

More than any other time in human history, mankind faces a crossroads. One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness. The other, to total extinction. Let us pray we have the wisdom to choose correctly.

Woody Allen



# Nature Bats Last

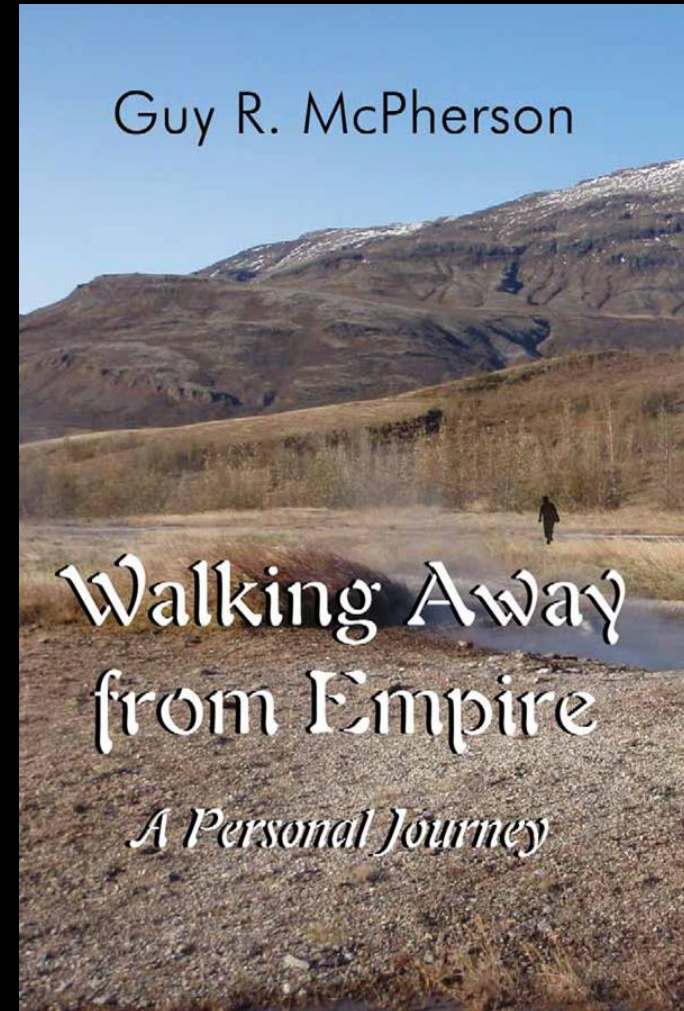
Humans have tinkered with the natural world since we appeared on the evolutionary stage. Our days may be numbered: As the home team, Nature Bats Last.

[guymcpherson.com](http://guymcpherson.com)

*Good news*

*Bad news*

*Astonishingly good news*



# Good news: collapse

Slow climate chaos

Terminate human-population overshoot

Slow or stop Sixth Great Extinction

Terminate environmental decay

# Bad news: climate change

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We're on track to 2 C in 2017 (International Energy Agency's *World Energy Outlook 2012*)

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U.S. Department of Defense (2010): *Quadrennial Defense Review includes climate change among security threats*

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*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (October 2012):  
Game theory indicates current climate negotiations won't avert  
catastrophe*



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Climate change is irreversible (cf. [350.org](http://350.org))  
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*Astrophysical Journal:* Earth is within 1% of inhabitability (1.5 million km)  
(March 2013)

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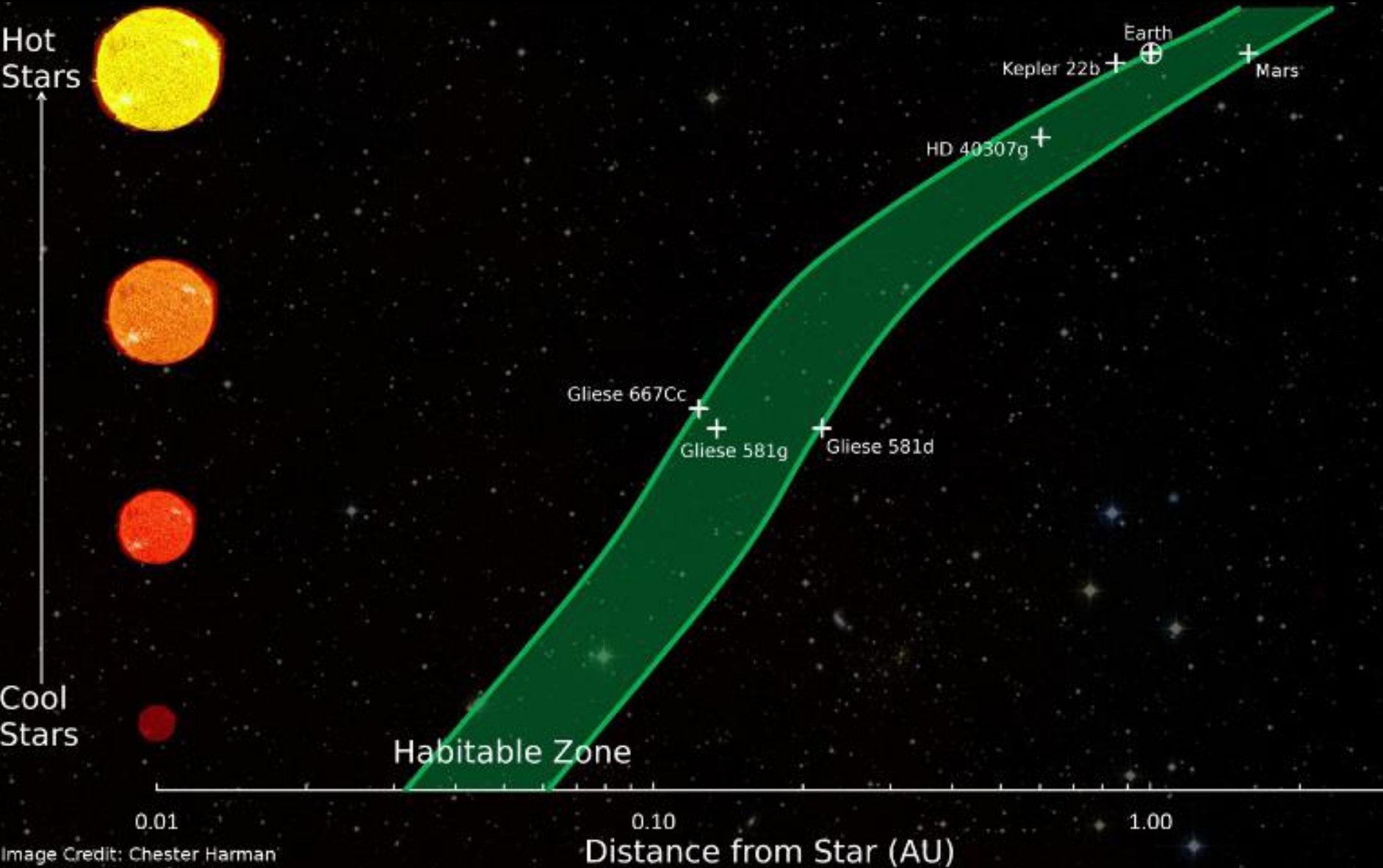
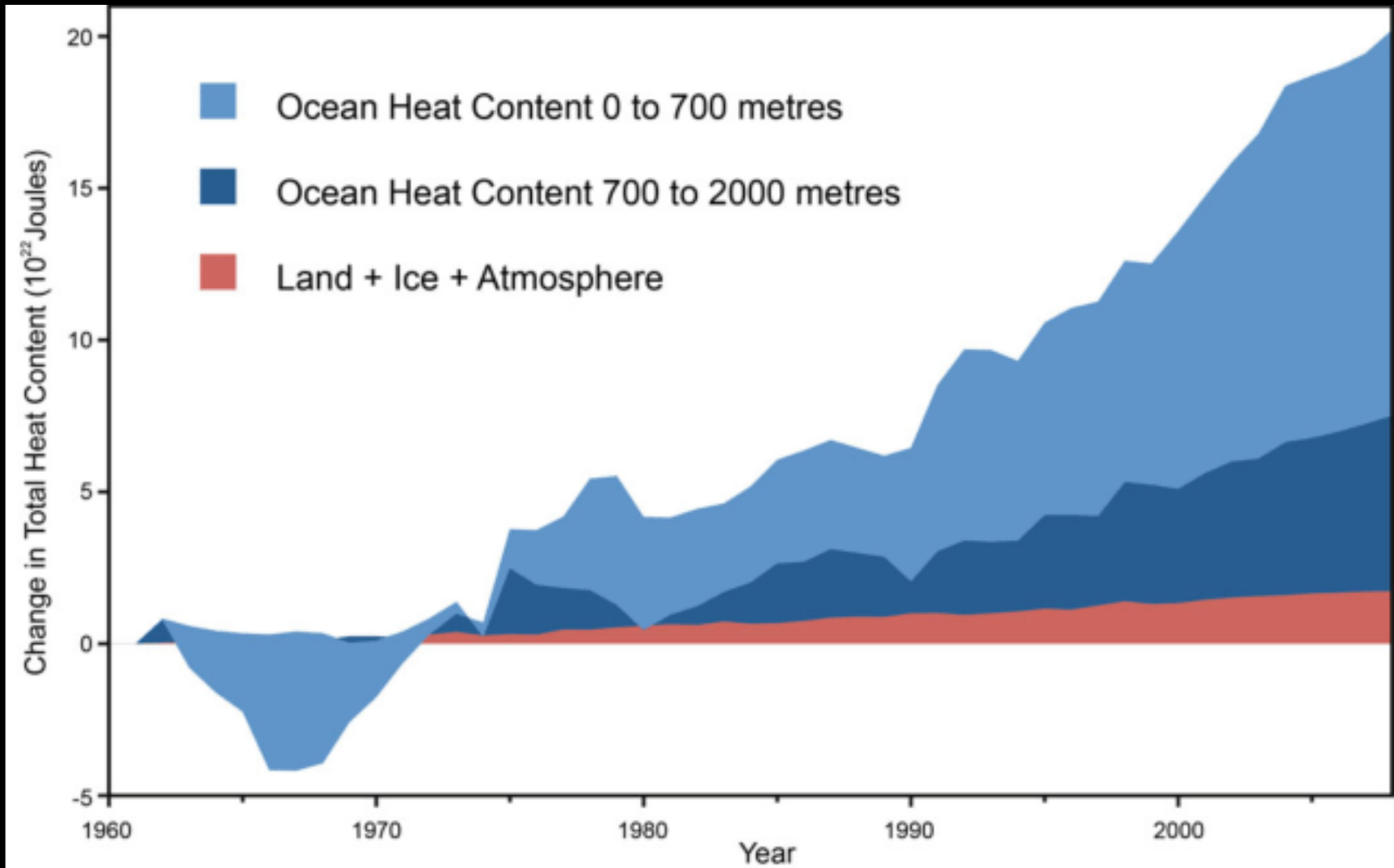


Image Credit: Chester Harman

# Climate chaos

*Geophysical Research Letters: Acceleration during last 15 years*  
(March 2013)



# Irreversible positive feedbacks

Arctic Ocean methane hydrates (*Science*, March 2010)



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equivalent to 1,000 to 10,000 Gigatons of carbon  
(vs. 226 Gigatons thus far)

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Peat decomposition (*Nature Communications*, November 2011)

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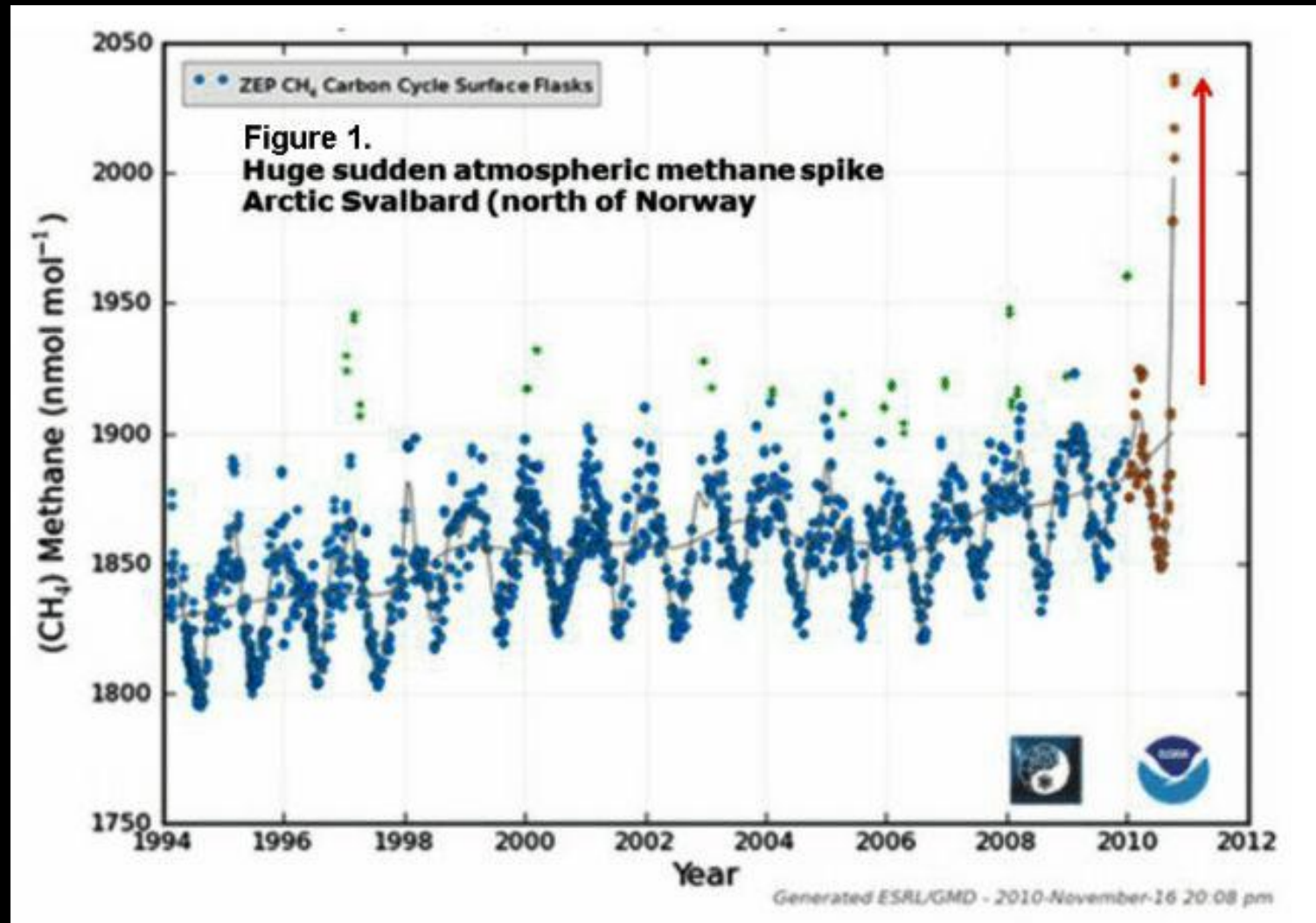
Summer ice melt in Antarctica -- highest level in a thousand years, and the  
most rapid melting has occurred in the last 50 years  
(*Nature Geoscience*, April 2013)

# Reversible positive feedback

Arctic drilling fast-tracked by Obama administration (August 2012)

# Atmospheric Arctic methane

Arctic Methane Emergency Group: Extinction by mid-century  
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2031 Northern Hemisphere

2047 Southern Hemisphere

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# Near-term human extinction?

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*BP Energy Outlook 2030: 4 C in 2030*  
(January 2013; synthesis by Barry Saxifrage for the 30 January 2013 edition of the *Vancouver Sun*)

Now what?



# Now what? The political response

Barack Obama (14 November 2012):

"If the message is somehow we're going to ignore jobs and growth simply to address climate change, .... I won't go for that"

# Now what? The political response

Briefing presented by Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at  
*Conference of Parties 15* (Copenhagen 2009):

"THE LONG-TERM SEA LEVEL THAT CORRESPONDS TO CURRENT CO<sub>2</sub> CONCENTRATION IS ABOUT 23 METERS ABOVE TODAY'S LEVELS, AND THE TEMPERATURES WILL BE 6 DEGREES C OR MORE HIGHER. THESE ESTIMATES ARE BASED ON REAL LONG TERM CLIMATE RECORDS, NOT ON MODELS."

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Nietzsche: “Live as though the day were here”

# Really good news

DNA assures our unique stature

(i.e., you get to die)

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DNA assures our unique stature

Richard Dawkins: “In the teeth of these stupefying odds it is you and I that are privileged to be here, privileged with eyes to see where we are and brains to wonder why.”

Now what?

*I live outside mainstream culture*

In agrarian anarchy

Now what?

*I live outside mainstream culture*

In agrarian anarchy

At the edge of empire

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At the edge of empire

Off the grid

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In a straw-bale house (mud hut)

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(Your mileage may vary)

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[guymcpherson.com](http://guymcpherson.com)



[transitionvoice.com](http://transitionvoice.com)

[Beyond Reskilling](http://beyondreskilling.org)

Preparing for an ambiguous future

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Those who are able to see beyond the shadows and  
lies of their culture will never be understood, let alone  
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Plato

