot in Bagdad with Saddam Hussein,
and then sat down on it,
and that is why the US arse is burning in Iraq.
Her name is Giuliana Sgrena. She is still alive
and continues risking her own life
to build the bulwark of democracy by sticking to the truth
and making it well heard and documented.

Political murders

A secret Russian agent is in London poisoned
in the old way of the KGB by radioactive means,
which only superpowers have the means of;
but that Russia, which alone was motivated to the murder
does of course deny it, as did Putin when the journalist of civil courage
Anna Politkovskaya was murdered
shot down in the elevator of her home
with no less than five mortal bullets
in the ordinary mafia style,
which murder also only Russia could have any motive for.
Things don't look any better
as the murdered London agent Litvinenko
was investigating the aforesaid murder
of the lovely Anna Politkovskaya;
but Putin and the politicians reason with some realistic cynicism:

"Who cares? Who has the energy and time to bother when the world goes down the road to ruin anyway by aids, catastrophes, malaria, TBC, the global warming and ever increasing floods? We can afford to overlook some small politic murder, one or two, a dozen or another since they must be soon forgotten anyway and disappear in the most boring usual flow of normal global catastrophic statistics."

The eternal flow of life and love

The flow of life and love can never be arrested.
No sloth of slow mentality,
no ignorance or violence,
no government oppression, conscious or unconscious,
no bureaucracy or automatic tyranny,
no systematic greed or hopeless petty thinking,
no autocracy or any dreadfulness of politics,
no nuclear scarecrow like some monster of dictatorship
like that Korean booby, and no terrorism,
no human vanity and folly,
no oppressive ideology of atheistic fundamentalism,
like the Chinese imperial state of communism
forbidding all religions except atheism
and persecuting them with force,
not all the weapons in the world including all the nuclear ones
can stop the naturalness in the flow of life and love
ubiquitously in the universe. – Remember,
there are just as many suns and stars around the universe
as there collectively are grains of sand in every beach
and desert altogether in our world,
our sun is just a grain of sand out of this universe of sands;
so life must be all round the universe if it is here,
not frequently and everywhere but sparsely;
so our life and love are here to stay
and to go on continuously forever.

The Crying Tree

A true story

It was a lady who told me the story.
She was staying in a house out in the country
with an ancient giant oaken tree quite close
with branches stretching over it
and roots down deep under the basement.
She found difficulty sleeping in this house,
and gradually the aches began in all her limbs,
which she could not explain,
since there was nothing wrong with her.

No sleep, and aches all over,
unexplainable, and then a total sadness
that just made her cry for nothing
while the pains increased intolerably.
Suddenly she realized:
it was that old tree affecting her.
Her female empathy had found communion with the tree,
which recently had had two giant branches cut,
which now the tree was seized with anguish for,
in pain trying to heal and not to bleed to death.
The tree was something like three hundred years of age,
and at that age to have some amputation is no easy matter.
Trees are human, and their DNA is close to our own.
It has been proved, that when some trees are cut down in a forest,
it is felt by other trees and even trees as far away
as in the very other end of that same forest,
which is like an organism and a community,
where all the trees co-operate communing with each other.

That was something about trees, their sensitivity and human feelings,
and about the fact how actually it hurts in all Dame Nature
when they are cut down.

The Fifth Element

The question is which element to choose,
which one you best identify with,
which is stronger or most likeable.
The first is Earth, the solid matter, all that is concrete,
which more often than not, however,
is submerged and drowned by Water.
Water also quenches every Fire –
Fire which devours all is always powerless against it,
except when it combines with Air,
which then can dry up any lake.
Is Air then the most powerful of elements,
since nothing can subdue it, pin it down or even see it?
But there is in Buddhism a fifth element
denominated Wood, which is organic.
Of all organic forms, wood is the hardest and the most enduring,
which is why in Buddhism it has come to symbolize the essence
of this fifth of elements, which is simply life.
It is dependent on the other four,
it has to breathe with Air, it has to grow and live on Earth,
it can't do without Water, and the Fire is its energy.
But basically, all four elements have together that one function only
to support the fifth and make it possible,
the only really meaningful and interesting, important element,
the toughest and most usable longliving form of which
is that most precious Wood we all need knocking on at times.

So let's just plant more trees, the most invaluable support of life
producing air (that's oxygen), providing energy,
enriching earth and binding the wild waters
and not take them down,
for that would ruin everything on earth,
let loose the fires and the waters
and impoverish the air – in short,
a tree is of as much importance as the life of any man.

"If you find plants, wild life or nature boring, there is no hope for you."

– *Sir David Attenborough*

Darjeeling

Silver beams illuminate the landscape
and increase with constancy around the hills
until they blind you into rapturous exhilaration
for the mountain far above all others
so serenely highlighted in heavenly and perfect majesty
by the enchanting morning glory rising from the sun;
and in its shadow, this small village
like a child born from this paradise of beauty
living almost only from the beautiful charm of Kanjenjunga,
so benevolently generous from this life-giving magic,
that immediately she naturally must become the Queen of Hills.
Thou art the Emperor and majesty, o Kanjenjunga,
but your child Darjeeling mirrors this supremacy
and grows into the most desirable of queens
by stealing irretrievably your heart
and leaving, as you have to leave her,
a nostalgia to ache for life
unless you constantly return.

Himalayan realism – from the traveller's diary

The turning point of this journey was on the 11th, when suddenly the weather changed, and even the most experienced trekker here has never met with anything worse. I was then in north Sikkim, it was not as bad as on November 9th 1995, when there were disasters all over the Himalayas and 14 people perished on Mount Everest, but almost next to it. Now everyone is suffering from brutal colds, with running noses, hollow coughs, aching limbs and insufferable headaches. I will not be able to go into Nepal in a condition like this, with a sore foot at that which forbids me any trekking, but I will ride the crisis out here in my favourite place Darjeeling, since it is very strengthening and hardening to be here, my first and last love in India, for some days before embarking on the train journey back west, where Halvar expects me in Dharamsala on the 20th.

From the bottom of despair...

Infection, insect bites and running noses,
snoring room mates, sleepless nights and aching limbs,
you just lie tormenting yourself
with furious scratchings of your wounds,
you cough your lungs out, eyes are watering cascades,
and everywhere you hear around you
this tremendous Himalayan cough,
the empty dryness of the hollow hoarseness like of horses,
snows and rains, the worst that ever trekkers met with,
worse than even my friend Veteran encountered by Mount Everest,
and nightmares, worries, tortures and laments;
but still you carry on, enduring anything
just for the pleasure of surviving
even the worst thinkable ordeals
to one day finally return back home
to work, to humdrum winter weariness,
to just a normal life instead of these extremes,
however beautiful, revolting, educating and adorable.

The Exile

Dharamsala, November 20th:

The Tibetan poet Tenzing Tsundue, exile from Tibet in India, has been placed under house arrest to prevent him from protesting with other Tibetan exiles while the Chinese president Hu Jintao makes his three days visit here...

Driven hard across the snows
over the pass in wintry mountains
with frost-bitten feet and corpses on the way
shot brutally to death by occupation soldiers
or just stranded in the snows in freezing death,
old people, children, mothers, victims of all kinds;
thus suffers the whole nation
driven out by brainwash propaganda
and enforcement of autocracy,
thus turning a whole people into prisoners and exiles
in the country they themselves had built
and turned into a unique culture of philosophy,
respecting life above all and tradition
with a wonderful flourishing sense for ceremonies,
pompous, colourful and solemn
as the perfect ordered party going on forever;
until brutal unhumanity broke in with force and hate
intentionally wiping out a culture of two thousand years
destroying six thousand and forty-six monasteries and temples
out of six thousand and fifty-nine
and burning manuscripts, hand-written books,
three fifths of all the libraries and treasuries of literature,

– and why? For sheer stupidity, the joy of violence,
the glory of destruction and the rape of beauty?
For the triumph of the opposite of culture,
human dignity, nobility, humanitarianism, compassion
to let evil with voluptuousness replace all virtue
and all man's constructive efforts?
The dictatorships and mad rapes of politics in the 20th century
has turned the cultural protectors, humanists and lovers
into exiles in this world of barbarism and cruelty;
and it goes on, the rape of beauty by barbarity,
not only in Tibet but everywhere
by blind and brutal brainwash from the media and politics
through the carelessness and greed and ignorance of mankind.

Himalayan Global Warming Report

Global warming: Tibet's lofty glaciers melt away

Research by scientists shows that the ice fields on the roof of the world are disappearing faster than anyone thought.

from an article in "The Independent" by Clifford Coonan.

Dharamsala November 20th

The Qinghai-Tibet plateau is home to tens of thousands of glaciers, fields of ice at the roof of the world where Mount Everest and other Himalayan peaks look down on China and Nepal.

But the glaciers are melting faster than anyone thought, fresh research by Chinese scientists shows, as global warming speeds up the shrinkage of more than 80 per cent of the 46,377 glaciers on the lofty plateau.

Rising temperatures on the ice fields of Qinghai-Tibet and surrounding areas in the past 50 years are having a devastating effect on the environment, as receding glaciers translate into water shortages in China and huge swathes of south Asia.

China will soon have to add more deserts, droughts and sandstorms to its already lengthy list of pollution woes, while India and Nepal will have to deal with staggering environmental consequences, as the melting lakes of ice threaten essential natural resources for the large population centres at the foot of the mountain ranges.

About 47 per cent of China's glaciers are on the Qinghai-Tibet plateau in the Himalayas, where the Yangtze, Yellow, Brahmaputra, Mekong and Salween rivers all originate.

The rate of melting, estimated at some 7 per cent a year, has meant more water run-off from the plateau, which worsens soil erosion and leads to desertification.

It is an environmental nightmare for rivers such as the Yangtze, 20 per cent of which is fed by glaciers, while the Taklamakan Desert in north-west China could be flooded before later drying out, researchers say.

Research just released by China's leading scientific body, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, shows global warming is dealing a hammer blow to ice fields at some of the world's truly awesome mountain regions.

This week the United Nations warned that Tibet's glaciers could disappear within 100 years due to global warming.

"Almost all glaciers in China have already shown substantial melting," the UN

Development Programme said in its 2006 Human Development Report. "This is a major threat to China's over-used and polluted water supplies. The 300 million farmers in China's arid western region are likely to see a decline in the volume of water flowing from the glaciers."

The melting glaciers have not led to more water flowing into China's dry north and west because much of the melted glacier water is evaporated before it reaches the country's drought-stricken farmers, again as a result of global warming.

In the past 40 years, glaciers across the Tibetan plateau that spills from China into South Asia have shrunk by 6,600 square kilometres, especially since the 1980s, the conservation group WWF said in a 2005 report. The glaciers now cover about 105,000 square kilometres, it said.

It is not just the glaciers of Tibet that are melting – 95 per cent of Alaska's glaciers are thinning, too. Global temperatures rose about 0.6C during the 20th century, and the consensus among scientists is that warming will continue as long as greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels, accumulate in the atmosphere.

China is the world's fastest-growing major economy, but it has only a quarter of the world's average water per person, and rampant economic growth has sharpened competition for water resources.

The Qinghai-Tibet plateau covers 2.5 million square kilometres – about a quarter of China's land surface – at an average altitude of four kilometres above sea level. The world's highest ice fields are a natural biological museum for the array of geological phenomena they contain.

The temperature has risen by 0.2C every 10 years, according to the Cold and Dry Zone Environment and Engineering Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The institute's scientists selected 5,000 glaciers in the region for study, using remote sensors and other methods for gathering geographical information, to monitor changes over the past 50 years, Liu Shiyin, one of the scientists taking part in the programme, told the Xinhua news agency.

The results were harrowing. Liu said only a small number of glaciers were expanding and about 82 per cent of the monitored glaciers had receded by 4.5 per cent in the past 50 years.

The rate of shrinkage in glaciers in the central and northwestern parts of the Qinghai-Tibet plateau was slightly slower, but it was noticeably faster in neighbouring areas.

Of 170 glaciers on the northwestern slope of the Qilian Mountains, a range of peaks in the northern province of Gansu formerly known as the Richthofen Range, 95 per cent had thinned by 4.9 metres each year on average. Only 10 glaciers had expanded during the period.

In the Tianshan Mountains in Xinjiang province, almost all the glaciers on the northern slopes, and 69 per cent of glaciers on the southern slopes, were dwindling.

In the Pamir Mountains of Central Asia, site of the 72km long Fedchenko Glacier, the world's longest ice field outside the polar region, the glacier acreage shrank by 10 per cent.

Glaciers on the northern slopes of the Kunlun Mountains, which stretch for 3,000km to form the border of Northern Tibet, are shrinking, as are the ice fields of the Himalayas, which are home to the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest.

Global warming is causing China's highland glaciers, including those covering Everest, to shrink by an amount equivalent to all the water in the Yellow River every year.

Monitoring results show the flow of water in some rivers in north-west China's dry regions has been increasing, which was possibly a result of melting glaciers, Liu said.

Liu warned that if glaciers continued to melt at such a high rate, it "would impose serious impact on local production and the life of local people".

In Nepal, where temperatures rise an average of 0.06C per year, snow-fed rivers are declining, and water levels are getting lower on the wetlands of the Qinghai Plateau.

Melting icefields are expected to trigger more droughts in an already parched China, expand desertification and increase the frequency of sandstorms.

Han Yongxiang, a meteorologist, said average temperatures in Tibet have risen by nearly one degree centigrade since the 1980s, accelerating the melting of the glacier and frozen tundra of the Qinghai-Tibet plateau.

The desert is creeping right up to the edge of Beijing, despite the planting of millions of trees to stop the sand's onset.

Drought is a fact of life and sandstorms are getting worse every year in north China. A strong sandstorm swept across huge swathes of the country last month. One particularly virulent storm dumped 330,000 tonnes of dust on Beijing and had an impact as far away as South Korea and Japan.

It has been known for some time that the glaciers are melting. Last year, scientists said three quarters of the glacier in the south-east of Tibet, and the marine glacier along the Hengduan mountains, a series of parallel mountain ranges running through the provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan and Tibet, would fade away by 2100 if the temperature rises by 2.1C.

Earlier this year the Chinese ran a railway line across the plateau for the first time. China has ruled the remote mountainous region of Tibet since 1950.

Water shortages due to overuse affect 538 million people in northern China, where 42 per cent of the country's population is supplied by 14 per cent of the country's water, according to the UN report this week.

The report said that more than 70 per cent of the water in the Yellow, Huai and Hai rivers, which between them supply about half of China's population, is too polluted for human use. Half of China's rural poor live in the basin areas of these rivers.

China's deputy environment minister, Zhu Guangyao, said in June that dealing with pollution may cost the country as much as 10 per cent of its GDP, which was £1.2 trillion last year.

Not everyone agrees with the gloomy prognosis, and some scientists say that glaciers in the Himalayas have not drastically shrunk despite global warming and are unlikely to melt away in coming decades. Zhang Wenjing, an expert on glaciers, who also works at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, did not question global warming, however, he said it would take perhaps centuries to melt the dense ice packs that accumulate and creep down the Himalayas.

WWF believes glacier recession would first cause flooding, then, decades later, reduce the flows of major rivers such as the Ganges, Mekong and Yangtze. This would, WWF predicted, cause environmental problems for Nepal and parts of China and India as irrigation and hydropower suffered.

"The world faces an economic and development catastrophe if the rate of global warming isn't reduced," said Jennifer Morgan, the environmental group's climate change programme director. "They need to work together on reducing CO2 emissions, increasing the use of renewable energy and implementing energy efficiency measures."

The WWF ran a witness report by Ngawang Tenzing Jangpo, the Abbot of Tengboche monastery, the most revered monk in Khumbu, Nepal. "The temperature of the earth is rising. It is not natural," said the abbot, who has lived in Khumbu for over 30 years and witnessed floods from lakes bursting with glacial meltwater.

"The Sherpas of Khumbu may not know everything, but they are suffering the consequences of the people's greed. We mountain people should be careful and take precautions. If we don't save Khumbu today our fresh water will dry up and the problem will be impossible to solve in the future."

From the Leh Conference (August 2006)

The whole world is here – let's hope to the world's advantage. So far the discussions of the conference have amounted to quite a deal of interesting stuff. A summary so far could include the urgent message, that it is possible not to be dependent on the consumer society, that it's not necessary to use environmentally lethal plastic for everything, that people don't really need Coca-Cola, Pepsi and hamburgers, that no one really must stuff himself with junk food, that no one is obliged to let himself be brainwashed by the consumer society media trash, and so on. The important key to the issue is information – if only people are informed about the lies of the superficial consumer and brainwash society, they will understand to say no to it, for their own better survival. Localization is another key – the opposite of centralization. Another giant problem catastrophically increasing and ignored by the authorities is the accelerating alienation and increasing poverty of the mega-cities with avalanche-like growing slums. In the cities, more and more people are constantly being socially exiled and driven into a poverty trap that can't be remedied – as socially outcast in a city, you are generally a hopeless case.

Another catastrophically growing problem is the loss of identity in an economically globalized world, the reducing of individuals to ciphers, if even that. Another problem is the corruption of the education institutions, which more often than not are politically manipulated and directed. It is possible to educate yourself and learn what you need to learn without being dependent on politically manipulated institutions. The diverse speakers were very much divided between optimism and pessimism, for some the case of humanity was lost, while others still believed there was a way out. In India there is a special high school instituted to teach solely the subject of Freedom, which, in a globalized world, people have a tendency to forget what it is all about, especially people confined in poisonous big cities and brainwashed by media propaganda nonsense.

So one could call the conference a grass-root conference, with eminent grass root pioneers from all over the world participating in discussions about how to save the world.

Disappointment

How could it happen,
that most dreadful scandal in our modern history
and in a qualified democracy!
They didn't just elect him and enthrone him,
that most ignorant of presidents,
who never had been travelling abroad,
who never had much of an education,
never studied history
and hardly ever read a book,
a former alcoholic cheated into office,

and they re-elected him!
They covered up the whole environmental research
that the previous administration had painstakingly procured
with all the clear resulting indications of the global warming going on,
the Bush administration made a cover-up of it
to not disturb financial interests,
to keep up the oil business as usual
burying their ostrich head into the sands
for short-sighted pecuniary profits
at the expense of the planet.
What a loathsome leader of the world!
Investigating this felonious racket,
Watergate and Irangate appear as innocent soap bubbles,
while the Brits misguided by that Blair
just bought it all and fell flat for that racketeer and con man,
tricked into a booby trap by phoney greedy hustlers.
Such deceivers of mankind can never be forgiven
or forgotten, like the 20th century dictators
Lenin, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Mao and Pol Pot,
the mad seducers and destroyers of humanity,
the rogues of history, whose gallery unfortunately
never has been stopped from being constantly expanded
by those criminals, adventurers and crooks
who mask themselves as politicians.

A Bush Quicky

Forwarded by Nadia McLaren (nmclaren@iprimus.com.au)

President George W. Bush was scheduled to visit the Episcopal Church outside Washington as part of his campaign to restore his poll standings.

Bush's campaign manager made a visit to the Bishop, and said to him, "We've been getting a lot of bad publicity because of the president's position on stem cell research, the Iraq war, Katrina, and the like. We'd gladly make a contribution to the church of \$100,000 if during your sermon you'd say the President is a saint."

The Bishop thought it over for a few moments and finally said, "The Church is in desperate need of funds and I will agree to do it."

Bush showed up for the sermon and the Bishop began:

"I'd like to speak to you all this morning about our President. George Bush is a liar, a cheat, and a low-intelligence weasel.

He took the tragedy of September 11 and used it to frighten and manipulate the American people. He lied about weapons of mass destruction and invaded Iraq for oil and money, causing the deaths of tens of thousands and making the United States the most hated country on Earth.

"He appointed cronies to positions of power and influence, leading to widespread death and destruction during Hurricane Katrina. He awarded contracts and tax cuts to his rich friends so that we now have more poverty in this country, and a greater gap between rich and poor, than we've had since the Depression. He instituted illegal wiretaps when getting a warrant from a secret court would have been a mere administrative detail, had his henchmen lie to Congress about it, then claimed he is above the law.

"He has headed the most corrupt, bribe-inducing political party since Teapot

Dome. The national surplus has turned into a staggering national debt of 7.6 trillion dollars, gas prices are up 85%, and vital research into global warming and stem cells is stopped cold because he's afraid to lose votes from some religious kooks.

"He is the worst example of a true Christian I've ever known.
But compared to Dick Cheney and Karl Rove, George Bush is a saint."

The Rainbow Warrior

He is the hero of our time
but rather careful and discreet,
does not take any risks
while he is certain of his case,
that he is right and fights for all the good
there is at all in this decrepit world,
defending everything worth living for.
He fights for Greenpeace and Tibetans,
demonstrates for peace and tolerance,
has nothing with dogmatic bigotry to do,
believes in immortality, reincarnation and the soul
of every living thing and being
and defends above all life in all its forms,
hugs trees and plants them,
chases whalers down and off from all the seas,
is not political but more environmental
and crusades more underground and more efficiently
appearing as concealed in his activities
as captain Nemo and as purposeful.
You find him everywhere, he is increasing
in efficiency and numbers of both sexes,
and wherever you will recognize him
you will know him (or her) as a friend.

Comment on the Situation in Tibet

This dilemma calls for some urgent and constant attention:

Quote:

Dalai Lama's shattered dream for Tibet

By B. GAUTAM
The Japan Times
Saturday, May 26, 2007

Tibet looks like a dream shattered. You feel this when you hear the stories of horror told and retold by Buddhist monks and nuns who have escaped from Tibet and taken refuge in Dharamshala, the center of the Dalai Lama's government in exile in India.

Nestled in the foothills of the snow-clad Himalayas, Dharamshala is deceptive in many ways. The Dalai Lama hides deep worries behind his serene smile: He knows he is not going to live forever, and the community he leads could lose any hope,

however faint it may be, of seeing a free Tibet.

The nuns and monks who have run away from years of humiliation and torture at the hands of the Chinese in Tibet also despair. They know that their sacrifice may have been in vain.

Once a supremely spiritual civilization, Tibet revered the Dalai Lama before the Chinese invasion in the 1950s. It is this religious society that Beijing is bent on destroying ? maiming and killing anybody who refuses to give up his beliefs or who harbors the slightest hope of political autonomy. The Chinese have torn apart monasteries and killed roughly 1.2 million Tibetans since the annexation in 1959.

Now, however, China has adopted a more tactical approach to crushing Tibetan resistance. The country's president, Hu Jintao, who once imposed martial law on Tibet, has realized that heavy-handed steps lead to greater rebellion as well as international attention and protests. Since Beijing covets the billions of barrels of oil and gas recently discovered in Tibet, it has begun to co-opt Tibetans in modernizing the Roof of the World, while quietly silencing the core of dissent, monkhood.

Although China has said publicly it will promote and encourage Buddhism as well as restore monasteries and palaces to their former glory, the picture behind this veneer of tolerance is still one of ruthless elimination. The Chinese hold patriotic conclaves where Tibetan monks and nuns are told to forget the Dalai Lama.

As Tibet's capital city, Lhasa, undergoes changes beyond recognition, with even a rail link to China, Tibetans are being slowly pushed to the fringes. An increasing number of Chinese are setting up shop and home in Lhasa ? with train services facilitating such relocation. Beijing knows this is the best way to control the local population.

Chinese officials often blatantly cheat rural Tibetans out of their own land, convincing them to give it up for promises of property in the city. The promise is never kept, and the farmland goes to Chinese entrepreneurs, who convert it into industrial zones.

Watching almost helplessly from afar is the Dalai Lama, who knows that if he does not set foot in Tibet before he dies, his people will be furious. His strategy of a middle path ? asking for greater political and cultural autonomy instead of total freedom and holding talks with Chinese envoys ? has not yielded results. His people know that Beijing is waiting for his death, after which the Tibetans may find themselves rudderless.

Many Tibetans are not willing to go down without a fight. Today, at Dharamshala, one can hear open criticism of the Dalai Lama. He is accused of selling out to the Chinese. Campaigning against the Dalai Lama, and for total freedom, is Tenzin Tsundue, a young Tibetan who has become the most important figure among the exiles in Dharamshala. He and his band of followers have abandoned the Dalai Lama's peaceful approach and draw their strength from militants like Palestinians.

This may go against the very grain of Buddhism, whose founder believed in one overriding principle: nonviolence. But Tibetan youngsters who adore Tsundue have little time or patience for values that have gotten them nowhere.

In India, Tibetans have stormed Chinese consulates and the embassy. During a recent visit by Hu Jintao, a young Tibetan tried to immolate himself outside the Bombay hotel where the Chinese president was staying.

Tibetan hardliners are targeting the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the new train line to Lhasa. In the days to come, violence could manifest itself more intensely in various ways. When the Dalai Lama finally goes, his followers will have little to fall back upon. The hardliners may then try to convince Tibetans that since the Dalai Lama's Buddhist doctrine of peace, love and the middle path did not fetch any tangible result for decades, violence is the only answer.

But with China ready to treat such Tibetans as terrorists in a world that is

growing weary of violence and bloodshed, the new Tibetan approach to winning freedom may well come to nothing.

What seems more likely to happen is that Tibet will be firmly amalgamated with China as all traces of its ancient civilization and spirituality vanish. Tibetan culture may end up as just another chapter in a history book.

B. Gautam
(unquote)

The problem is the greatest dictatorship in the world, which the whole world kowtows to in submission to its capitalistic success: so far it has paid to support this totalitarianism, so all opportunists (which most of mankind are) continue encouraging the regime that slaughtered its own subjects at Tiananmen Square 4th June 1989, forces abortion and sterilization on mothers who have more than one child, still worships their Big Brother Dictator Mao as something of a saint although he was the greatest murderer in history with some 100 million homicides on his responsibility, and so on.

Dictatorships are not acceptable and must never be acceptable, especially after the century that brought forth dictators like Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il, Mugabe, Idi Amin and Pol Pot, who was actually directed in his genocide against his own people by Mao.

As long as the world supports any dictatorship, the world will continue going to hell.

The Poisoned Falun Gong Practitioner

So far 800 cases like this have become known.

The poisoned Falun Gong practitioner:

I don't know what they do to me.
I have been here now for I don't know how long,
but I am not alone at least.
We are a number in this concentration camp,
but I don't know how many,
since I cannot count correctly any more.
I don't know why they make us invalids
unfit for work, disqualified for anything, –
perhaps to show the world how dumb we are,
as if the world would close their eyes to what we were before
we were sequestered, isolated and imprisoned
just for sticking faithfully to universalism,
the association with the cosmic mind
in Lao Tzu's and Buddha's imitation,
which for some strange reason the authorities
decided to have us exterminated for;
but I must say their methods are peculiar.
We are loaded, force-fed with destructive drugs,
we don't know which, they put them in our food,
or they inject them into us by force,
so we become like vegetables,
losing the control of our bodies,

of our mind and memory,
our faculty for analytical and logic thought,
our will to reason and our energy to live,
while at the same time we of course become unfit for work
and merely exist as zombies, lying dying in our beds,
like wrecks but wrecked on purpose,
why? Because we had free minds?
Believed in something better,
stuck to our cultural traditions,
aimed for some religious higher meaning of our lives?
I just don't understand why our authorities
insist on undermining and destroying
everything that shows a different path
from the established lies of their dictatorship,
as if that was a sensible activity,
which no one in the world can see
how it could lead to anything except destruction.

Now the Pentagon tells Bush: climate change will destroy us (February 22, 2004)

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,6903,1153513,00.html>

Climate change over the next 20 years could result in a global catastrophe costing millions of lives in wars and natural disasters. A secret report, suppressed by US defence chiefs and obtained by The Observer, warns that major European cities will be sunk beneath rising seas as Britain is plunged into a 'Siberian' climate by 2020. Nuclear conflict, mega-droughts, famine and widespread rioting will erupt across the world. The document predicts that abrupt climate change could bring the planet to the edge of anarchy as countries develop a nuclear threat to defend and secure dwindling food, water and energy supplies. The threat to global stability vastly eclipses that of terrorism, say the few experts privy to its contents. Disruption and conflict will be endemic features of life,' concludes the Pentagon analysis. 'Once again, warfare would define human life.' The findings will prove humiliating to the Bush administration, which has repeatedly denied that climate change even exists. Experts said that they will also make unsettling reading for a President who has insisted national defence is a priority. CLIP

How to save the Planet (19 April 2007) !!!

<http://environment.independent.co.uk/lifestyle/article2464073.ece>

According to some eco-extremists, the only way to really make a difference is to stop breeding and let the human race die out. Guy Adams reports – Close your eyes and imagine that it's the year 3000. For the first time since the dinosaurs, large animals rule Planet Earth. In the ruins of its former civilisation, a forlorn species called mankind finds itself marooned on the brink of extinction. This sounds like apocalyptic stuff, the subject of a Darwinian disaster movie, perhaps. But to a small and dedicated group of environmentalists, the disappearance of our species would mark the triumph of a long-running battle to save the planet. The Voluntary Human Extinction Movement is an informal organisation that has spent the past decade campaigning for the phasing out of the entire human race. It is, if you like, the pressure group to end all pressure groups. Followers crusade under the slogan "may we live long and die out", and advocate a lemming-like approach to the problem of overpopulation. Mankind, they say, is a destructive force at the root of every

environmental problem now facing the planet; as a result, it should now commit biological hara-kiri. This may sound like some sort of Monty Python spoof, but it's deadly serious. Even the organisation's shorthand has stern method to it: members call the group VHEMT, "pronounced vehement, because that's what we are". Their logic runs as follows. All human activity, from farming and urbanisation to turning on the tap or flicking a switch, harms our biosphere. The more humans, the more damage we inevitably inflict; only extinction will reduce mankind's impact on Mother Earth to nothing. As a result, VHEMT's supporters forswear procreation, and campaign for their friends and relatives to do the same. It's a novel idea, but one that may (if you think about it) just mark the first move towards an idea that will transform humanity. CLIP

The Ten Commandments of Pantheism

– found this by chance and thought it worth while noting down...

There is only one God, and he is every god.

All life is sacred, and thou shalt not abuse it.

Rest from stress whenever you can.

Thou shalt respect and tolerate the faiths, beliefs and religions of others.

Killing any living being is always murder.

Love is all, but don't abuse it.

The only thing that really can be stolen from you is your life, which is just a loan anyway.

Truth will always prevail, and lies will never last.

Respect your neighbour and what he values in life.

Life is universal and everywhere, to be respected, recreated and maintained.

Gothenburg, Spring 2007.

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