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Wise Ethnical Choice Points out the Only Way through the Survival Bottleneck

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No matter how advanced the scientific technology and how affluent the commercial capital is, the modern human with the selfishness and shortsightedness inherited from the late homo sapiens rapidly blow up its presence through propagation and expansion. The over-exploitation of the nonrenewable resources and damage to the ecological system have led to the extinction of tens of thousands of species as well as the consequence that the human beings themselves are stuck in a predicament, i. e., they are struggling to go through the survival bottleneck.

1. Mankind's Survival Bottleneck

Attending the rich material life brought by the science, there was population explosion in the 20th century. In 1900 the world population was 1.2 billion; by 1999 it increased to 6.2 billion. The population is still growing at an unchanged rate such that the current world population almost approaches 7 billion. Actually growth of consumption goes hand in hand with the increase of population.

By “ecological footprint", scientists measure the productive land and shallow sea occupied for human survival. A research report on the ecological footprint in 52 countries and regions in 2000 reveals that 17 countries and regions including Australia and Brazil boast surplus ecological footprint whereas the other 35 countries and regions such as the United States and Singapore show the deficit in this respect. The statistics that in 1993 the per capita footprint deficit throughout the world was 0.7 and in 1999 it was up to 0.8 shows that the maximum of the world's accommodating capacity is being rapidly approached. If the U.S. consumption standard was followed across the globe, 4 and more earths would be needed to support 7 billion people; if everyone on the earth was willing to be vegetarian and left a paltry portion of food to the livestock and poultry, the 1. 4 billion acres of arable land on the earth would suffice for the survival of around 10 billion people.

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A report on the population development predicts that if the population keeps growing at the current rate, the world population will reach 14.4 billion by 2050; if the birth rate decreases to 2.1 percentage points or ever lower, the figure will be 8. 9 billion by 2050; nowadays the mankind is actively taking various measures to curb the population growth and the world population will be around 9 to 10 billion by the end of this century. If soil erosion and underground water pumping are continued as they are, pollution of the rivers and lakes can't be effectively controlled and the mankind tends to over-consume, the mankind is bound to suffer shortage of food supply. Within the next less than 100 years, we must take good care of our living environment. Whether our offspring can survive and lead a secure and happy life depends on whether the mankind can make it through the survival bottleneck in the21st century.

2. The Modern Human in Evolution

The paleontologists divide the homo sapiens into the early and late ones which appeared around 200 thousand years ago.

The early homo sapiens in a few species had small brains with their cerebral capacity being 1150ml only and used very simple tools. Though they were capable of capturing some animals, they were prone to be preyed on by other carnivorous animals. It is clear that early homo sapiens didn't pose a threat to the biodiversity, but underwent coevolution with the other plants and animals under the same environment.

Around 60 to 100 thousand years ago, the homo sapiens leapt into a brand new stage of evolution since they could make better tools with their cerebral capacity being up to 1150ml and thence they were taken as the late homo sapiens. With the expansion of their species and the use of improved tools, their hunting was much more efficient. The mankind's struggle against the other creatures and their damage to the biosphere thus started.

60 thousand years ago when Australia was uninhabited by mankind there were many colossal terrestrial animals including the flightless Genyornis newtoni weighing80 to 100kgs, the Macropus titan as large as a rhinoceros and the unicorn tortoise with the size of an automobile. After the first batch of late homo sapiens migrated to Australia, those extraordinary colossal animals became extinct as a result of human hunting and killing.

The late homo sapiens living 10 thousand years ago are called the modern human. History records that the modern human inherit the nature of the late homosapiens and play the part of a killer in each and every corner of the world.

- 1500 years ago, there were no more than 100 colonists in New Zealand who turned out to kill 160 thousand dinornis within a very short time.
- The modern human first landed on Madagascar 1200 years ago. Soon afterwards, the animals with a weight of 10 kg and above were eliminated.
- It is aptly said that those from the late homo sapiens to the modern human tend to eat up the food chain from the palatable large-size herbivorous animals to the fierce carnivorous ones and down to the agile and small ones.

The above-mentioned three cases reflect that ever since 60 thousand years ago, the killing nature is evident in the late homo sapiens as well as the modern human. The Garden of Eden once seized by them tends to be reduced into a slaughterhouse.

Why should the modern human treat the nature they depend on in such a stupid and ruthless way? The depth of human nature is worth exploring. Such a nature is passed down from the Paleolithic period. For nearly 100 thousand years whether the late homo sapiens or the modern human they live in a closed circle of kinsmen and friends. Those working towards short-term goals may be better-off ,enjoy a longer lifespan and bring up more offspring while those setting sight on long- term goals are endowed with unselfishness which stands chances of being passed down from generation to generation. But speaking from the current stage of human evolution, so far the time for the DNA modification and the related choice conditioned by the environment is too short, so it follows that it is still impossible for the valuable