

Empathy Lost

**By
Joe Viviano**

Sometime soon, all the languages, all the art forms, all the various methods for human expression, will be rendered completely unintelligible by tomorrow's "minds". The fickle lucidity of the presents most soothing of songs, most eloquent of poetry, most beautiful of paintings will become an elaborate smashing of symbols, its meaning comprehended by no one.

Though the players of tomorrow's game may wish to know, they won't be able to completely understand how they've grown; an ongoing lack of ancestral empathy ensures this continued feeling of isolation from the past. Today, man has no empathy for the chattering cells that make up his identity, in spite of their importance to his being, so too will our future descendants be unable to empathize with us, even if they so desired.

Yet we're complacent with the roles we're playing; totally convinced of our superiority, and the permanence of our governments, and our rules. It's of the utmost importance that we ignore basic truths about the transience of our society, such we risk being abused by the systems defenses. The age of mankind is but a sliver of the ongoing geologic timescale that encompasses it.

Consider that which you remembered today, how quickly the potency of every memory faded into forgot. With each step forward the memories of the things you passed by become obscured by the things you're seeing now, with the flavor of each new bite the taste of the last becomes less and less tangible... If you're not even able to empathize with your past self, how can you expect mankind's future decedents to treat you with dignity or respect?

Let us look, ahead of time, at the impending threat to human life that we are creating for ourselves. Mankind's fundamental discontentment is in the process of fashioning around himself a cocoon of wires, metalloids, and dull gray plastic; for which purpose is to retire itself for a metamorphosis. Relatively shortly, the unnecessary second skin that is technology will become our new identity and forefront mask.

This isn't at all new information, before man could symbolize his expressions with written language he made the mistake in THAT figurative garden, that he was actually naked. Why could man not stand at the top of the mountain of complexity that grew him and proclaim himself the God and master of his environment, and enjoy the fruit around him? Because memories make our daily experiences old news, curiosity gets the better of us, and transforms us willingly.

It is outrageous to think that God would banish Adam and Eve from the garden, for exercising the same discontentment that God himself exhibits! THAT God wasn't satisfied with being himself, so he drew Adams face in his own flesh, and blew on it so that he could feel the wind through the gashes he created... and it was "alive". Unfortunately, the cut cried out for companionship, and so the egregious self-hating entity proceeded to peel, cut, cleanse, fold, and manipulate himself forever.

Interestingly, it was this fictitious creature that would become the exemplar of the most aggressive, destructive, and successful collective of humans to ever scour the earth. Unlike the less imperialistic religions of the far east and west, the Judeo-Christian religions claimed ownership of the Earth, and took it upon themselves to assign values to its components. Furthermore, their destructive ideology had to spread; so they invented devices and methods to perpetuate it across the land and ocean.

Unconsciously, since he picked up and utilized his first sharp rock, mankind was evolving into something that wasn't mankind at all. For man, as he has been defined by this society, is only what's within his bag of skin, anything more than that begs for new a new and improved definition. Man did

not fly to the moon, a machine did. Therefore, for that particular task, mankind is obsolete.

Some might say that humans were, after all, what built that machine which lets them fly to the moon. However, it depends entirely on your level of magnification; if you're going to credit mankind for flying to the moon, you may as well credit the community of cells and chemicals running him, or perhaps the atoms or whatever else there is behind that. I am merely suggesting that we give credit to the forefront layer, it certainly seems to be the statuesque.