

I will end by REFLECTING on the journey we have made, in the darkness while following a light from our torch, towards a place that is not where we started – a more satisfying place, perhaps, depending on what one hoped for, and yet we are still the same human being.

The worrying idea that human Intelligence is declining due to an insidious narrowing of mind towards illusory, low-value, rewards that was my starting point continued as the background theme, but I hope it did not overshadow my deeper argument that our Creative evolution will lead us to turn this around. What I called the special qualities of humanness, supported by the systemic forces of interdependence seem to me to offer real Hope for our future.

In her eighties, the legendary Primatologist, Jane Goodall, who has seen more of destruction and done more for hopeful creation than most of us, wrote (with others) *The Book of Hope*. She reminds us that Hope is not wishful thinking – it is trusting and contributing to the Flow in which our fertile unknowing is alive and productive and will guide us towards a better world. She noted that, as human beings, we have incredible minds, a resilient environment and a groundswell of young energy, supported by an indomitable Spirit.

The ultimate mystery is our CREATION. All we know about that, from our experience, is that it is still happening and we are part of it. Creative change is occurring, in us and our world, every day. Many of our immediate problems stem from trying too hard to make it happen in a particular way – as our narrowed mind thinks it should. Our most serious problems are not technical, nor are they due to a lack of information. They stem from a lack of **appreciation** of what we already have.

To recognise some trends that are happening can be helpful. Our network of interactions is now drawn so strongly together into one online world that we can see how political powers are using technology to shape and control the minds of a whole population, further reducing our Intelligence. Johann Hari, in his book, *Stolen Focus* (2021), suggested that our Attention has been overwhelmed by self-serving, corporate intentions. Our greater awareness of this will turn our Attention in other directions.

Right-brain leadership of mind is not hard to achieve – it comes naturally with **breadth** of mind – and brings the joys of being human along with it. Biology Professor, Charles Birch, wrote that: ‘The human being is made for creative transformation as a bird is made for flight.’ Most Creativity occurs when the wilful, left-brain, focus is relatively quiet. This will not come from trying harder, but from changing attitudes and cultivating **breadth** of mind.

It is better BELONGING that we are looking for. What John Vervaeke from Toronto University calls ‘The Meaning Crisis – a pervasive alienation from the world and one another’ is a temporary lack of whole-world **inter-subjectivity**. We need this dialogue, amongst ourselves, and with our world.

What we need to do each day can’t be prescribed in detail, but that is an advantage, not a handicap. It is not certainty we are looking for, it is **wonder** and Hope. A life without **wonder** is bereft of Hope. A **sense of the sacred** gives us meaningful purpose that, as we work together in the service of the whole, we fulfil our responsibility as small parts of a very powerful, large system, giving human beings (and life in general) a bright future. The gift of Love is ours to use.