

Back-up Story

What Will Happen To Us?

It was a cold morning. My wife stood on the shore of a lake. Then she went down to her knees to dive a cup into the cold water, and she drank it in one go. This didn't happen decades ago; it happened last summer. But how can anyone drink unsterilized water from a lake without endangering their health? The time when this is possible is most certainly drawing to a close.

You don't have to be a scientist to realize that we have reached a critical point in history because of climate change, the exploitation of the earth with its consequences, and the growth of the population.

According to NASA, since the measurement of the temperature began in 1880, 18 of the 19 warmest years have been measured in the last 20 years. It is more than doubtful that the two-degree global warming target set by the Paris Climate Agreement 2016 can be met.

There are about 215,000 glaciers worldwide, excluding those in the Arctic and Antarctic. As a result of global warming, they are shrinking much more than previously assumed found a research team from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH Zurich. Dahr Jamail's latest book, *The End of Ice*, he says, "the frenetic pace of contemporary life is having a devastating impact on this planet. Humans have transformed more than half the ice-free land on Earth. We have changed the composition of the atmosphere and the chemistry of the oceans from which we came." In another part of the book, he writes "The planet's ecosystems pushed far beyond their capacity to adapt to human-generated traumas and stresses, are in a state of freefall."

The scientific study, "Methane Hydrate: Killer Cause of Earth's Greatest Mass Extinction," published in the *Palaeoworld Journal* in December 2018, issued a dire warning: "The subsea permafrost in the Arctic is thawing, and we could experience of previously trapped gas at any moment, causing the equivalent of several times the total amount of CO₂ humans have emitted to be released into the atmosphere." The results would be catastrophic.

For the *New York Times*, 2018 was "The Year Of the Climate Change." They said: "Heat waves killed people in Montreal, Karachi, Tokyo and elsewhere. Extreme rain battered North

Carolina and the Indian state of Kerala. The Horn of Africa suffered from drought. Large swaths of the American West burned. In Portland, Ore., this summer, the air quality—from nearby wildfires—was among the worst in the world. It would have been healthier to be breathing outdoors in Beijing or Mumbai.”

Did we pushed the limits too far? What will happen to us? It seems that public opinion is slowly beginning to change. Despite the cold weather in the USA at the beginning of 2019, the hot summer of 2018 in Europe is not forgotten. It seems that the Western mindset has finally become aware of climate change.

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