

SPARK 108

(Matrix Code: **SPARK108.00** for StartOver.xyz game.)

DISTINCTION: It requires new skills to parent children who may live longer than civilization.

NOTES: In one hundred years you and your children will probably be dead. This is our natural lifespan. So when scientists announce that “global warming” will cause flooding one hundred years in the future most people are not touched. Modern humans find it nearly impossible to take painful and expensive actions for avoiding serious consequences that arise beyond their lifetimes. This is because Western civilization systematically disconnects you from your soul. (But that is another SPARK!)

You may be getting tired of hearing threats of “climate change” and “global warming,” but it has not yet stopped you from driving your car or flying to your next holiday. It has not stopped me either. If the ice melts and the oceans go up in a hundred years, so what? People of the future will learn how to take care of themselves. If some farms dry out, well, new farms can start where the ice is melting. Future generations will figure out how to feed themselves just like we did.

But things may not change as gradually as we thought. (For more information, google “abrupt climate change,” and “clathrates” – including the quote marks, and also read every page of www.planetextinction.com, including the links.) The effects of technological byproducts multiplied by growing populations push Earth’s complex ecosystems past hidden tipping points. Geological records reveal that Earth’s climate typically changes suddenly, not gradually, (in decades rather than in centuries) and it flips to greater extremes (e.g. mass extinctions) than are predicted by current computer simulations. If even a minor greenhouse heating spiral occurs, try to imagine a billion homeless desperate people with weapons marching towards your comfortable apartment. Our children may live long after organized Western cultures have disintegrated in the chaos. Let this sink in.

Since we did not manage human overpopulation ourselves, intelligently, it looks like it is going to be handled the Malthusian way.

Imagine being a child now, growing up in a society that is spending your future retirement money on bombs and highways, defecating in its own drinking water, and teaching you to continue the tradition of not asking why. (I just received an ad from the local power company encouraging local citizens to install personal saunas.) Would you have respect for this regime? Would you give credibility to its institutions? If your parents or teachers were not authentically and vulnerably addressing these issues would you respect them? Would you want to continue striving to achieve goals set for you by society? Or would graffiti and car-burning seem like a more appropriate response? Would gangs, piercings and drugs seem like a more fitting training ground for what may be coming?

Teenagers are extremely perceptive. They read between the lines. They see what’s going on with a clarity that is not yet exhausted from being sucked into neurotic

modern-day busy-ness. A child may be too timid to say what he or she feels. But imagine how their heart must secretly ache as they come to realize that all of the large animals they have so recently come to know and love are being systematically exterminated by our vicious over-consumption.

We adults may still try to deny that modern culture is creating its own demise. But as Werner Erhard would say, "Reality is hard and persistent and will kick you in the ass every time." You can't overpopulate a closed system without eventually hitting the limits. What will it be like to experience a couple billion people dying? We may not have to live through this, but our children will. How can we prepare them?

EXPERIMENTS:

Even if you do not spend time with children, these experiments may be important for you.

SPARK108.01 The first experiment is taking radical responsibility for causing the present circumstances. The combination of technological contamination and overpopulation is not our children's fault. I created it this way. You created it this way. How did we cause such devastation? It was easy: *we did nothing to stop it*. No wonder adolescents have rage, depression and disconnect. If adults are raping the planet, why should teens do any different? Start by looking around with zero blame towards politicians, corporate directors, television or advertisers. I chose every action that I made to participate in the indulgences leading to planetary devastation. I too chose extinction rather than conscious discipline. Ignorance of the consequences is no excuse. Even if it is too late, you can still take responsibility. Begin explaining to your children in detail how your daily actions subvert sustainability. How putting plastic in the garbage can does not make it disappear. Responsibility starts with not buying it in the first place, no matter how inconvenient that might be. Sustainability comes through unconventional behavior because *the conventional is not sustainable*.

SPARK108.02 Start learning what your children will need to know to deal with the collapse of the financial system, governmental infrastructures, insurance, and deliver of food, water, and fuel. If you do not learn, how shall they? Here are some suggestions: learn how to deal with death, how to feel grief, rage, fear and acceptance, consciously and clearly, how to be an adult man or woman, how to be present, how to be centered, how to pay attention, how to avoid low drama and to create high drama, how to make boundaries, how to intuitively know, how to communicate with completion loops, how to hold and navigate spaces particularly for the principles of integrity, clarity, possibility, love, transformation, and lightness, how to organize groups and teams chaordically, how to lead meetings that efficiently use nonlinear intelligence resources, how to turn on and use archetypal energies in yourself and others, how to manage Gremlin in yourself and others, how to fight, how to farm, how to forage, how to preserve and cook food, how to do first-aid, how to treat injuries and illness, how to build and maintain sustainably powered living environments, how to raise and care for animals, how to tell stories, how to feed and be intimate in your four bodies (physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual), how to deliver an authentic rite of passage from adolescence into adulthood, and how to pray, because sometimes prayer will be your only alternative. Tell your children you

do not know how to do these things, and set about learning them together starting now.

SPARK108.03 If you have the courage, (or even if you don't) here is the real experiment. Stop 90% of everything that you are doing that is not sustainable. If you are working in the lumber, oil, mining, transportation or chemical industry, do not go to work. Stop eating beef and stop supporting businesses, which deal in beef. Stop driving. Stop trying to invest in hedge funds to get yours while the getting is good. Just stop. Let the part of your life defined by modern culture crumble into chaos around you. It may be 90% of your life. Let it die and stay calm in the midst of it. Read. Exercise. Stay well. You are not a victim. Find out what life is like together with your family and friends in human culture rather than in modern culture. Keep getting yourself prepared. In the beginning you will have no idea how. This is okay. Trust the process. Gradually nurture the authentic Phoenix that arises out of the ashes. Teach other people to do the same. This experiment could take some years.