



Humans Evolve “Civilization” and Empire

CONSIDER

As populations grew, villages became cities, then kingdoms, then empires and dynasties. At one minute to midnight on the last day of the Universe year (about 2,500BCE), the great religions and civilizations had only just begun.

Egalitarian societies were replaced by those based on dualism and hierarchy. With the coming of the Iron Age, patriarchal society flourished through dominance in warfare, conquest and control. Into this period prophets and soul guides emerged in the major centres of civilization.

At one second to midnight, the scientific/industrial/technological phase of human presence has spread more rapidly from Europe and North America to every corner of the world.

REFLECTION

*We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.*

T S Elliot

Where is our true “home”, our place? Is it in an environment dominated by technology but which runs the risk of losing its soul? Or is our true “home” this universe from which we have come and to which we will return?

We have become disconnected from earth and universe, and apathetic about its health and wellbeing. Earth is lamenting the way in which it is being treated. As you follow the preparations for the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, consider your connections to your “home”, the way that you nurture it and care for it, for its own sake, and not just because it is useful to you. Remember to touch the earth with gentleness.

Image: “The Rise of Civilization” by Dana Lynne Andersen, Courtesy of Dawn Publications and www.ministryofhearts.org

Reflection material adapted from *Once upon a Universe in Story and Song*