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The Green Disease and Our Cosmic Connection

The Deep Hot Biosphere: The Myth of Fossil Fuels, Thomas Gold, Copernicus, Springer Verlag, New York, 1999, 243 pages.

A Journey With Fred Hoyle, Chandra Wickramasinghe 2nd edition Ed. Kamala Wickramasinghe, World Scientific, Singapore, 2013, 248 pages.

The Search For Our Cosmic Ancestry, Chandra Wickramasinghe, World Scientific, Singapore, 2015, 196 pages.

It often takes a defining catastrophe to focus the mind. It is early October and a week ago an “extreme weather event” sent South Australia back to the dark ages. Malcolm Turnbull’s immediate reaction to Jay Weatherill’s aggressive renewable policies was his best and clearest political response since coming to office. Energy security is now *the* priority of all governments. If nothing else governments need to not only keep our borders secure but also keep the lights on. The Greens and the ‘climate’ zealotry of successive Labor Governments pushing the switch from coal and gas to wind and solar has been exposed. Headlines scream in *The Australian* “ *Loss of wind power ‘triggered outage’*” (according to the investigative verdict of The Australian Energy Market Operator).

The political apogee of Green power achieved in 2010 between PM Julia Gillard and Senator Bob Brown has since been in decline - and is now certain to tumble further. The mess and defunct energy legacy in SA will take years to rectify. This could easily happen in others States. The well spring of recriminations against Green-Left-Labor ‘climate’ policies will now be a political gift that keep on giving to the LNP Coalition.

But this essay is not just about human lunacy and superstition on so called ‘climate’ policy but also a celebration of the scientific lives and discoveries of three extraordinary astrophysicists who, separately and together, have founded the new science of *Astrobiology* or, more appropriately, *Cosmic Biology* - Tom Gold (deceased), Fred Hoyle

(deceased) and Chandra Wickramasinghe, very much alive and Editor-in-Chief of the new international science journal, *Journal of Astrobiology and Outreach*. He is also the author of numerous analytical papers and compelling books and historical scientific compendia. He is a beautiful writer of English prose (as were both he and Fred Hoyle together). His recent *The Search For Our Cosmic Ancestry* left the present author quietly spellbound at its scientific beauty and reach. After all, it is the aim of scientific explanation since Francis Bacon to be “..the knowledge of causes, and secret motions of things; and the enlarging of the bounds of human empire, to the affecting of all things possible.” Wickramasinghe’s recent book has been my best scientific read since *Our Place in the Cosmos* (with Fred Hoyle 1993) and Tom Gold’s *The Deep Hot Biosphere: Myth of Fossil Fuels* (1999).

But what is the connection with the Green disease?

It is all pervasive - even the Green’s opponents accept that we are depleting our fossil fuel reserves at an unsustainable rate. All the fossilized carbon laid down as coal, oil and gas over the past 500 million years (since the Cambrian explosion) in the various epochs and ages is rapidly running out – it is a shameful disgrace as it is, as Bob Brown insists, a limited resource. And it is also polluting the environment and leading to “very dangerous human induced global warming.” The IPCC, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (a United Nation’s behemoth), is both extremely political and thus *non-scientific*. It claims to evaluate climate change science across the globe, and arrive at an oxymoronic (politically palatable) consensus. It has been pushing this line for 25-30 years. Many of us who know some of the key facts, or who can also analyse data sets, have an evolutionary perspective, and see through ‘scientific’ scams, have had to endure wave after wave of IPCC propaganda through most of their scientific lives. If you are a scientist, you ask yourself “are you included as one of the 99% who agree with this consensus nonsense”?

The bullying and alarmism is truly amazing. Media zealots and lightweights at the ABC such as Robyn Williams and Tony Jones, with not a shred of scientific analytical capacity or experience, label all those in disagreement as “climate deniers.” Courageous individuals have been calling it out with great eloquence and accuracy: Professors Ian Pilmer and Bob Carter; the distinguished businessman, former Chairman of the ABC, and now public intellectual Maurice Neumann AO; former Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson; the head of the National Climate Centre at the Bureau of Meteorology (1986-1998) Dr Bill Kinninmonth and other distinguished discussants with critical arguments worth reading and listening to. Yet, “Climate Change Institutes” funded by the tax payer, have been thriving in recent years. Set up in such a way as to fuel the alarmism or basically lose their research funding and their jobs. The leaders of these institutes (Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney) often appear in the media (ABC and Fairfax Press) flanked by climate change media luminaries such as Professors Tim Flannery, Clive Hamilton, Will Steffen, Matthew England and David Karoly. Doomsday is regularly proclaimed. It is a real scandal of gargantuan proportions; and a fraud on a scale that makes the mind boggle! Pure doggerel. Thus J-curves have come and gone, doomsday predictions contradicted or fail to materialize, scientific and political reputations shredded, computer modelling unhinged from human reason, papers suppressed by IPCC ‘scientists’ and data manipulation, etc. etc. Yet still this climate-change collective, and the myths, persist - that all the Earth’s fossil fuels are being rapidly depleted. Yet new oil fields and gas fields are being found all the time, and coal seam gas can be tapped almost *everywhere*. And then of course there is access to these carbon-based fuels by “fracking”, again tapped almost everywhere. How come? And, more to the point - How so?

Plentiful carbon-based molecular supplies in the atmosphere (CO₂) and warm temperate surface climates are essential for life and agriculture to flourish. Indeed for human civilisation to flourish. But Earth-based carbon resources (gas, oil, coal) exist on a massive scale (plus ocean-floor methane seeps), not laid down at all by previously living

matter, but in a band from the Crust (0-35 Km), Upper Mantle (35-660 Km), to the Mantle proper (660- 2890 Km) enwrapping the hot Iron Core (2890-5150/6560 Km) - likely representing an almost inexhaustible supply of energy for human use and progress; that, at a guess, could last millions of years at current usage. The methane hydrates in continental shelf seeps represent huge untapped energy reserves. None of this arose from so called 'fossilization', but from cosmic carbon sources on a massive scale at the time of the accretion of the Earth 4.5 billion years ago. Thus the term "myth" in Tom Gold's 1999 subtitle. Various specific theories of these accretion processes are abroad e.g. cometary carbon-bombardment during the Hadian Epoch (4.5-4.1 billion years ago) or early collisions with massive carbon rich mini-planets. Best estimates now from a zircon with a biogenic signature (primary graphite inclusion) from the Jack Hills (WA) dates life's inception at about 4.1 billion years ago, 300 million years earlier than previously thought. The Earth's original store of carbon has been worked up by biological processes alright, but these processes are cosmically-derived – they are extraterrestrial.

Wickramasinghe and Hoyle have assembled the multifactorial evidence that the Cosmos is teeming with life. If microorganisms can thrive at depths of ≥ 10 Km on Earth (see Tom Gold's assembly of the hard data) living systems must be thriving on planets and moons throughout the Solar System, throughout the Milky Way galaxy, and far beyond in other galaxies. Chandra Wickramasinghe's best guess is that life, if it did emerge in this observable Universe, occurred early after the "big bang", about 12 Billion years ago and has thus infected Cosmic bodies and evolved throughout the observable expanding Cosmos ever since. Thus the existence of a diverse and widespread Cosmic Biology no longer needs special pleading. The vindication has been overwhelming. The *Cosmic Ancestry* website run by Brig Klyce is among the most interesting educational websites on the Internet <http://www.panspermia.org>

The scientific scandal is that “authoritative” government agencies such as NASA and the CDC (in Atlanta), are behaving like the dogmatic vanguards of old. Max Planck’s famous observation at the turn of the 20th Century that one needs to wait for the vanguard of “dogmatic orthodoxy” to literally die out certainly seems to apply in this case. Wickramasinghe, Hoyle and Gold should have been awarded the Nobel Prize long ago for their seminal astrophysical and astrobiological discoveries. It is an international disgrace. These scientists are in the highest Pantheon – and the fact they have not been formally recognised suggests, to this author, that the Nobel has become an annual dumbed down bureaucratic process, no longer a measure of the very highest human achievement. Indeed, the provenance of each Nobel awarded now has to be carefully scrutinised each October for Pantheon-worthy legitimacy. Many do not make the grade.

Thus just a cursory exposure to the evidence and critical arguments and analyses gathered and assembled by Wickramasinghe and Hoyle give a very interesting dot-point list:

- Most if not all comets that cross the earth’s orbit are carbon-based or enriched with features that suggest ongoing cosmic biological processes (= life) in the large internal ponds and pools of the radiation-warmed comet interiors.
- There are perhaps 100 billion comets in the Oort Cloud that enwraps the entire Solar System as a spherical halo. Every so often (50-100 million years) as our Solar System passes through a giant molecular cloud, or crosses near a passing star, comets in the Oort Cloud orbit can be deflected and hurtle into close Earth orbit or maybe a collision. These events coincide with the great “dyings” or extinction events.
- Absorption and emission spectral data strongly confirm that the giant interstellar molecular clouds are composed of desiccated microorganisms, and local replicative explosions of life in the Cosmos are likely to be common.

- The daily in-fall of micro-organisms from space (viruses, bacteria, fungi etc) from the Earth's crossing of cometary debris has been estimated at about ≥ 0.3 tonne. Clearly both low and high Earth orbit sampling and surveillance systems should be NASA's main priority (as well as tracking comets and asteroids for Earthly impacts).
- Based on these stratosphere samplings at 41 km Wickramasinghe and colleagues estimate that the daily ingress of biomaterial over the entire Earth of ~ 0.3 tonne (or 110 tonne per year) translates to about 3×10^{26} virions per day such that the total virion count in the oceans, which they estimate at $\sim 10^{31}$ virions, would be replaced every 100 years, or 3 human generations. On these timescales such microbiome-related viruses incident from space will clearly have played a role as new genetic sources via horizontal gene transfer into host genomes evolving on Earth. From these estimates there seems little doubt that over millions of years human, primate and mammalian evolution has been driven by the accumulation of such viral sequences into their genomes.
- Accordingly Wickramasinghe and Hoyle have analysed many Earthly viral epidemics and pandemics (e.g influenza, wintry common colds) and the infection incidence patterns *are not compatible* with human-to-human spread at all. They are best explained by micro-organism in-falling from space.

This is just a short list of the massive amount of scientific evidence that Wickramasinghe and Hoyle and their colleagues have gathered. Is this knowledge widely available to the general public? Is it widely discussed in a sensible rational way? Of course it is not. But why not?

The Green disease is unsustainable. Fossil based fuels in short supply really are a myth. The IPCC crusade is the biggest fraud in the history of science. With intelligence and care

we can husband the Earth's energy resources and enhance the future progress of Mankind millions of years into the future.

Dr Edward ("Ted") J. Steele is a biomedical scientist and author of books on the mechanism of evolution: *Somatic Selection and Adaptive Evolution* (1979), *Lamarck's Signature* (with Robyn A Lindley and Robert V Blanden, 1998), *Ancestral Haplotypes* (2015). He last published in *Quadrant* in March 2000 pages 47-56 on *The Evidence for Lamarck*. <https://independent.academia.edu/EdwardJSteele>