

THE WORLD IN CHAOS IN 2021

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The world remains in the state of chaos throughout 2021. It may appear stable, well-organized, and solid on the surface but underneath all of the usual activities, discussions, commentaries, and official announcements hides uncertainty and anxiety about the future. None of the world leaders and authority figures seem to have any idea about what's happening to our world and where we are heading in the future. Mainstream media, whether traditional or online, are focused primarily on reporting current events and announcing breaking local news instead of asking difficult questions and trying to run ahead of the pack with bold and innovative ideas, suggestions, or visions. They've given up that educational and brainstorming role a long time ago, assuming they ever actually had it in the first place. We are living through the days and months of massive social and economical changes which will take years to settle in and to become "the norm". Most of us tend to cling onto what we had before - the typical reality of the working classes in the western world - as our insurance policy for the safe return to our glorious past. This was (for the most part and while it lasted) an amazing and extremely captivating fairy tale for grownups. A glamorous lifestyle which gradually became the end which justified the means for us along the way. So we long for what we thought we had or what we seemed to have lost throughout 2020, which we essentially considered our freedom to do as we pleased. Freedom to shop, to acquire, to be entertained, to explore, to travel and to participate in an endless rat race for "more stuff".

A lot of our attention, thoughts and prayers in recent months have been focused on "the return" to our lost freedoms. While the world is rebalancing and trying to restore some of its natural order of things back to what the Earth and Mother Nature can sustain without too much trouble, we (humans) are caught in the middle of this transition. We are looking for clues, for signs and for solutions assuming that we can mentally grasp the reasons and rationally explain what is going on around us and where all of this is heading. Unfortunately, a lot of this lies way outside our thinking patterns and our normal perceptual abilities. We could possibly be on the threshold of another shift in consciousness. A major transition in how we perceive and understand this physical reality and the world around us. What human life is all about? What have we come here to accomplish and how we can all work together in close collaboration rather than through unfriendly competition?

While we may be getting a sense of this change coming soon to our 3D reality, we are not there yet. As we are anticipating or sensing this transition we are still caught up in the "world as we

know it". I think the rising optimism about the end of the pandemic and about our ability to move forward confidently and worry-free is premature and unrealistic. I'm not trying to say here that I am expecting the pandemic to either continue uninterrupted for another year or longer or that it will quiet down for a couple of months only to return full strength with dire consequences for all of us sometime in the second half of 2021. This may be a possible scenario but, quite likely, one of many which may unfold for us. Sudden disruptions and unexpected events that could have a potentially negative effect on our lives and the world economy can come in many different shapes and forms. Floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, volcano eruptions, mudslides, sinkholes, other natural disasters and cataclysms which can either take on giant proportions or possibly last for days or weeks. How about unexpected disruptions in the earth's magnetic field or powerful thunderstorms which could disrupt power distribution in large regions or in several countries. Large-scale power disruptions or outages would pretty much affect everything that we do these days, at least in the highly developed countries where the daily flow of cash and most of business dealings rely on us being continuously powered up and plugged in. Think back to the Northeast blackout of 2003 when it took up to 2 days for full power to be restored in some areas. This blackout affected millions of Canadians and US citizens. Back then we were still much more immersed in the real life, spending only a portion of our waking hours online. Imagine a similar event happening today resulting in complete loss of access to emails, text messages, social media, websites and a host of other online services and online purchase options lasting for 24-48 hours or possibly longer.

We continue to ignore the signs and the warnings all around us. We like to believe that this game is all about us trying to out-wit the nature mostly by using modern science, technology, financial measures, and pharmaceutical solutions to battle anything that Mother Nature can throw at us. We may have learned a thing or two during the first year of the pandemic but most of our efforts went into trying to maintain some degree of cash flow while most of the general public was expecting to weather this storm somehow. Initial expectations were based on a very optimistic assumption of the pandemic lasting no more than a few months and disappearing completely by the end of 2020. It may appear now, in the summer season of 2021, that we have survived through the worst part of it and we are heading towards more freedom and a gradual restoration of our former, pre-pandemic lifestyle. The weaknesses and the shortcomings of our current economic system as well as social, political, and financial structures which were exposed in 2020 and continue to stare us in the face in 2021 have never been confronted and considered for a total overhaul. This lack of decision making and our usual attitude of trying to delay the inevitable and refusing to face the music until the absolute last moment may have some dire consequences for us over the next few years. The commonly shared reality of the late 20th century is quickly fading out and waving goodbye to us.

The brave new world has been knocking on our doors for the last few years while remaining largely unnoticed or conveniently ignored. 2020 was its first wake up call for us on a really big scale. A few more may come soon but we will likely continue to ignore them until there will be no choice but to accept the much-needed reforms and changes. But making these decisions will still be up to us, a grand collective of human beings worldwide. The more we have in our possession now, the more we continue to amass and acquire, the more we will need to give up

in the future. The consequences of what we're doing today and what we will continue to do tomorrow will become harder to deal with and the final price tag for our short-sightedness may become astronomical. Our unwillingness to face the music and to take some corrective actions usually result in a variety of substitute topics and agendas popping up in the mainstream media as interesting and "worth-noting" distractions which allow us to continue on the current path, undeterred for the moment. Reaching outwards into the vast space beyond the Earth as the way to save and expand our crumbling economy is just one example of such distraction for the masses, a "new drug" for the 3rd decade of this new millennium. Just another side topic to stir up interest and excitement among the potential investors and manufacturers. While it is becoming increasingly challenging to deal with our messed-up world beneath the skies and to come up with bold and innovative solutions, let's just do what we are so good at. Sweep under the carpet and hide what we can and let's shift our attention to something worth competing for in world economics or fighting against in politics. While our human actions and reactions have their highly predictable patterns of behaviour, nature can and will surprise us in many different ways, possibly for months and years on until we stop ignoring it and treating like a grand repository of resources created especially for us and our ever-expanding wants and needs.