

why you need to get off your ass *a call for action*

Friends, we have some problems to discuss. There are some things which are going very wrong in the world, and if we don't get our acts together to *do something about them* there is going to be hell to pay by the time we are old.

We're post-boomers. We're coming into power. We remember the sixties as history, not as something we ever lived through. We remember *the bomb* and we remember the relief of the collapse of the soviet union and the expectation that peace - *pax americana* - would give us a sane world. We remember 9/11 as the end of a dream which is no more real now than the 60s are.

We had peace from about '87 to 2001. 14 good years of economic boom, internet buildout. All my friends thought they might get rich, .com nerds, enviros, globalists. Now those same people are struggling to survive - the risk-seeking behavior which was positive in the boom is poisonous in the bust. And it hits the smartest, best, fastest-moving first and hardest. It's not VCs lacking insight, it's much deeper - it's that the future is not better than the present for most of us, and those reaching furthest into that future get hit hardest by the fact that *there's nothing there*.

Let me justify that a little. The fish in the sea are gone. The forests which covered America are gone, and the rest are following them fast. The topsoil is going fast. The levels of

poisonous crap - plastic in the sea, dioxins, whatever - are going up, and continue to rise. The financial system is built on enormous lies which people sell to each-other in increasingly complex ways; the modern *emperor's new clothes* is a financial instrument that you're too dumb to understand, but not by any means too dumb to buy.

Now let's talk about poverty. Kerala has \$1/day income, and 76 year life expectancy. *Their kids live*. Congo has about the same income level, and a life expectancy of 56. 1/12 of their kids die. By my rough estimates, going from the WHO numbers, 1/3 of all the people who die every year die of poverty. *One fucking third*.

Wake the fuck up. I do not normally sound this angry, I normally just do my best to deal with the problems as I find them, at least pathfinding a way forwards, but I'm losing patience. Whatever you are doing, right now, is less important than doing something about the fate of the world. Now I am not telling you what you should be doing, I'm not asking you to help me or the Hexayurt Project or pick my damn problem list as your problem list. *What I'm asking you to do is stop measuring the success of your endeavors by money. It's going to be irrelevant very, very soon because when the planet goes bankrupt, or the poor rise violently because of what we have done and not done, money is not going to matter.*

These problems are real. If the governments or the NGOs or the UN were going to solve the problem, they would have. About the only success we have in 50 years is dealing with the ozone hole: the rest is a total fucking disaster. Waiting for them to come and sort this mess out is suicide. *Get moving, soldier.*