



# *The* Wonder Springs Chronicle

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## The Wonder Springs Chronicle

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## *Business Ecology: Tensioned Leadership*

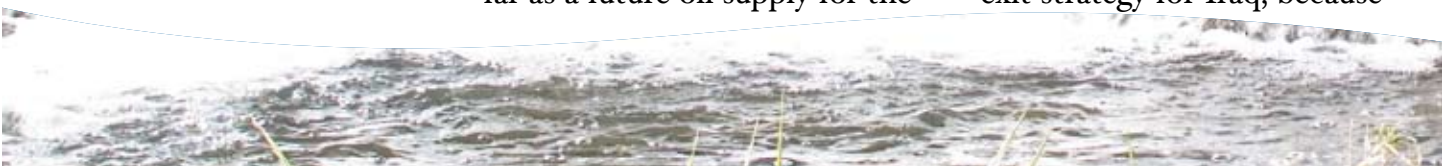
From what I understand, fewer than one in a hundred Americans have ever heard of the inconvenient reality of what is known as Peak Oil. The truth behind that reality is that it will take care of global warming much more quickly than some agreements to do something about reducing green house gases could ever imagine. Peak Oil is not that we are running out of oil, it is that the world's oil production will peak. A couple of years ago a number of sources said that would be 2007. If not now within a few years we may hit the oil production summit.

Peak Oil is really the reason we went to Iraq, but not a defensible reason for going to war. It wasn't some sinister Bush family plot like Michael Moore would like you to believe, but the reality that, under Saddam's restrictions, we were not able to determine just how much oil lies under the country. Iraq is the only remaining unknown as far as a future oil supply for the

world. If all that there is in Iraq, is what we know now, our energy future is dismal, but with free exploration in the country only God knows what we might find, to continue our dependence on fossil oil for a few more years.

Since the United States is the world's greatest oil glutton, the establishment of Democratic ideals for Iraq laid out by the President really was our only hope for getting our share. The problem even spun with lofty Neocon objectives is that it is really just a spin of colonialism that ignored the reality of people, their lives, their religions, their ethnic heritage, or the age in which we live. Without the all volunteer military, this excursion would have been impossible, just like its continuation without a draft to sustain our military, makes true occupation or imperialism impossible today, even if we truly need the oil.

There never really was an exit strategy for Iraq, because



we really were not going to need one, at least in the sense of total withdrawal. It has recently come to my attention, that an exit strategy and the possibility of ethnic civil war, was one of the reasons that Bush I did not continue to Bagdad in the Gulf War. So what really changed since Bush I into Bush II? The reality of Peak Oil.

We have a post on the Chronicle Web News with links to where you can gain some insights into Peak Oil. To understand it however, the analogy of climbing a mountain best applies. You climb that mountain and when you get to the summit you then know what is on the other side. The slope on the other side of the mountain might be steep, or it might be gradual, or there may be a combination of obstacles on the descent.

There is were the analogy becomes just that, because to a certain extent we can control the slope on the back side through the market and price. The problem for the United States is that it was built on cheap oil, especially our west. Gasoline is still one of the cheapest fluids in America. In my Saturn at 3.00 a gallon I can go ten to twelve miles for a dollar. On the highway I can go ten miles on a quart of unleaded and carry a whole bunch of stuff to boot. To put that into perspective, I can still drive into downtown Seattle and walk in, from some places I know where to park for free, for less than the price of a bus, and the time pretty much comes out a push.

When you look at where we spend money without even a thought, a morning designer coffee, a super size lunch, a couple of bottles of water, soda pop, beer, you see that when you put some measurement of true value for your quality of life, a 15.00 price for a gallon of gas doesn't seem that unreasonable. The problem however, is if the urban commuter has to pay just what the rest of the developed world pays for gas, economically we are not in a very comfortable position. To make matters worse, compared to the rest of the world, we will pretty much have to completely rebuild our infrastructure and the way we do business.

Turn on Christian television and I think you will still hear prophesy teachers asking why America does not play a role in end of age

events? The answer is simply we ran out of gas, and couldn't get enough at a price we could afford to continue our world leadership.

This truly brings us to the need for leadership in this country and around the world. As we discussed last week, that leadership will not come from social democratic principles, because leadership there is a function of waiting for consensus before leaders step up. That works to a certain extent provided you believe that the future is just a series of minor changes of a uniform past and stupendous change is unforeseen cataclysm. The underling paradigm in this line of reasoning is however, the view that consensus defines truth. In other words truth does not exist in the absolute sense. From the apologetic sense however, even consensus truth can only exist within some framework that truth is in some sense a reality, for the only option is chaos is reality, and there is no hope for anything except continued chaos.

On the other side of the coin we see in libertine conservative circles, from which the Neocon and Religious Right agendas draw their quest for power. "The fact is that I know what's best, and as long as you agree with me I am your friend. If you don't then I don't want anything to do with you." This ignores disagreement as either evil, or individual unenlightenment. These agendas draw from precisely the same presupposition that the individual or the collective defines truth. In this case however, the consensus is not concerned with the broader community of humanity, but just the consensus of the potent elite.

So what we see in the world today, dare we attempt to draw some consensus, is on the one hand in social democracy, we see leadership based upon bottom up power but really no authority, and in the case of libertine conservatives leadership based upon top down authority but no real community power.

To make matters worse, all media tends to report within the fair and balanced concept, we hear pundits and the enlightened of the extremes. There is little news to fill the 24 hour news cycle about decent people trying to do a good job by changing the true commons of humanity.

This brings us to the concept that "one person" can make a difference. That is true only to the extent that that individual is willing to become a

leader and to develop the necessary leadership skills to lead others within some framework of power and authority, based upon objective truth. Maybe a hundred years ago, most of western civilization considered the Bible as the measure of absolute truth. That is no longer true. Furthermore, that is why “The Da Vinci Code” and even “Harry Potter” sell so well. If you really believed the Bible there would be no reason to read either, because neither contain any absolute Biblical truth other than the reality of sin, but that masquerades under the illusion and prose of enlightenment.

To digress for a moment. If the Bible does truly contain absolute truth why does not the world view it as such? Simply because the church does not teach the Bible as a revelation of Absolute Truth. To a certain extent the Bible is taught even in the best of evangelicalism as a collection of moral stories about human beings, not even men and women, handed down to us as applications to help us live in a somewhat a moral and benevolent way. We teach that, because that is what we have been taught by the example of our elders, whether that be one generation or several.

The Bible however, really doesn't make a claim to the moral side of man, in fact its claims are that man is truly and completely immoral, once known as sin. The Bible makes it's claims not on the basis of morality, but on the claims of righteousness, a righteousness found only in the God Man, Jesus Christ. To it's demise the church today teaches mostly a form of biblical paganism in which moralism is the road to heaven and the supernatural is there to help you out. If the Bible truth is absolute truth however, you ignore its revelation of God's redemptive story at your eternal peril.

So is there a universal religion in the world today outside the sphere of just blatant greed?

I guess I would call it the religion of “Ecological Desperate Reality” or at least the perception of that. Does that tree falling in the forest make a sound, you bet it does, most of the news outside of the war in Iraq deals with that dogma. Reading this today you now know that because of Peak Oil, that now also fits within

that religious paradigm. Peak Oil, Global Warming, pollution, the list is so long you almost need a Rosary to keep track of all the related issues. The desperate nature of this is the fact that true reality as we know and perceive it today, is not sustainable, even with a paint job of hopeful green.

Ecology is the science of natural relationships. Relationships only work well within a tension between unity and diversity. As we said last week, Unity in Diversity is truly the description of the Trinity in Christianity and is found in the Bible as part of the revelation of why Jesus Christ can die for the sins of man, and be raised from the dead as our hope of eternal life. Not only does the Bible teach that, but also all the verifiable historical evidence of that era. Those early Apostles were martyred in that belief. A reality well beyond the schmooze good moral teaching.

So how does unity and diversity work in nature? In the design of natural tension. This tension when adapted to human leadership or even human life in general generates faith. That is because both the individual and the community have infinite merit. The whole community can not exist without a true representation of the individual and the natural diversity is so complex that we can not truly understand, we can only apprehend. But just because it is beyond our psyche does not mean that you lose your individual worth, it actually enhances it, because properly understood it gives you a truly unique purpose, in time, space, and location.

So what that means is that you live, or understand reality outside your comfort zone. In that uneasiness you react with a community of others in similar situations. This faith in both community and individuals, creates by it's very nature the strength of power and authority working in tension. Thereby, the community through authority is able to glimpse a higher destiny than can be achieved by the individual or a community consensus without leadership. Likewise leadership is able to tap powers unavailable with just a great vision and no community. In that respect the leader can make a significant difference by just a small group of individuals working as a team.

All team sports are based upon these principles, as are modern military forces, aboriginal people groups, as well as the leadership scheme of the

Exodus of the Bible. The Bible spells these out as tens, fifties, hundreds, and thousands each with their leaders. Because nature and the diversity of these successful organizations, they must in some way function within the confines of nature, or common grace and natural law. It really makes no difference in this respect whether you believe that they evolved or were created by God. All communities, at least natural communities and truly successful human communities function within these broad parameters.

Outside of sports and the military, little is understood of these relationships, especially in the larger organizations in the hundreds to thousands scale. This is a season of baseball in America, a game and a business build around nine guys playing with a ball and a stick on a grassy field. You have thirty Major League Baseball teams grouped into two leagues. These leagues have three divisions of 5 teams, except the American League West which has four, and the National League Central which has six teams.

Furthermore, you have an active roster of twenty five, and a total forty man roster, seven coaches, and nine staff coaches, six on the broadcast team, and maybe another hundred or so persons on the totally administrative side for the Seattle Mariners. From that small organization a couple of million people will actually come to the games, and many many more will watch mostly on television. Widen that out to the minor leagues and the total of baseball in the world and you see the impact that just a game, sometimes made more interesting by watching the grass grow, can have as an impact upon society. Virtually all this numerology finds its basis in the order of natural human communities and by going back to the roots of the natural ecosystem. In that respect the real future is not desperate at all, but hopeful. For just as the sun will set this evening, it will again rise in the morning. And this cold spring is also following a bad winter.

What might happen if government or even the church got organized as an effective team?

Next week we will look at the tension of leadership, by looking more in depth at the numbers.

