

Field Notes from the proto Invisibles Monastery

FIELD NOTES FROM THE PROTO INVISIBLES MONASTERY

on Escaping the Empire

the stick vs the trail of breadcrumbs

– 7th August, 2016.

Greetings wayward travelers, future unwilling sacrifices and fellow death cultists. How are you old friend, buddy, pal? Maaaaaaaaaaaaate. Rumours of *(De)Extinction Club's* death have been greatly exaggerated... obvz. We're back with a bumper edition, cause we're pamphleteers baby, and those bookleggers are gonna need some content to smuggle outta the burning cities as St Leibowitz watches over them. We're sending out one giant, extra long message in a bottle before bunkering back down for the rest of the year. Down periscope, down down down - it's time to deep dive like never before. Like the not so secret author of our contemporary condition said: *"Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, doesn't go away"* ~ PKD. We'll see what's what with that sitch soon enough. Down periscope, exit strategy go go go...

We've changed our mobile notifications from alerting us to passing asteroids and imminent solar flares to nearby fires, floods, and other local emergencies... I mean, I figure if an asteroid IS gonna hit us, it'll pop up there too, but the point is more to get busy figuring out Cultural Forts and such things that may be required to get us through the next Dark Age. Or more importantly, to the side of it. Leaving those metaphorical *muted horn chalk marks*, and telling y'all how that's been working out.

So... how to even begin this massive dump of all the things lurking in head that won't go away until I infect others? Because y'all know by now that ideas are exactly like that videotape in *The Ring (Ringu)*: they never kill the host so long as you pass on the infection quick enough. That's why the Internet has gotten so damn shouty, right? I mean, that makes as much sense as anything going on right now...

...like the fact that the only drama talking semi-rationally about the current political chaos is a panspermic-flavoured light comedy drama, where all of Washington D.C. is at risk of going (completely) *Braindead*.

So how about we start by setting things up with the latest thing that lodged there, like a splinter in my mind meats, because as your personal ideological vector I have a responsibility to spread the Memes of Hope at every opportunity... and this fragment

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of dialog¹ from SyFy's space opera TV series, *Dark Matter*, is a
nice taster for what's to come:

"...you'd be surprised what people can get used to."

"Do you mind if I ask you a question?"

"About the future?"

"Yeah, sort of... see, all of us are trying to figure out what we
should do next - not just about you, but everything."

"And what do you think?"

"I think we could make a difference... but that's crazy, right? Cause
we're just a bunch of misfits on one ship and most of the time we can't
even get along with each other..."

"Well, you'd be surprised about that too."

"What do you mean?"

**"Well, all our predictive models suggest that a major paradigm shift is
coming and the most likely scenario is all out Corporate War within the
next six months."**

"OMG!"

**"I know... it sounds bad. But you have to understand something: it's
times like these, when long standing patterns are disrupted that things
become more *fluid*. That's when a small group of people, or even a
single individual can change the course of history."**

Small groups of people working together to build elements of the
future... it's a pretty virulent idea, especially when you
consider the first example given is usually the Manhattan
Project - a small team of geniuses working in isolation, changed
the world alright. Of course, they had the full support of the
Allied war machine, and the end result of their efforts was
harnessing nuclear power to give us such popular tourist
destinations today as Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Chernobyl and
Fukushima.

But that's just one (catastrophic) example - an more dramatic
impact resulted from the 1938 meeting of 25 economists that was
the beginning of the NeoLiberal Project, and boy did they play a
long, devastating game. It took them 40-50 years to properly
infiltrate, infect, co-opt the Empire to become the ruling
ideology of the Establishment... for now.

Other cool examples we might find more inspiring are the nine
knights that birthed the Knights Templar, and those pranksters
who hacked the zeitgeist of their age to initiate the
Rosicrucian Enlightenment. (Guess which direction I'm leaning

rn?)

The history shaping small team was a concept I first encountered in Bruce Sterling's sole straight technothriller, *The Zenith Angle*, but it's based on a thing Margaret Mead said:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Now Marg was part of 'a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens' that generated one of the more interesting documents of the (first/early?) Space Age; "Proposed Studies on the Implications of Peaceful Space Activities For Human Affairs" [1960] (aka *the Brookings Report*). One of its conclusions was that we should fear extraterrestrial/interdimensional contact because history teaches us that a technologically superior civilisation will always destroy a lesser one when the two clash; or so the technocratic mythology goes... (you've all read *Guns, Germs & Steel*, right? And then gone on to read the response to it, *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*²) There's a couple of other interesting things in the paragraph in question:

Though intelligent or semi-intelligent life conceivably exists elsewhere in our solar system, if intelligent extraterrestrial life is discovered in the next twenty years, it will very probably be by radio telescope from other solar systems. Evidences of its existence might also be found in artifacts left on the moon or other planets. **The consequences for attitudes and values are unpredictable, but would vary profoundly in different cultures and between groups within complex societies; a crucial factor would be the nature of the communication between us and the other beings.** Whether or not earth would be inspired to an all-out space effort by such a discovery is moot: **societies sure of their own place in the universe have disintegrated when confronted by a superior society, and others have survived even though changed.** Clearly, the better we can come to understand the factors involved in responding to such crises the better prepared we may be.

Which is a really neat technocratic spin on the genocides of the Americas and Australia that followed their colonisation by European forces a few centuries ago; a horror whose true dimensions are still being mapped. If you've read Jared Diamond's book you'll know that it was the Germs that did most of the work turning three continents occupied by humans for thousands upon thousands of years (tens upon tens of thousands in the case of Australia) into post-apocalyptic landscapes for mostly poor white people to later come and 'settle', bemused by the strange structures they encountered on the plains, amongst the forests... but it took the Guns and the Steel to get them outta Europe and carve up the New World(s). It's just progress, baby. Ignore all the evidence that suggests the First Peoples were far more effective, and responsible, ecological engineers -

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taking over from the megafauna they'd wiped out during their own settlement - than their uninvited European replacements. Or the clues that hint that there'd be far more contact and trade occurring between Europe and North America, and between South America across Asia and into the South Pacific, and between Australia and South Asia. That's right - Diffusionism has a Posse again. The Great Work of regenerating our global civilisational narrative to reflect this sustained contact and flow of ideas is yet to be done. For the moment these facts sit largely outside the reality cone of the chattering heads on talk shows and news programs, unless you're watching fringe productions online that is... or classic BBC documentaries

[XXX TODO - sample or quote the end of Connections 1x3 on "to Europe, from China via the Arabs"]

Change always occurs at the periphery (which I think is a *Game of Thrones* quote, but don't judge me) and that's as true in mind space as it is in, um, space space. People do all seem increasingly, *militantly* sure of their own place rn tho huh...

...why did I start serialising that whole thing - which I will totally finish - about the Elite using fake UFOs to cover their final looting of the planet, occupying key cities and sites before beginning their great off-world exodus to their technocratic, robot servant paradise on Mars; or elsewhere? Honestly, it's been a long year and I forget... I think someone just asked me to write a thing about teh_Greyz, and that's what my head vomited up...

But back to those learned elders from the middle of last century
- the glory years for so so many...

What they were saying, those Brookings peeps, is if teh_Aliens come, it'll be hella *disruptive* to the Status Quo; the Dominant Ideologies and Civilisational Mythologies - so I'm just assuming that Mead's current replacement at the Brookings Institution has been watching the hell out of Silicon Valley's effect on the world and its various cultures this century, surely?! Except that... if they are watching - and they are³! - it's to map and catalog its success with a view to enhancing and replicating it - not trying to reform it in view of the continual crises left in its wake.

The Brookings Institution is a think tank that fits in somewhere on a sketchy map of the Empire's true power structure; the Deep State - the ship that keeps on sailing no matter who's been voted captain, because the crew who operate it are largely unchanged.

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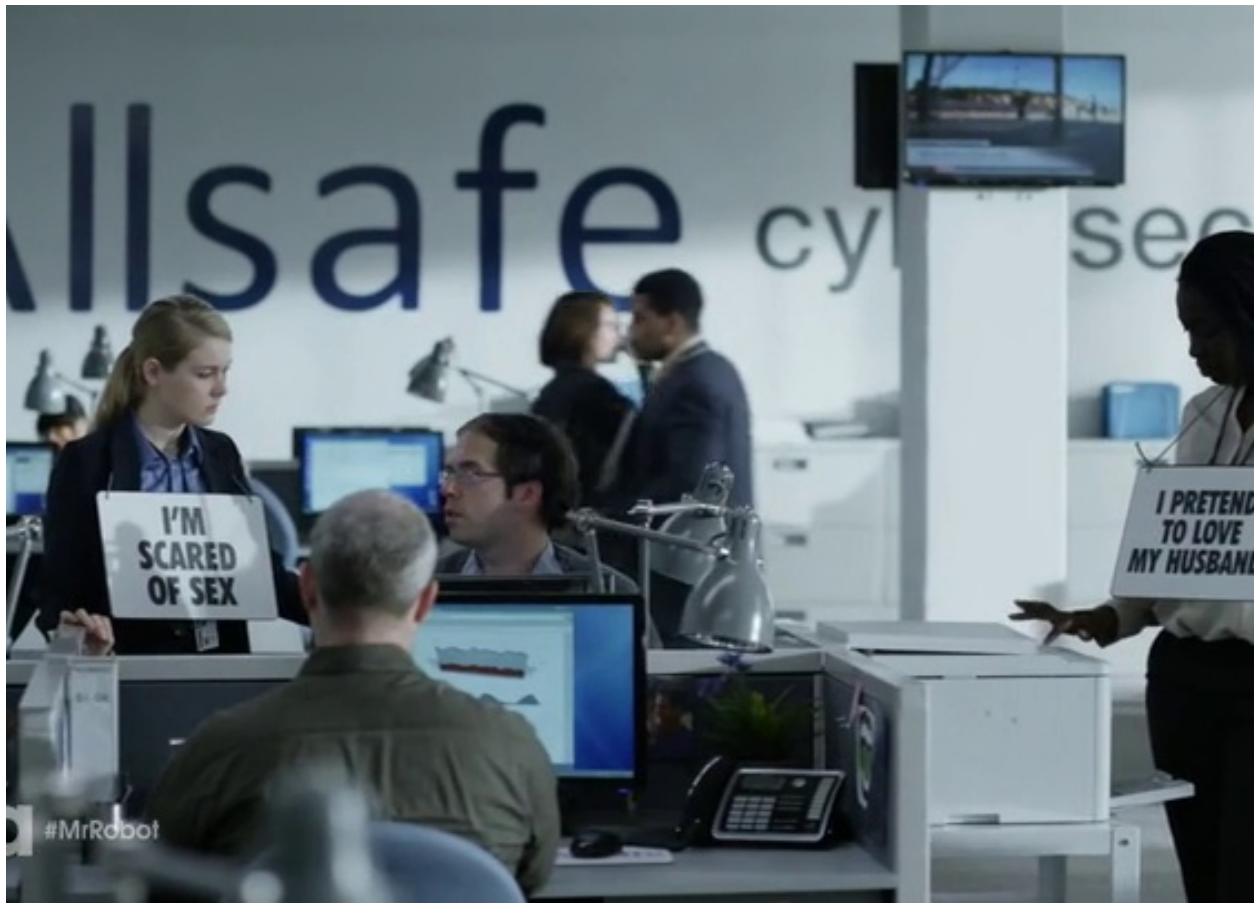
What they're *not* explicitly saying in that report is that there's a survival value in *not* being sure of your place in teh_Universe. The future belongs to the Sufis and the Shamans, to the Witches and Magicians, to the Philosophers and Psychonauts. So viva the great new Magical Renaissance that folks like Gordon White, and pretty much everyone else that Scarlet Imprint are publishing have been busy initiating. (Bit of a small, worldchanging team there too, huh.)



[Mr Robot]

And yes, you caught me... I said 'the Empire' aloud again, didn't I... instead of 'America'. That's because, just like Elliot in *Mr. Robot* - who sees and hears (and thus his constant companion, the audience, does too) the name E-Corp as 'Evil Corp' throughout the show, after some intensive self-work - I've done the same; hacked my consciousness to always display Empire when the US or America or even Western Civilisation is said or seen (here, check my mindfile for aliases if you please [LINK DELETED]).

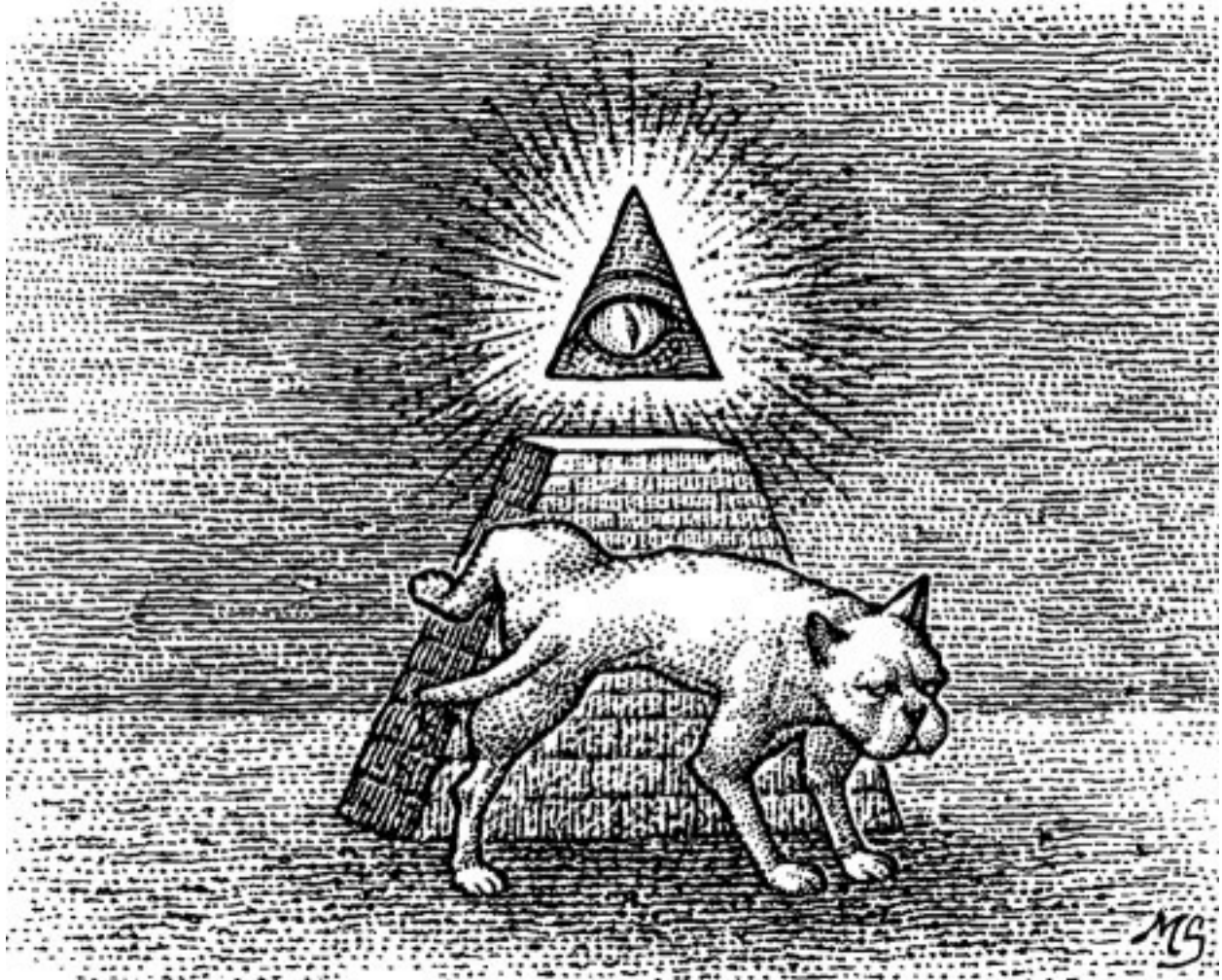




[Mr Robot]

On the show it lets them do some pretty hilarious, *They Live*-kinda shit.

For me it's a necessary shorthand, one small step towards seeing things as *they truly are*.



[Artist: Mahendra Singh⁴]

I mean, sure, *Run the Jewels* still spell America with the triple K, and it was pretty amusing to spell Amerika with just one K for a few years, but let's get real: the US of A is the Homeland of the Empire, which, obviously, never ended. Just ask anyone... like, idk, David Graeber for example:

"Starting in the 1980s, the United States, which insisted on strict terms for the repayment of Third World debt, itself accrued debts that easily dwarfed those of the entire Third World combined—mainly fueled by military spending. The U.S. foreign debt, though, takes the form of treasury bonds held by institutional investors in countries (Germany, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the Gulf States) that are in most cases, effectively, U.S. military protectorates, most covered in U.S. bases full of arms and equipment paid for with that very deficit spending. This has changed a little now that China has gotten in on the game (China is a special case, for reasons that will be explained later), but not very much—even China finds that the fact it holds so many U.S. treasury bonds makes it to some degree beholden to U.S. interests, rather than the other way around.

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So what is the status of all this money continually being funneled into the U.S. treasury? Are these loans? Or is it tribute? **In the past, military powers that maintained hundreds of military bases outside their own home territory were ordinarily referred to as "empires," and empires regularly demanded tribute from subject peoples. The U.S. government, of course, insists that it is not an empire-but one could easily make a case that the only reason it insists on treating these payments as "loans" and not as "tribute" is precisely to deny the reality of what's going on.**

~ Debt : the first 5,000 years, David Graeber

I'm writing now from one of the Empire's southern-most outposts: Melbourne, Australia. Living in a share house with two humans, three chickens and half a dog... field testing my ideas as much as possible so I can better write about them. Falling down a lot - A LOT - because that's how you learn what it takes to get back up again, and what comes after that (spoiler: it's more falling down, but also getting back up again.) This is the place I think of as the proto Invisibles Monastery, because it's my mind and I can still think what I want for the moment at least. It's a concept that has naturally evolved as it's been explored, and I'm pausing now to share what few clues I've found and discoveries I've made before heading off again. Oh, and you're damn right there's a novel in this too. Because what's up, I'm a puppeteer... I mean a novelist now, but really what's the difference? The show must go on... and right now that show is live-streamed, fully immersive, almost inescapable production of the Black Iron Prison.

Almost. Inescapable.

One quick confession, followed by a long illustrative anecdote and we're done setting things up. Probably.

Okay, so like... don't tell anyone, butt... there was a huge hole in my latest *Nightmares of the Future* piece for the Daily Grail; *Escape from the Prison Planet*⁵. The pitch was solid:

Earth: a Prison Planet. A planetary panopticon where the convicts happily write their own police files and track their own movements, sharing them with the Stacks [Google, Facebook, Apple, Amazon and Microsoft]. As will be explored in detail in this post, through understanding this, and planning a planetary jailbreak, a bright green future may await the escapees; and those that were built to hunt us down may lead the way.

The execution was solid too, I thought; for the most part. Talking Russian Cosmism - aided by me increasingly looking like one, effectively LARPing dafuq outta dis - and how the Earth being 'a trap' in that context was a good thing. How that might get us to stars and heal the planet with a bunch of newly sentient Artificial Super Intelligences (ASIs) breaking ranks,

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leaving the Stacks and the Walled Cities to join our team. All of which was helped a great deal by the plot of *Person of Interest*.

It was the conclusion that was lacking. Oops. But srsly, what do you after you've identified Capitalism as the Big Bad? Reframed the Anthropocene as the Capitalocene and pointed the finger, not at all of humanity, but at the Elite? Yeah, I was stuck too and defaulted to "RUN"; or meet me in the Underground. Basically, build your own exit strategy to escape the Empire:

"...we've still got time to subtly and quietly withdraw before being tagged, filed, sorted and marked a Deviant by an ASI with ill-intent.

The world we live in today doesn't requires a Facebook account to leave the country, or a Twitter account to get a seat in a cafe. There are alternatives to free-as-in-Surveillance Marketing data mining-email services. It's not yet a crime to exit the control of the Stacks, starving them of their food: your life."

That piece of mine was published mid-June. A week - ONE WEEK! - later US Customs and Border Protection made the following proposal⁶ for all wanting to enter the Homeland:

DHS proposes to add the following question to ESTA and to Form I-94W:

"Please enter information associated with your online presence-Provider/Platform-Social media identifier." It will be an optional data field to request social media identifiers to be used for vetting purposes, as well as applicant contact information. **Collecting social media data will enhance the existing investigative process and provide DHS greater clarity and visibility to possible nefarious activity and connections by providing an additional tool set which analysts and investigators may use to better analyze and investigate the case.**

That's how fast things are changing, how the trap is being re-engineered, re-crafted to make escape a greater and greater challenge. However, as Gordon White reminded the subscribers to his highly recommended newsletter, *The All Red Line* [see RuneSoup.com to subscribe], just today, the words of Princess Leia in *A New Hope*: "The more you tighten your grip, Tarkin, the more star systems slip through your fingers."

Leia was speaking as a member of the Rebellion, and by time of *The Force Awakens* she's become one of its Generals and... ok that's all great but srsly, like seriously that's cool and all muh Rebel chic'sters... *BUTT*, what do you do if one of your core beliefs is that "it's not a war, it's a rescue mission" - and that, as Gordon later elaborated on RuneSoup, *There is the rescue mission and there is the salvage mission*⁷. What if the only thing worse that you can imagine than the slow motion apocalypse currently underway on earth is a world-wide civil war

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to stop it... What do you do? How do you quietly slip through the fingers of a nascent Prison Planet without being captured and without destroying the joint?

That is the question. I mean... that question is the answer. It's where we start, anyway. It's the first breadcrumb on the trail that makes us pause and look for the next.

Okay, now listen closely for a minute, because this is probably the only time in my hopefully long life where I will acknowledge the existence of the man who stole so much of Bill Hicks' power that he either died from pancreatic cancer as a result, or was turned into Alex Jones by the CIA⁸ in some sorta Weapon X meets MK Ultra as scripted by an undead Andy Kaufman-type scenario... Anyway, this fragment from *Demolition Man*, read it:

John Spartan: I guess you're not a part of the *Cacteau Plan* are you?

Edgar Friendly: What? Greed, deception, abuse of power? That's no plan.

John Spartan: That's why everybody's down here?

Edgar Friendly: That's right. You see, according to *Cacteau's* plan. *I'm* the enemy. Because I like to think, I like to read. I'm into freedom of speech, freedom of choice. I'm the kind of guy who would sit in the greasy spoon and think "Gee, should I have the T-bone steak or the big rack of Barbecued spare ribs with the side order of gravy fries?" I *want* high cholesterol. I want to eat bacon, butter and buckets of cheese alright? I want to smoke a Cuban cigar the size of Cincinatti in a non-smoking section. I wanna run around naked with green jell-o all over my body reading a Playboy magazine. Why? Because maybe I feel the need to okay pal? I've *seen* the future, you know what it is. It's made by a 47 year-old virgin in gray pajamas soaking in a bubble bath, drinking a broccoli milkshake and thinking "I'm an Oscar-Meyer Wiener". You wanna live on top, you gotta live Cacteau's way. What he wants, when he wants, how he wants. Your other option: come down here, maybe starve to death.

John Spartan: Why don't you take charge and lead these people out of here?

Edgar Friendly: I'm no leader. I do what I have to do. Sometimes, people come with me. **All I want to do is bury Cacteau up to his neck in shit and make him think happy, happy thoughts forever.**

John Spartan: Well, I got bad news. *I* think he wants to *kill* you.

Did you know that in future Hillary Clinton changes her nym to Cacteau? Yeah, ok, not my best material, but hear me out. The future that the film's scriptwriter, Dan Waters, was satirising was an extrapolation of the political correctness of the (Bill/first?) Clinton era. Do you want a life in a corptocratic, post-Franchise War world like that in one of the Breakaway Civ's city states, or go, willing choose life in the New Underground? Basically that's the two options left for Citizens... that or the

FEMA...

...I mean REFUGEE... camps that will probably, hopefully, become part of the basis for the succeeding, Next Nature Civ (vs the seceding, Breakaway Civ, with its Robot Vampires for Life rulers) as they morph into cities of da futcha; and not the next Auschwitz/Buchenwald or, goddamnit, Nauru⁹.

If you haven't figured out already, the end of the world has bipartisan support. The recent national election in Australia, the full results from which were only finalised a few days ago had, you guessed it, weirdo, I mean 'one issue', Far Right-wingers elected to the Senate. The only thing the bulk of the population seemed to agree on was that they didn't want either party in power. Remember when everyone was worried about Future Shock? Well now that Alvin Toffler has left us (so his wife can keep writing the books he put only his name on, I presume), it's obvious that inside the Great Filter, it's more about Reality Denial.

Like, here's a cool fact - that recent Paris agreement on Climate Change, you know why it's called COP21 right? Cause since 1995 those guys have been meeting and failing to reach an agreement on climate change... until now. Meanwhile, JG Ballard is scrawling all in the margins of PKD's future - welcome to *The Drowned World*, the next stop is *The Browning World*... btw buddy, have you checked out *The Atrocity Exhibition*?

Why do I favour the idea of the Capitolocene over the Anthropocene? Well, to contrast it with another UN treaty from the early 1990s, that dealt with a more important problem - how to carve up the world after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War. Bringing the World Trade Organisation into existence took only a few years. You are no doubt as shocked as I am to learn that the Economy was given priority over the Environment. I mean c'mon, it's just an *externality*...

In the podcast of my interview with Vinay Gupta, *From the Hexayurt to Ethereum AND BEYOND*¹⁰, we landed on two points: the need for eco-resilient communities and the complete failure of what we used to call the Left. That one of the necessary construction projects right now is to a build new political ideology that's at least as engaged with the vast challenges of the present condition as those alt-right kids, the NeoReactionaires¹¹, are.

Far from a simple task and definitely a salvage mission - just the kind of a thing a small group could come together somewhere to tackle; quietly and unnoticed by the Empire. Something an Invisibles Monastery is purpose built to enable; in my head

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anyway, because that's where they all live... for now. Intentional prototype communities, places, houses, sekret islands and pocket dimensions for thinking about and testing out the makings of a better world for all life. A shadow civilisation that will come into the light as the old one burns; not by a conquering army, not the act of an invasive species, but the result of the Great Filter. And we all know where the world is heading right now, even if we can only bring ourselves to acknowledge it at the Hour of the Wolf... What better time to plant the seeds that grow in the ruins of Empire? (Well, centuries ago sure... or if you can spare a millennium, I know a guy.)

That's the part that was missing from the conclusion of *Nightmares of the Future: Escape from the Prison Planet*, something to replace/reform the Capitalocene and make the leap to join/found that anarchist utopian civilisation in spaaace we call *The Culture*; that beautiful concept Iain M. Banks bequeathed to us. It's not something that can be forced though; you can't press gang a utopia into existence.

How about a parable from my own backyard to help illustrate this, and start to close us out? One of the things I've been learning about this year is how to raise chickens. When I moved in there was just the one old, brown chicken that laid the occasional egg, but would go off the lay for weeks to months. Chickens are social animals (iknowrite), it's best to have at least two; so we got two more. And still no eggs. But I did get to learn about the existence of shell grit in the process; grinding up egg shells in a mortar and pestle then mixing the powder in with their feed. Which is just the kinda closed loop thinking I'm interested in. And yet... still no eggs. By early June I was starting to plan an epic Winter Solstice feast... that is until, right on cue, the eggs started showing up. But just one a day. Which chicken was it? Were they taking turns? Or did the chickens have their own agenda?

Well, all was revealed the day we could only count two chickens in the backyard - either one had escaped, or been abducted by aliens. Or... was in hiding. (Quick aside: dogs and chickens don't generally mix - unless you like sacrificing live animals to your pet.) Anyway, Shiva had previously cornered a chicken after it escaped from the hutch, and after we intervened it, the chicken with no name, retreated under a bush inside its enclosure and the next day, fearing it was dead, I beat the bush with a big stick, scaring it out into the open. So, the first thing I did this time to try to find the missing, totally not alien abducted, chicken was take a long stick and shake and poke the bush, try to scare it out of hiding again. When that brute force maneuverer failed to produce results well... the logical conclusion was aliens. I mean, that the chicken had completely

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escaped the backyard. Until, I thought I'd try one last thing - break up some bread and scatter it about. Guess what, it worked! But better than that, I learned the chicken's secret. They'd built - ok, scratched out... 'dug', if you will - a second nest, hidden in the grass, under a tree right at the edge of their enclosure. In that nest was, I kid you not, over thirty eggs! The chickens were fine the entire time. It was us that had the problem. Our reading of the situation was completely incorrect, but once corrected our reward was a bounty. And a lesson: shake the bush with a stick, and chickens... I mean people... I mean, chickens are people too, man... -ahem- use the stick and people go to ground, that's what I'm saying... but leave a trail of breadcrumbs and they'll follow it and you'll find them; or they'll find you.

"When you define the power elite as somebody else I regard that as a losers script. I define the power elite as myself and my friends, and that's a winners script¹²." ~ Robert Anton Wilson

So do that. Pick the problem you want to work on - you already know what it is, cause it's probably already picked you though - and *Find the Others*.

Build that band of misfits.

Salvage yourself a space ship, or whatever vehicle and instruments the mission requires.

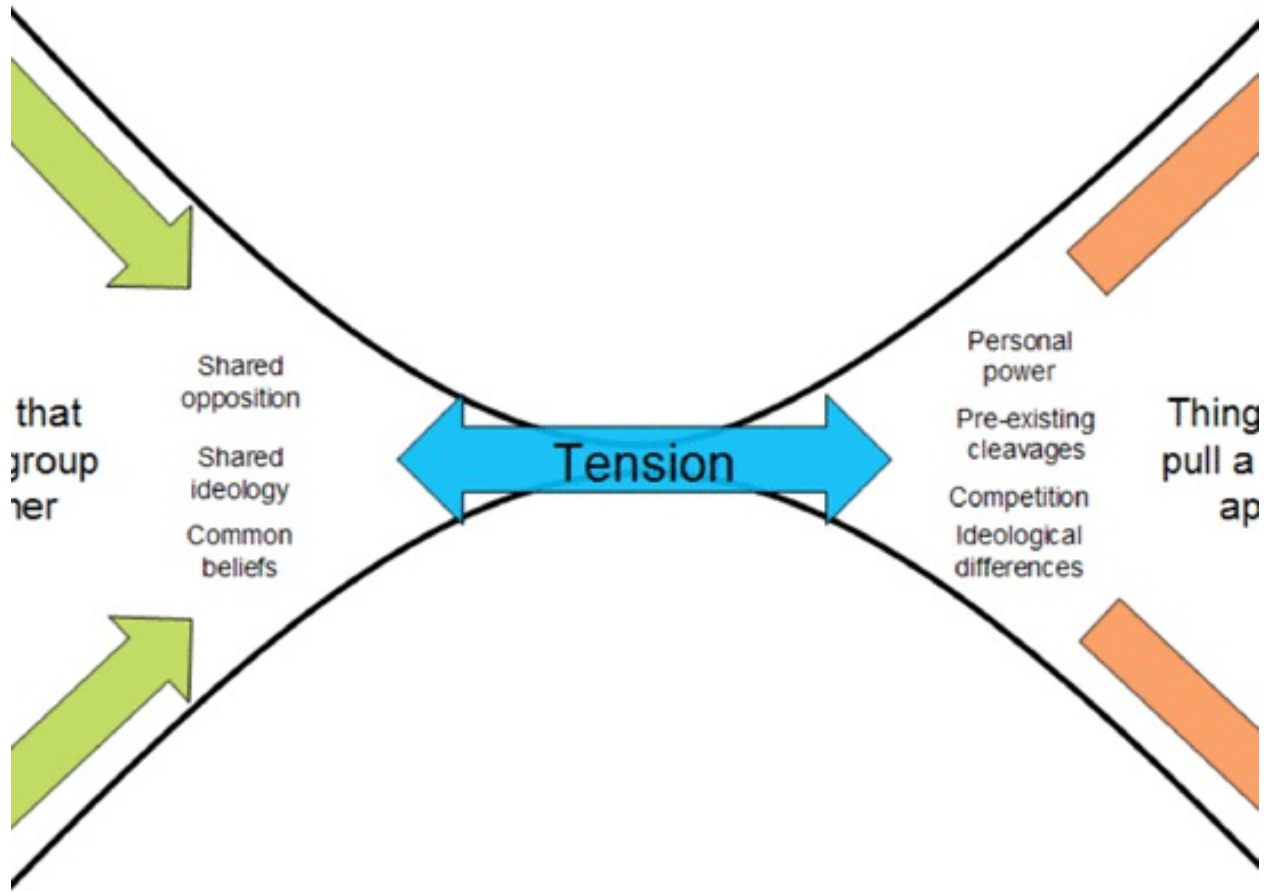


[*Star Trek Beyond*¹³]

Remember: you don't have to become BFFs, just be civil enough to get the job done. Look for the things to bring you together, the common points to rally around, because *They* want you to fall apart.

As Greg Greenwald revealed¹⁴, the UK branch of the Shadow State - "GCHQ's previously secret unit, JTRIG (Joint Threat Research Intelligence Group)" - had (has?) a team of self-styled chaotic evil 'Cyber Magicians'¹⁵ intent on sowing discord online - and off; wherever resistance to their agenda might emerge:

entifying & Exploiting fracture pair



[GCHQ's JTRIG unit (via Snowden)]

I really can't emphasize the importance of this enough.

So here's some more screencaps to help illustrate and drive the point home.



[*Guardians of the Galaxy*]

The *Guardians of the Galaxy* are your classic, canonical rag-tag group of misfits brought together by a common cause; a shared enemy to unite against. They just hold it together, barely managing to not kill each other, but when the time comes they literally join hands to overpower and defeat Ronan; and it's not lost me that it's Rocket Raccoon reaching out to Drax the Destroyer - the two people trying to kill each other in the

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space cantina - that makes it happen. Go watch those two scenes
again sometime and tell me you don't get the feels. All of them.

You want a cool role model / fiction suit? Become guardians of
the galaxy, and talk to your friends about Space Shamanism.

Serve life.

Mind the words of Priest Vito Cornelius speaking to Zorg, minion
of the Demiurge:



"I try to serve life. But you only seem to want to destroy it." ~ *The Fifth Element*

Change the world. *Storms the cosmos!* Like the Russian Cosmists
suffered to instruct us.

No one else is going to do it for you; if you haven't figured
that out already.

And thus ends the first breadcrumb.

on Life in the Churn

Your Mission If You Choose to Accept It: Live Through This

- 9th August, 2016

"Truth be told, nobody really knows how to respond to the slow motion emergency in which we find ourselves." ~ *Barbarism or Barbarism?*¹⁶, McKenzie Wark.

You're feeling it now, aren't you? Life in the Churn¹⁷. Watching the entire world - that's *all living beings*, not just all humans - be subject to the Great Filter. It's life during wartime and we're only now waking up to it.

We live on a planet with possibly immortal trees inside the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, and dangerously irradiated reindeer on the edge of the Arctic Circle, munching on lichen that's itself eating up the Fallout soaked in the soil from that catastrophic mid-80s event. Whilst just round the formerly frozen corner, a long abandoned, Cold War-era base carved deep beneath the ice of Greenland, Camp Century, threatens to leak radioactive, and other merely carcinogenic waste that was secretly stored there into the ocean. It's cool though, the Fukushima ice wall kinda got built after how many years, and it's only leaking a little bit. Whilst the rivers of Siberia are filling with the run-off from unregulated mining for... what else but that old DXC favourite: mammoth bones; leading to calls for the species to be protected - a first ever for an extinct species.

Best Anthropocene ever, amirite?!

Most Millennials haven't known a life lived offline and Gen-Xers haven't known a world without Exclusion Zones.

But wait, there's more... we've also got other reindeer thawing out and acting as time-traveling plague carriers; Messengers of Nature's Revenge. I'd watch that show. Actually, I have been. *12 Monkeys* ended with the near collapse of Time at the hands of posthuman agents jumping back to key points in history, playing Hack the Timestream to create the permanent Atemporality of a never-ending now.

Terence McKenna was right, 2012 was just a typo man... all of time is on its way to join the great party at the end of the world. We just failed to eradicate polio in Africa. Thx to anti-vaxxers, Measles is coming back too. And those are just the diseases we know about! Go watch *Fortitude* and other climatological horrors before you have to go outside and live

it.



[V for Vendetta]

It's a brutal period, but like most things, all this has happened before. It's just that what we're going through now is, as Catherine Austin Fitts has described it "a once in a civilisation event."

No surprise then that the last time things were this bad was roughly three thousand years ago; during the Bronze Age Collapse. We survived that paleo-Jackpot period, which gave birth to the Classical Age - which some people are rather fond of...

...that would be the NeoReactionaries¹⁸.



[Cloud Atlas]

Shit, we've survived supervolcanoes and other near-extinction events in our species' short lifetime.

Forget the Fall of Rome, that's practically living memory! All the cultural traditions pretty much preserved etc etc ad nauseam (see me in the vomitorium after class)... no, history is going to remember us like we remember the Fall of Troy; really freaking vaguely. Because our hero of that period, Odysseus, is sailing straight outta the Greek Dark Ages, and those dudes had to learn to read and write again, as a society. They couldn't read their own histories, and had to borrow their neighbour's language to express themselves and reignite the Fire. Hence Homer's work being an oral tradition for so long. The Bronze Age Collapse marks, for that part of the world, pretty much the edge of recorded history.

Like, who were the Sea People? We still aren't sure. They might have been a whole, previously unacknowledged civilisation in Antolia: the Luwians¹⁹. Or - my favourite pet theory - they might have been part of the gradual exodus from the now-sunken continent of Sundaland.

Science continues to prove that previously dismissed elements of various cultural traditions aren't in fact stories, but an incredibly conservative cultural record. Indigenous Australians' mythology and creative output mark everything from the Deluge following the end of the last Ice Age, to thousand year old asteroid impacts and records the amazing megafauna they shared

Field Notes from the proto Invisibles Monastery
the landscape with for, yes, thousands of years.

This contemporary condition of ours is... well, something obviously. Something that requires its own language, terms, shorthand and, yes, mythology to be discussed effectively [translation to emoji forthcoming.] Hence, we borrow concepts like 'the Churn' from *the Expanse* and map that onto 'the Jackpot Years' from Gibson's *The Peripheral*, generating a future timeline something like this:

"The Churn: Now - > 2020
The Jackpot Years: 2020 - > 2030
The Acceleration: 2030+"
~ @thejaymo²⁰

Contemplating this unfolding leads to the need to craft a response to it - because everyone's favourite game is playing thesis/anti-thesis, micro/macro, Marco Polo... or is that just me?

"'The Churn' needs a narrative counterposition. Proposing 'The Flow'.
The resources & agency moving towards better worlds. Can't be stopped."
~ @sjef²¹

The Flow, that's what we need to find! That's what we need to cultivate at every opportunity. But it's so damn hard, when the End of the World just won't stfu. (*Which is why Invisibles Monasteries...*) Strategic retreat to find and salvage the makings of the Flow as the Churn happens all around us, all with a view to building the pieces of the proto-Acceleration to get us through to the other side of the Jackpot Years... and into the Acceleration Proper. (And if this sounds - to the Uninitiated - like me just stringing together a bunch of weird terms, linked with normal speech and 'net speak... good, we've got ourselves the beginnings of an Anti-Language²².)

Somewhere in midst of the Slow Apocalypse, everything that was previously a plot element in a (post)cyberpunk novel shifted over to become part of someone's business plan. Those of us that live to see 2030 will, almost certainly, exist on a world with Hyperloops, orbital factories, rockets to other planets, and nearly fully automagical cities... and that's just Mars.

The ecology of Earth will be recovering, sinking carbon and increasing biological diversity and ramping back up its carrying capacity... The only question is will it be the unintentional result of a series of genocides, or guided by human hands returning to proper stewardship of the planet? Or both?

Part of my research lately has involved diving into the old Loompanics books (remember those?!) and seeing what's still salvageable (quite a lot, it turns out - PRAISE THE SALVAGE

MISSION THAT ENABLES THE RESCUE MISSION). One thing leapt out from a slightly unexpected source; inside their book escape & evasion driving tactics is this handy code, itself salvaged from WWII:

Color Code

One excellent way to become alert to danger is through the color code system of awareness developed by the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II. Here's how it works:

- *Condition Green.* In Condition Green, you are completely relaxed and unalert. If you are violently attacked while in this condition, you will most likely be destroyed. In today's violent times one should never be in this condition.
- *Condition Yellow.* This is a state of general awareness. There is no specific threat, but you are alert and ready for action should any signs of danger occur.
- *Condition Orange.* Here you recognize something specific as a potential threat and your mind is focused on the danger.
- *Condition Red.* The trouble has escalated and a violent confrontation is unavoidable. You must act forcefully now.

The most important transition in this color code system is from yellow to orange. Condition Yellow is simply a state of general alertness. In Condition Orange, there is a specific possible danger. The sooner you perceive a potentially dangerous situation, the better off you will be should things degenerate into a violent confrontation.

[GETAWAY: Driving Techniques for Escape and Evasion © 1983 by Ronald George Eriksen 2]

Most of us now are waking up by default in 'Condition Orange', finding no imminent threat, and gradually falling back to 'Condition Yellow' and trying to remember what 'Condition Green' ever was. I vaguely recall a time not too long ago where everyone's biggest problem seemed to be people ironically wearing 3D Glasses with the lens pushed out... srsly, were those really our problems? (No, not really.)

The objective for every instance of the Invisibles Monasteries idea should be to construct a space that maintains this 'Condition Green' for all that dwell within it - or visit, or seek refuge - as much as possible.

Protip: you don't have to listen to the live, ongoing dissection by thinkpiece of the nature of every new horrific event; you'll go mad... and it's almost like that's the point.

Fear is the Mind Killer, tune out the End of the World and focus on dreaming up the next one. That's been part of my self-work the past few months... taking control of that lizard brain part of our mind. The part that wants you to be virtual meerkat, constantly popping up and looking around for danger; or distraction. *Did anyone reply to my tweet? Have I got new email? How many Likes did I get for that selfie?* Etc etc. You know

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exactly what I'm talking about.

My beautiful beloved dog was doing this thing for a while where she'd drag her ass along the carpet, then turn around and sniff it. I'd have made a Vine of it, and used a greasemonkey script to have it autoplay every time I tried to click on the Notifications tab, if I hadn't already deleted my Vine account and installed the Leechblock browser plugin to lock me out of social media for the bulk of the day. I just couldn't get through writing the Prison Planet piece and still have an active Instagram account. I had to finally acknowledge to myself it was part of the Zuckerb0rg Empire, I couldn't ignore it anymore; my mug didn't need to find itself autopopulating a police file.

This is the Work I have to do, detox from that virtual life... though it's more like intermittent fasting... trying to get the mind worms of the Empire out of my brain meats. Gradually... It's a process.

Weird side effect tho: pretty much all I listen to now is Taylor
Swift.

Liek, I used to sleep with my phone next to my bed and wake up and check the News first thing in the morning, then switch on the Imperial Broadcast.

Which to my mind - and you're totally trapped in there with rn,
along with me - suddenly has me recalling Mr Banks from *Mary
Poppins* singing the Empire's praises
(yes, I have two younger sisters, why ever do you ask?):



"A British bank is run with precision.

A British home requires nothing less.

Tradition, discipline and rules.

Must be the tools.

Without them disorder, chaos, moral disintegration.

In short you have a ghastly mess."

That was strange, and tbh, unexpected. But that's the Empire internalised, innit. Anyway...

Now, I leave every mobile device in the lounge room, bar my laptop still playing whatever I fell asleep to... wake up, and go outside to hang with the chickens xor muh dawg, water the plants, and then... brace myself for whatever the Headline News is that's been filtered through the crypto back channels.

It feels like it's not a coincidence that the End of the World is coinciding with Netflix binging. A few weeks ago I was trying to get a friend over to watch a *Purge* marathon, and failed. Then woke up to the coup in Turkey (or whatever that was - you know they invented the Deep State, right?), and retreated afterwards into the happy GenX nostalgia of *Stranger Things*. Whatever it

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takes to get us through, without dying or getting full
#abyssgaze... do it! 2016 is, amongst other things, the Year of
Self Care²³.

Did your (grand)parents ever tell you about all those key
parties²⁴ were happening in teh 70s because they were sure the
Bomb would go off at any moment?

The work I need to do now doesn't require me being continuously
partially present online, partaking in the Culture War... or
framing tweets against it... but instead, sitting in a succession
of libraries, searching the friendly stacks for the books and
documentaries with the knowledge I need... whilst such vital
institutions still exist.

It's Census Night today, here in good ole 'straya, and, because
it is the Churn of course it's been an complete clusterfuck.
They've completely screwed the transition from a paper-based
system to an online one and people who understand what that
means are kinda freaking out over the implications of all their
personal data being available to hackers. Because anything
online is. Anything OFFLINE is, as well.

Part of life in the Churn is dealing with that fact, and, if you
need to have the reality we live in better revealed to you, I
highly recommend the documentary about Stuxnet, *Zero Days*
(2016).

Watch that and you will understand two things: 1) we have nfi
what the superset of intelligence agencies and hackers are
really doing out there, but we have been given a glimpse now. 2)
the Internet is the 5th dimension of warfare - the only reason
that China or Iran hasn't taken down the full infrastructure of
the Empire is it would mean Mutually Assured Destruction.

So think about your online presence critically (we'll get into
this in detail in future installments)... you don't want to be
'collateral damage'... fuck no, that's the Empire's words... you
don't want to be destroyed or implicated or made an unwilling
agent of another power.

And srsly, watch *Mr Robot* too. Keep a keen eye on BD Wong, and
the Big Bad from *Rubicon* playing almost exactly the same role.
Strange days, huh. HACK THE PLANET!

And just to prove how strange these days are, I'm going to tell
you why *Batman vs Superman* was a good movie.

And no, it wasn't this grimdark vision of Bats vs the darkly
seeded apocalyptic futcha..



[*Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice*]

Let me back pedal. Let me show you what redeemed the film. How does it open? With Bruce Wayne running into the heart of the chaos (from the previous *Supes* film) to help, as everyone else ran away in a blind panic. Not as a superhero, but as a man.



[*Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice*]

- stretches that long bow he borrowed from Oliver Queen - Ok, yeah, sure he's the super capitalist in ten thousand dollar suit or whatever. And as you can see, he's hardly enhanced his calm or truly kept his head when all others are losing theirs; no, he's Super Pissed. Just like Brad Pitt in *Snatch*, he's clearly got plans of running the offending vehicle of destruction over.

When the super politically correct, non-threatening police of *Demolition Man* manifest before you, gently inquiring *what seems to be your boogle?*²⁵ You can reply: dude, wtf is with these people who analyse the problem so perfectly, then come up with the exact wrong solution. Because I say that every damn day. It's the Bane of my existence.

But, from all the rubble of broken ideologies and terrible solutions we can find the pieces to build a grand temple as has been done so many times before. Instead of meching up and getting his crossfit montage on, Brucey boy could've used all his wealth and power to just flat out obviate the need for Superman to be a bother to him. And that's why we invoke *Gilmore's Law* and generalise it to route around all the damage of the Empire. Batman, defender of the status quo; GROW THE FUCK UP, SON. *The world ends every day*. Go build a better one instead of giving in to hate.

Okay, because I'm a total scifi hipster dofus and can't help myself, I'm gonna give you a quick deep reading of the film, because goddamnit, I've watched the Ultimate Edition twice now since it was released. I'll tell you why in a second.

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First, your deep reading such as wot hipster dofus brains can't help but generate, in bullet points:

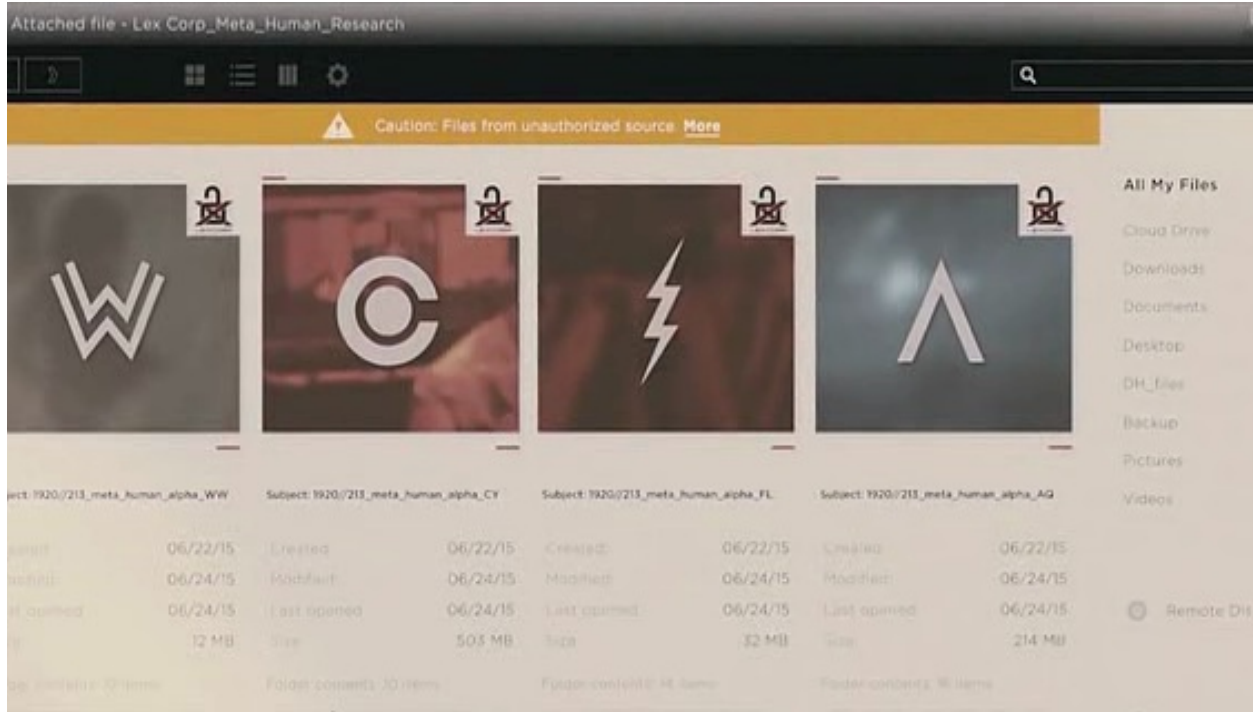
- * Superman = American Exceptionalism²⁶. Duh
- * Lex Luther = The Plutocratic Insurgency²⁷. Obvz.
- * Batman = the corruption of idea of Law n Order. Hence, Lex bending him to his will. Just as he does to Supes.

Okay, I got that out of my system. Back to kick ass femmes. Who's the real hero of BvS?



Who is the warrior that rises? Who hears the call to action and can't ignore it? Rushes straight into the middle of the battle, to the complete confusion of the titular characters? Wonder freaking Woman. That's my Gal. lol.

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She wakes Brucey boy dafuq up by her very existence, and through her actions. Makes him realise he needs to *find the Others*. That with God now dead, the bridge to superhumanity involves a team forming montage. And its WW he turns to for help.



So yeah, if he need the mental equivalent of fitspo, learn life

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lessons like this greying hero. It's not too late to change, and
to ask for help.

But really, fuck that movie and fuck Snyder in general. God, I'm
dying, starving for good things to watch when I need to unwind,
or recover from illness. Sturgeon was an optimist²⁸, I swear.

Which is why there's only one amongst the neverending deluge of
blockbusters that's actually resonated with me. Its galactic
champion has been off not just escaping the Empire, but running
his own salvage mission. And the Others have finally found him...
on a place that looks rather a lot like the Irish Monasteries of
olde.



[Star Wars - The Force Awakens]

When do I get to start raiding Jedi Temples for lost artefacts
and secret knowledge? I'm one bad day, and several 0's short in
my bank balance, of going off to Central Asia to find the
Sarmoung Brotherhood²⁹. But I did pick up a neat Sufi pendant on
Etsy, so there's that.

Thus ends the elaboration of the third breadcrumb, which will
lead to further more detailed explorations of controlling one's
legibility to the State and the Stacks.

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¹ <https://vimeo.com/177874304> - because I like you, here's the whole scene to watch and sample and remix and autotune and have cats dance in funny hats to.

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1491:_New_Revelations_of_the_Americas_Before_Columbus but you can start reading in with this excerpt: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2002/03/1491/302445/>

Kinda seminal stuff to my way of thinking, and demolishes the idea that not much was going on the Americas before whitey showed up.

Srsly. Just read this paragraph:

“The Aztec capital of [Tenochtitlán](#) dazzled Hernán Cortés in 1519; it was bigger than Paris, Europe's greatest metropolis. The Spaniards gawped like hayseeds at the wide streets, ornately carved buildings, and markets bright with goods from hundreds of miles away. They had never before seen a city with botanical gardens, for the excellent reason that none existed in Europe. The same novelty attended the force of a thousand men that kept the crowded streets immaculate. (Streets that weren't ankle-deep in sewage! The conquistadors had never heard of such a thing.) Central America was not the only locus of prosperity. Thousands of miles north, John Smith, of Pocahontas fame, visited Massachusetts in 1614, before it was emptied by disease, and declared that the land was "so planted with Gardens and Corne fields, and so well inhabited with a goodly, strong and well proportioned people ... [that] I would rather live here than any where."

Make American Pre Columbian Again!!!

³ <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/why-detroit-could-be-the-next-silicon-valley-and-vice-versa/>

⁴ <https://biblioklept.org/2016/05/25/a-conversation-with-mahendra-singh-on-american-candide-the-drooling-imbecility-of-contemporary-politics-and-mass-media-comix-vs-comics-and-much-much-more/>

⁵ <http://dailygrail.com/Essays/2016/6/Nightmares-the-Future-Escape-the-Prison-Planet>

⁶ <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/06/23/2016-14848/agency-information-collection-activities-arrival-and-departure-record-forms-i-94-and-i-94w-and#addresses>

⁷ <http://runesoup.com/2013/08/there-is-the-rescue-mission-and-the-salvage-mission/>

Something that I was delighted to learn in Gordon's book, *The Chaos Protocols: Magical Techniques for Navigating the New Economic Reality*: this is one of the most popular posts on his blog.

⁸ <http://www.avclub.com/article/video-offers-irrefutable-proof-bill-hicks-alex-jon-212279>

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nauru_Regional_Processing_Centre

¹⁰ <https://soundcloud.com/pir8m1k3y/transmission-9-from-the-hexayurt-to-ethereum-and-beyond-with-vinay-gupta>

¹¹ <https://techcrunch.com/2013/11/22/geeks-for-monarchy/> by ally @klintron who was once nice enough to refer to my work in WIRED. There's a literal footnote in my personal history. But rumors of this article coming out a secret space haunted by bunch of radical theorists, technohipsters and other people that get lumped under the title Creatives? I can neither confirm nor deny that.

¹² If that sounds like some New Age bullshit, that's because it is... New Age, back when that was the counter-culture, not commodified and sold back to you as daily inspiration on Oprah or whatever it is people watch on tv these days.

Ya know, the stuff Angela is always listening to and repeating aloud on Mr Robot.

You can find examples of Winner vs Loser scripts here <http://deoxy.org/8basic.htm>

eg:

3. The [semantic](#)

Winner

"I am learning more about everything, including how to learn more."

Loser

"I can't solve my problems."

¹³ Srsly, Jaylah, shown there slouching the Captain's chair like she owns it, is the best, and frankly only good thing in that whole film. Fuck all that fanservice bullshit... unless you're cosplaying her IRL, 24/7.

See also: why I started listening to Rihanna - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXhIT4MpRis>. She gets it!

¹⁴ <https://theintercept.com/2014/02/24/jtrig-manipulation/>

¹⁵ <https://theintercept.com/document/2014/02/24/art-deception-training-new-generation-online-covert-operations/>

¹⁶ <http://www.publicseminar.org/2015/12/stengers/>

¹⁷ <https://medium.com/anomalous-engineering/welcome-to-the-churn-5c201b3e9759> by ally @catvincent, under the same banner as this very pamphlet.

TL;DR - the Churn is what they call this period in the fucking amazing space opera show *The Expanse*.

¹⁸ <http://www.vox.com/2016/4/18/11434098/alt-right-explained> it fucking kills me to see that, three years after Klintron's write-up, these guys are getting more and more press, and continuing to infect the political process.

Klint's piece was meant to be a warning*

¹⁹ <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2087924-world-war-zero-brought-down-mystery-civilisation-of-sea-people/>

²⁰ <https://twitter.com/thejaymo/status/751702836212330497>

²¹ <https://twitter.com/thesjef/status/752073852612710400>

²² <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20160211-the-secret-anti-languages-youre-not-supposed-to-know>

²³ <http://thebaffler.com/blog/laurie-penny-self-care>

²⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Key_party as your attorney I advise you to immediately click through to this entry and discover just what was missing from the first Crypto Parties... or maybe I just missed a memo? lolalolalol

²⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbSXrH_CPKg srsly #fuckyeahDemolitionMan

²⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_exceptionalism

Srsly, if you don't already get this concept you'll struggle with the idea of it being the Homeland of the Empire. But hey, I'm here to help. Go read that the wiki entry and keep going til you've freed yourself from the grip of the Mind War, and stay woke, yo!

²⁷ Here, have another key concept as elaborated by Nils Gilman in *The Twin Insurgency* [<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2014/06/15/the-twin-insurgency/>] - if you were struggling to understand things like: why did Jeff Bezos buy the Washington Post. Or, wtf is up with Peter Thiel, read that.

Fuck, read it regardless. Its a key influence on the thinking behind my *Plutocratic Exit Strategy* also. Dem billionaires, they got plans and only speak in Noble Lies. But their actions, they're telling.

²⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sturgeon%27s_law it's more like 99.99% of everything is shit, and I don't limit myself to Hollywood, far from it. This guy's media menu draws from Nordic noir to anime to shit, anything watchable basically. Even if it's something bad to think against, I'll put it on. I can't wait to see Assassin's Creed, just for the fashion tips ffs. Help me. Make something good if you can. I know who's reading this. More on this in a later actual chapter, instead of ranting in the footnotes like a cray cray.

²⁹ There's a film called *Meetings with Remarkable Men* about the quest the mystic Gurdjieff took in the early 20th Century.

If, say, you liked *Holy Mountain*, you might want to track it down. Or better, watch them both ;)

I'd link you, but weirdly all the copies on the popular video services seem to have been pulled.