

AXIOM 4

The side effects of every technological innovation always outweighs its benefits. The more infrastructure needed to develop the innovation, the greater complexity it possesses, and the more severe its side effects. Further technological innovation will always be found necessary to counteract the side effects of a previous innovation. Each technological “solution” will necessitate more complex infrastructure and greater complexity of design thus producing more serious and wide-spread side effects than the problem it is attempting to solve. The cycle always ends in environmental collapse. There are no technological exceptions.

The great flaw at the core of reductive science and rationality is its desire for control over the exterior world. Exacerbating this is its lack of humility . . . the realization that human beings will always know less than one percent of what goes on here, that we are always ignorant and can never, will never grasp, the complexity of the mystery out of which we have been expressed and which surrounds us, and in which we are immersed.

Pronouncements are made about the nature of reality, it's then taught to millions of school children, they grow up with an erroneous notion of the world that surrounds them as well as a belief that human specialists have things in hand. Technologists, industrialists, and corporatists take the findings of rational, reductive, science and implement those findings through technological innovation. But there are always side effects of those innovations: pollution, ecological damage, soil erosion and topsoil loss, antibiotic resistance, oil spills, dead zones in the sea, loss of species, water contamination, and so on and on and on.

Each day there are scientific and medical utopian stories in the media and have been since I was a child and all of us wait expectantly for heaven to finally arrive. But it never quite does and around us, as the years pass, the world becomes more and more damaged, our situation more precarious.

There is a climate of mind that gives rise to the climate problems we face, to the ecological insurances we, as a species, refuse to hear. That climate of mind can be seen in every technological innovation that is created. More of the same will only create more of the same.

Inherent in every technological innovation is a side effect that we will one day regret. And it is not and will not ever be correctable by further technological innovation. The solution to what faces us will never be found through the same approach that created the problems in front of us. The Earth, life itself, is demanding we do something else. The question is . . . will we, as a species, realize that in time?