

Prelude: 3 phases of Modern Times

Let us review the state of the world as it has evolved since the discovery of oil.

PARADISE TIMES (Till '60s): The Sky is the Limit

Till the '60s we felt the sky was the limit. The horse cart gave way to the motor car. Air travel replaced sea travel. Machines replaced man. And man was free to dream and create even more.

Then on July 20, 1969, man landed on the moon. Breaking the bounds of our little planet appeared to send ripples of boundless expectations for the future. Now anything was possible: we would get unlimited food, eradicate all diseases, live longer, be served by robots, holiday on the Moon or even on Mars. We would soon fly around our cities instead of driving on the road as if contact with good old Mother Earth appeared a bit lowly.

Breaking the bounds of Mother Earth assured us that we were entitled to break all limits of time, space, productivity, comfort. These were **Paradise Times** and the Sky was the Limit.

ECOLOGICAL BREAKDOWN

But as time panned out, we discovered that the future did not look as we had been promised. Starting with the disappearance of the whale, we woke up to species extinction, forest depletion, population explosion, top-soil erosion, ground water depletion, chemicals in our food, cancer, chemicals in everything, more cancer, melting glaciers, dying rivers and finally the big one – Global Warming!

All this we termed and recognized as **Ecological Collapse**. But why was it happening?

We were soon to discover that this was only the beginning of our problems.

FINANCIAL COLLAPSE

So we raced on down the highway of Economic Growth in a way hoping that this would help us offset the ecological crisis by allotting huge funds through well-intentioned organizations to “save” the environment. But then surprisingly, even the structured and controlled human domain of the Financial World started going awry. And each day we woke up to newer realities: rising taxes, rising energy prices, rising food prices, skyrocketing real estate prices, greater inequity, more wars and unrest, and inflated financial bubbles that burst at regular intervals, until we reached 2008 – the year of the Global Economic Collapse.

The subsequent rumblings are muted but there is no cure in sight. Despite the unimaginable quantum of public money to douse the fire, we seem to be in a state of chronic **Financial Collapse**.

And suddenly – the Future ain’t what it used to be.

Could all these events be deeply connected in a way that we have not considered before?

I believe they are not paradoxical but inevitably and intimately connected.

Let me show you how.