

2023... I Wonder?

As 2022 comes to an end, I have to reflect about the past year and I have to wonder why I am even writing this article?

My first thought after almost two years of alternating between lockdowns and new outbreaks of the coronavirus due to viral mutations... will life begin to return to normal... even with the preventative vaccines? I have to wonder! Coming from a scientific background I can see with extreme clarity that the myths, beliefs and misconceptions which have spread rampantly throughout the world about COVID-19 vaccines and non-scientific cures are not simply misinformation... instead a total opposition to science... the Truth. Metastasizing into anti-science aggression to such a point to divide families and nations. I clearly see that when people have a conflict between our attitudes and our behavior... we tend to change our attitudes to make them consistent with our behavior rather than change our behavior to make it consistent with our attitudes. My last statement is probably too complex to be understood by most people who read this article. Too damn bad! I am tired of side stepping the obvious and stupid people. ***Ideally, people who are rational beings are consistently adjusting their beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors to align themselves with new information that is essentially incontrovertible or otherwise known as the Truth.*** Specifically scientific information. The absolute Truth. But this was not the case in 2022. Indeed, there are so many stupid people who still maintain that the earth is flat; or only 6,500 years old; that vaccines are a health hazard or a some form of government conspiracy; that evolution is a falsehood; that climate change is a hoax; or that Trump won the 2020 Presidential election. I do not know if this will be the new normal for our society, but I do know the events of 2022 and recent past years will reshape the world, the world economy, and our changing political and social cultures... just as much as war, world plagues, and economic depression reordered and restructured life for previous generations. One of my biggest fears today is how American politics will restructure the world with its lies. My end of the year wish is: If people lie they “will be” penalized severely for lying no matter if they are a politician, a lawyer, a policeman, a friend or a family member. How will they to be punished... that I do not know! Some form of punishment where they would never dare to lie about anything again. Lies poison Trust and change lives forever! I just wish men and women would quit punishing each other for telling the truth. Lies may make people feel better about bad situations, but it does not help them know the truth. It makes me wonder if anyone can distinguish lies from the truth anymore? It baffles me that intelligent people are still lying about Trump and other political issues when deep down they must know they are only lies.

This past year I kept thinking the unthinkable. I never thought in my wildest dreams I could not trust the people who hold power over me in the United States. That I could not trust the President of the United States, our politicians, the police, our clergy, our teachers of higher learning or simply our closest family members who have sworn to protect my best interests concerning my life, my well being and my freedom. In my closing years of life I am coming to the realization that most everything I was taught was just programming for me to think what they wanted me to think and to control me so that

I would be “the good son” or “a good obeying citizen.” Controlling me so they could capitalize on my strengths so they could profit from my physical and mental talents for their own benefit. Promises by family, schools, business were more of a guise to conceal my following thoughts. Our understanding that we are free and have inalienable rights and the institutions of our country have our best interest at heart is just blatantly not true. In my opinion the people of the world have changed or maybe it has always been this way and I just didn’t see it. In today’s world it’s all about money, greed and power.

Random thoughts from 2022: You can not make everyone happy, and if you try, you will lose yourself. Your actions speak louder than your words, so you need to hold yourself accountable for everything you do in life. It's not what happens, it's how you react that matters to what happens. Your words are more important than your thoughts, in reality no cares what you think or in my case what I write... sadly no one reads anymore. Time is your most valuable asset. Nobody cares how difficult your life was or is, and you are the author of your own life story and realistically others only care about their own life story. Everyone you love is going to die... You're going to die and you have no idea when or how it will occur in either instance. My most important thought that came to me today is: You can't be perfect, and holding yourself to unrealistic standards only creates suffering to one's own self. I have to wonder if any of my thoughts really matter to anyone else but me? More than likely not.

I could focus on the negative things that may or may not come with 2023. A nuclear holocaust thanks to Russia's or North Korea's stupidity, a mutation of COVID-19 that wipes out the world's population of humans, or having to be bombarded daily by the news and internet with false and misleading narratives on science and technology, world politics, Iran hanging more of its citizens for telling the truth, and world society showing us there is no hope for man kind or common sense or TRUTH. Maybe worse yet... no more Mickey ice cream bars with sprinkles. I wonder if anyone will see my attempt at some humor where humor isn't needed? Probably not...

Even though I was labeled as a “know-it-all” this year. I have come to realize, that even though people ask, they do not want your opinion or your thoughts unless it agrees with theirs. Otherwise what happens is it becomes a contest of who is right and who is wrong. It becomes a contest where they keep giving their unwanted, unfounded opinions and beliefs to me justifying themselves with their utter stupidity while they reject anything factual I have to say. In my mind it is more about their attitude of arrogance than about their knowledge. My daughter and I agree with this fact. I find I can not and will not defend myself against stupidity and arrogance any longer. So from this point on in my life I will smile silently saying quietly in my mind “Your stupidity is like the Universe - Endless!”... saying out loud a single word... “Interesting!” I wonder if anyone will notice?

In 2023 I hope that technology in medical science or science in general will continue to exponentially grow despite the anti-science aggression from the band of ultraconservative members of the US Congress and other public officials with far-right

leanings, the conservative news outlets, and the internet disinformation mongers who are waging organized and seemingly well-coordinated attacks against prominent US biological scientists and scientific facts. Anyone who is trying to replace the truth with alternative facts, fiction and lies as the truth should be silenced... unfortunately because stupid, ignorant people believe in opinions, lies, unfounded beliefs, and stupid crap more than the truth it will never stop. I wonder if anyone else has had this thought?

My last maybe positive thought going into 2023 is I wish for "World Peace." Hasn't everyone wished for that? A planet where mankind works together with his brother and solves the world's problems. A planet where there is Peace among family members, peace in communities, freedom from all conflicts... harmony with man and nature. Even though the concept of Peace is a fleeting thought or just another word to the majority of us. World wars, world religions, plagues and pandemics, world wide hostilities still haven't caused us to unite as one people in harmony or peace. Even apparently the reality of global warming, the diminishment of essential resources, the threats of biological warfare or global nuclear annihilation, the Ukraine, the mass migration of homeless refugees from war and natural disasters has not brought us together as one people. I have to wonder what will? It is assumed that if alien life or alien civilizations do exist...they will be individuals from a greater community of intelligent life who are peaceful. Maybe they are not. Perhaps the outside threat to the human race is becoming slaves to alien races who would stifle our technology with their brand of truth and technology bringing the people of earth to near extinction. Maybe this would bring the world unity and Peace to the people of Earth. I have to wonder, but I doubt it.

Instead of thinking and worrying about all the lies, tragedies and disasters in this world this New Year's Eve. I am going to spend it with the one person that gives me peace in this world with her affection, her compassion, her respect, and her never ending consideration. Seemingly the only person in the world that wants to share her time, interests, and generosity with me... expecting nothing but the same in return. No matter what happens... 2023 will be an incredible year! Simply because I am with her. In the remote case my wife ever reads this paragraph I wonder if she would think what I just stated was "Too Syrupy?"

Going into 2023 I wonder if it's better to know some of the questions, rather than all of the answers. As others have stated there are no limits to human intelligence, our imagination, and the wonder in our world. With all the beliefs, opinions and alternative truths every person faces daily. I now see that people will accept facts as truth only if the facts agree with what they already believe, align with their opinions, or agree with their alternative truth due to our conflict between our attitudes and our behavior. It is sad but oh so true.

***"The pursuit of truth and beauty is a sphere of activity in which we are permitted to remain children all our lives."* — Albert Einstein**

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