

Reimagining Tomorrow – Our Turn, Our Time, Our Future

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Are we optimistic because we are ignorant or are we a deluded generation? Perhaps we are blinded by the fantasies that we predicted which have realised as nightmares. As a wise man said, 'For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow' (Solomon 10 BC). Are we pretending not to notice the signs to protect our bubble of happiness?

It is no surprise that there is an alarming increase in the use of social media among the youth due to the digitisation of learning and socialising accelerated by the current pandemic and it has been named the age of alternate realities. Tik Tok, Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook, to name a few, are social applications that have unimaginably expanded globalisation in the past decade. Almost every young person has access to a world of people and objects at the touch of a screen. The expansion in options on who to date or befriend may at first appear to be a revolutionary idea. Yet at the heart of this issue is a fundamental human question that is central to the heart of human relationships. Can a true, honest relationship exist where there is no intimacy? More so, can human intimacy exist without genuine exclusivity? The answer to these questions does not appear to be optimistic.

This leads on to an increase in low self-esteem among teenagers. Beauty has always been a wheel, like fashion, that spins with the culture. However, society has seen a boom in the number of people who have plastic surgeries to change precious parts of their body because it does not look like that of a stranger. The many options have left us lonely and craving for acceptance in an indifferent world with distorted definitions of life and love. Everything has become a superficial ploy to get more likes and views, and the important things that should matter, such as happiness,

enjoyment, purpose or even suffering are completely disregarded. Most young people do not understand fundamental answers to life's most central questions, neither do they want to. The aftereffects of the lyrics from an artist named Miley Cyrus – 'It's our party, we can do what we want to. It's our party, we say what we want to. It's our party, we can love who we want' – are beginning to show the startling consequences of such recklessness in living. The absence of definition is like a speeding train that is moving outside of its rail tracks. The results are catastrophic, especially for children and young people who have not established themselves in the world.

This goes further towards the existential crisis that is a result of a meaningless and purposeless world. Secularism is a seductive thought that lured people into thinking that a world without an intentional, intelligent designer would constitute a more stable society. However, if we are simply a result of unguided, random evolutionary processes, what does that mean about life and thoughts? Is there any significance in anything that we do and where do we derive our sense of morality? In fact, how do we define morality and its standards without an external source because otherwise, morality is nothing but some chemical, biological, physical, and hormonal reaction that was brought about by evolution? This means that one person's morality is no different or more valid than another's. Thus crumbles the justice system and basic human decency. If our morality is not derived from a power higher than humans, then a normal person is no different than a rapist.

The problem is even worse because most young people do not care about the end of their ideas. The relativism that breeds hypocritical thought is rampant among us. We are at the centre of our worlds. How can we anticipate or even assume that our views about what is right and wrong are not immensely biased by our lusts, greed, and desires? The very evidence of such thought is illustrated through cancel culture. The age of irrationalism and eradication of reason. Most young people no longer know how to have civilized dialogues in which their ideas could be proven right or wrong. Rather they opt for the rejection of opposition through the silencing of anyone who might disagree with them. Hence, young people have become nothing but clanging cymbals who reject rational reasoning. The unimaginable inconsistencies in thought create such laughable situations. For instance, where one woman complains that the world is tilted towards favouring and praising men, it leaves women at a disadvantage. Yet the same woman will agree with the critical gender theorist that gender definitions are nothing but social constructs that do not exist.

More so, the greatest proof of the demise of our youth lies in the relations between

the genders. There are currently two versions of the empowerment of women, and I identify with neither. The first is the resentful feminist who believes that everything bad that happens to a woman is a result of another man's success. Thus, discrimination against men, in very blunt terms, is the solution to rectify this misfortune. The second is the type that allows and has not only normalised but celebrates derogatory slurs imposed by some disrespectful men. Young women of today have no balance in their view of men, love, and sexual relationships, which infers that those young men do not understand how to love women well either.

In a world where there is no structure and order, only chaos will ensue. The risks are way too precarious, and the cost seems too high. These factors need to be addressed before any more damage is done and those who know better should share their knowledge. This cannot be the future we are ecstatic about! Are we optimistic because we are ignorant or are we a deluded generation?

References

Solomon. 10 BC. *Ecclesiastes 1:18*.