

had to overcome. But even Ned is intuitively aware that he is practising delusion and so has to work hard at maintaining it. As explained in par. 886, maintaining a delusion meant constantly persuading yourself, and others, that you are right. Stridency and fanaticism characterised the behaviour of those maintaining a delusion, especially when, in becoming religious for instance, you were practically admitting that you were being deluded about being a sound, together, on track person yourself by having had to defer to a sound prophet.

<sup>938</sup>In summary, the benefit of Imposed Discipline for the resigned, competitive way of living over the born-again, pseudo idealistic way of living was that it did not undermine a person's participation in humanity's great battle—it simply provided a means to manage the upset associated with that battle. However, since the religious born-again strategy both minimised the irresponsibility of abandoning the battle, and (despite the degree of delusion it still allowed) minimised the extreme denial involved in becoming born-again, it provided a marvellous way of coping with the by now extremely destructive and unbearable levels of upset and associated guilt that affected nearly the entire human race, and which Imposed Discipline could no longer contain. In fact, because of its degree of honesty and indirect support of the search for knowledge, religion has been by far the most special, the most wonderful form of pseudo idealism to ever be developed. Indeed, it was religion that saved humanity from destruction through the most difficult final stages of its journey. (It should be pointed out that now that we can explain the incredibly important role religions have played in the human journey, we can see how obscenely arrogant and wrong religion/truth-haters have been, when, for instance, people like Oxford University's Professor of Public Understanding of Science, Richard Dawkins, have said that **“Faith is one of the world's great evils, comparable to the smallpox virus, but harder to eradicate. The whole subject of God is a bore”**...those who teach religion to small children are guilty of **“child abuse”** ('The Final Blow to God', *The Spectator*, 20 Feb. 1999); and when E.O. Wilson, that quintessential exponent of dishonest, human-condition-avoiding mechanistic science, said that **‘What's dragging us down is religious faith...I would say that for the sake of human progress, the best thing we could possibly do would be to diminish, to the point of eliminating, religious faith’** ('Don't let Earth's tapestry unravel', *New Scientist*, 24 Jan. 2015).)

<sup>939</sup>However, while religion *did* save the human race, at the very end of our species' journey through ignorance other forms of pseudo idealism evolved that have very nearly destroyed humanity. This final development will now be described and explained.

### **Chapter 8:16A The last 200 years during which pseudo idealism has taken humanity to the brink of terminal alienation**

<sup>940</sup>We now need to consider the situation faced by humanity during the last 200 years of its now plummeting path to self-destruction through excessive upset, because it was during this final stage that the great benefit of religion, which was its honesty, became too confronting, forcing the development and adoption of other forms of pseudo idealism, including less honest forms of religion, that are *so* dishonest they are taking humanity to the brink of terminal alienation and extinction.

<sup>941</sup>What happened around 200 years ago to dramatically increase the levels of upset in society were further serious advancements on the factors that caused the sudden

increase in upset 11,000 years ago. Firstly, due in part to improvements in medicine and sanitation, the world's population exploded, leaving people in many parts of the world living literally on top of each other: villages became towns, which became cities and even mega-city metropolises. Cities represent the most extreme congestion of people, and their development, along with their nature-eliminated, un-natural environment, which is so destructive of our innocent instinctive soul, greatly compounded the spread and increase of upset. Of course, once humans became alienated, cities provided a refuge from the criticising innocence of the natural world—they were not created as functional centres where people could more efficiently work together, as often claimed, but as hide-outs for alienation—however, for the souls of the ensuing generations who had to grow up in such soul-less environments cities were devastatingly alien places; as the historian Manning Clark said, **'The bush [wilderness] is our source of innocence; the town is where the devil prowls around'** (*The Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 Feb. 1985); and as the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote, **'Away, away, from men and towns, to the wild wood and the downs—to the silent wilderness, where the soul need not repress its music'** (*To Jane: The Invitation*, c.1820). No wonder Christ looked forward to the time when understanding of the human condition would be found and alienating cities could gradually be dismantled (as they now can be), saying, **'Do you see all these great buildings?...Not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down'** (Bible, Matt. 24:2; Mark 13:2; Luke 19:44, 21:6).

<sup>942</sup> (Since it is such a bold, impacting statement to say cities are going to be dismantled, I should explain it more fully. With understanding of the human condition now found the great rehabilitation of the human race from its alienated state can begin, and one of the important means to achieve that rehabilitation will be to reconnect humans with the world of their soul, which is the natural world. Nature isn't worth preserving simply because it might contain useful drugs, or because it is needed to replenish the atmosphere, or because of any of the other human-condition-avoiding, psychosis-denying, mechanistic justifications. No, as important as those evasive reasons are, we have to preserve nature because it is our original, natural, instinctive self or soul's home and without it our soul, our being, is destitute, a 'lost in the cosmos' itinerant wretch. As Sir Laurens van der Post said in par. 472, **'We need primitive nature, the First Man in ourselves, it seems, as the lungs need air and the body food and water'**. Also, as the historian Theodore Roszak wrote, **"separation anxiety disorder"** [is defined] as **"excessive anxiety concerning separation from home and from those to whom the individual is attached."** **But no separation is more pervasive in this Age of Anxiety than our disconnection from the natural world'** ('The Nature of Sanity', *Psychology Today*, 1 Jan. 1996). Yes, as Yusuf Islam, or Cat Stevens as he was formerly known, wrote and sang in 1970, **'Well I think it's fine, building jumbo planes...roll on roads over fresh green grass...cracked the sky, scrapers fill the air...I know we've come a long way, we're changing day to day, but tell me, where do the children play** [how is our soul supposed to live in such an alienated world]?' (*Where Do the Children Play*). In the 1960s many people tried to undertake the healing process that requires reconnecting with nature. They abandoned the alienated and alienating, soul-destroying cities and tried to return to the natural world. Of course, without the explanation of the human condition that would make it possible to stop having to live a denial-based, escapist, hide-from-condemning-nature-in-cities existence, this great **'alternative'**, **'hippie'**, **'flower power'**, **'let the sunshine in'**, **'back to nature'** revolution was a false start back to innocence and wholeness. Nevertheless, the initiatives that were being taken accurately

anticipated the direction the rehabilitation of the human race needed to, and now can, take. Yes, we have to leave the alienated and alienating cities and dust off the *Whole Earth Catalog* and other 1960s masterpieces of new world planning and begin the *real* 'Age of Aquarius'. And I should mention that because we have understanding of the human condition there won't be the need for drugs to try to break open our alienated minds to access the authentic world of our soul and all the truth and beauty it has access to, or the need to indulge in 'free sex' to allow our upset self to feel artificially liberated from the human condition—both of which were activities that featured in the 1960s. We have found all the truth now that *genuinely* releases us from the binds of the human condition. As will be described in the final chapter of this book, what now emerges on Earth is not another messy, deluded false start to humanity's freedom from the human condition, but the real, genuinely loving one.)

<sup>943</sup>The second immense influence on the spread and growth of upset and thus alienation in the world has been the development of communication technology of such sophistication that, in terms of one upset human's access to another upset human, the world has basically shrunk down to one giant city—worse, one immense, dysfunctional household. Initially, there was the delivery of letters through a sophisticated postal system, and then mass printing of documents and newspapers, and then typewriters, and then the telegraph, and then the telephone, and then television, computers and faxes, and then emails and mobile phones, and then the world wide web and social media like Facebook and Twitter, and now 'smart' phones that enable around the clock access to this world of alienated superficiality. From birth, humans today are immersed in an ocean of upset behaviour—especially dishonest, deluded, artificial, superficial, '**phony**', '**fake**' behaviour—leaving them utterly overwhelmed by anxiety and stress.

### **Chapter 8:16B The emergence of terminal levels of alienation in the 'developed' world**

<sup>944</sup>The overall effect of such extremely congested living and the increase in the efficiency of communication technology is that it has led to a crescendo of upset—especially alienation from our natural, nurturing, all-loving and all-sensitive true self or soul. These quotes—which describe what is happening at the forefront of human progress, namely in the most materially so-called 'developed', mostly Western world, and specifically in the USA—provide frightening evidence of this epidemic of alienation: **'today's children are probably the least loved generation of all'** (Robert de Grauw, Letter to the Editor, *TIME*, 3 Apr. 2006); **'96 percent of American families are now dysfunctional'** (leading US counsellor John Bradshaw quoted in *The Australian*, 8 May 1993); **'The 1990 US Census stated there will be more stepfamilies than original families by the year 2000, and that 66 percent of those stepfamilies break up when children are involved'** (The Stepfamily Foundation; see <[www.wtmsources.com/104](http://www.wtmsources.com/104)>); **'one in two US children will live in a single-parent family at some point in childhood'** (US Census Bureau of Household and Family Statistics, 2000); **'63 percent of the 18.5 million US children under 5 years of age were in some type of regular child care arrangement'** (US Census Bureau, 2005); **'the electronic age has ushered in electronic parenting. Kids spend far more time sitting passively before a device such as a computer or television than they do playing or speaking with their families'** (*The Commercial Appeal*, 26 Aug. 2001). As one journalist wrote, **'It is easier to get lost in a computer game than to deal with a dysfunctional family'** (David Boddy, 'The Facebook generation is in the grip of National Attention Deficit Disorder', *The Telegraph*, 4 Mar. 2013). **Australia**