



A Living Alternative to the Death Star in Your Mind

Humans civilization is blindly driving the living systems of Earth to extinction. We need new guiding principle to set things right.

Normally, I am upbeat about all this eco stuff, but today, I feel glum. Maybe I am hung-over from the session of wine and talk with my friend, last night. We were up until all-hours discussing the abruptness of climate change, the overabundance of biosphere collapse, and the near total absence of transition to a sustainable global economy. If not hung-over, maybe I am just feeling the deep sadness that comes from contemplating [What Comes Next](#) for the humans and millions of our Earthly co-inhabitants whom we have so thoroughly betrayed.

Fortunately, I know this glumness will soon pass, because I have a powerful antidote to the sadness that comes from being awake to the reality of the Anthropocene. You see, I am a Perian which means that I [follow a religion called Perium](#). Most religions are devoted to a deity,

otherwise known as a God. Perium, isn't like that. Perium is a 'non-theistic' religion that is devoted to the well-being of people and our planet, Earth.

This is a new concept for many people, so let me explain. The definition of religion I use is a belief in a 'supernatural being, thing or principle' and the practices that bring the belief into life. The word supernatural refers to something that is beyond proof, unable to be confirmed by science.

Perium is a new religion (founded in 2016) that is uniquely suited to the challenges of the Anthropocene – the modern era in which the humans are the main drivers of change on this planet. Perium is positioned to become a vital tool in efforts to prevent the extinction of the human race. This is a bold claim, I know, but I am confident to say this because of the nature of Perium's belief.

As a Perian, I believe in a supernatural being called [*Imperium vitae-planeta*](#). *Imperium* is the planet-sized super-organism that comprises all the living things on this planet, plus the ocean, atmosphere and soil on Earth. Some readers will recognise this concept as a variant of [James Lovelock's Gaia Theory](#), which it is, with one important difference. Lovelock said that Earth's biosphere had the 'characteristics' of a living organism, whereas Perium Religion says that the biosphere 'is' a living organism. This distinction is central to Perium Religion as the belief is just a small step away from a testable scientific frame. This discipline is absent from most religions, which explains why some of their beliefs are so outlandish and harmful.

Perium believes that all the living things on Earth are cells in the body of *Imperium* and that she maintains temperature and chemistry of the

ocean and atmosphere so that it is suited to life. *Imperium* has been doing this successfully for billions of years. When *Imperium* is in good health, Planet Earth is an abundant home for humans.

As a human, I am a single cell in the body of *Imperium*, as are all the other organisms on Earth – indeed, as are all the other humans, you included. Some people find this concept hard to understand, but there is a simple example. It is well known that the human body includes trillions of non-human cells called micro-flora. These include bacteria, fungi and other micro-organisms. Humans cannot live without the microflora. And so it is with *Imperium*, a super-organism made up of all the other organisms on this planet. Another reference for *Imperium* is Ewya, the living skin on the planet Pandora, in the movie Avatar.

To be clear, the Perium Religion does not regard *Imperium* as a God, or a deity. Perium is a non-theistic religion, remember. *Imperium* didn't create the Universe, and *Imperium* doesn't observe you or make judgements about your behaviour. Instead, *Imperium* is an emergent property of the natural laws of the Universe, and there are probably trillions of *Imperiums* on living planets throughout the Universe.

A belief in *Imperium* is a powerful thing as it obviates the annoying questions: Is there a God? Heaven? Hell? An eternal spirit? Perians don't trouble themselves with these questions because the Perium Religion explains the place of humans in the Universe, [advises what right action is](#), and answers the big questions: [Where did we come from? Why are we here? What happens when we die?](#) Perium details how you can live a meaningful life, a happy, contented life. Which brings me back to my gloomy disposition, today.

Anyone with sufficient intelligence and empathy will understand and feel sad to see what humans are doing to this planet. As a follower of Perium Religion, I choose not to close my eyes to what we humans are doing to planet Earth, the body of which I am a cell.

Fortunately, Perium's philosophical foundation offers enlightenment on these matters. To be enlightened is to understand how things really are, and Perium is a unique religion in that its teachings are based on modern science, and its belief is closely tied to this science. Furthermore, unlike most religions that have a fixed text, Perium Religion's texts are continually being written in scientific research institutes around the world.

This is important as the adherence to science allows Perium to offer a fact-based pathway for humans and the other species of Earth to co-exist deep into the Long Future. The [concept of the Long Future](#) says that our planet will be habitable for life for several billions of years if it is not destroyed by human agency, first. If we humans can radically change our ways, it is conceivable that our race could exist for millions more years on this Earth. However, for this to happen we need to learn how to become wise stewards of the whole Earth system. Can we do this? I believe we can. Will we do this? It's not looking good, right now.

If you read the science of climate, planetary boundaries and the Anthropocene, you will understand that we humans have triggered a perfect storm of ecocide. We have set our biosphere on the path towards a rerun of the [Permian Extinction - the Great Dying - that killed-off more than 80 percent of all living things on Earth, some 253 million years ago](#). The Permian Extinction was triggered by a rise in global temperatures of around 6 degrees Celsius. Human activities

may have already triggered positive feedbacks in the climate system that lead to the same result. There are two principal differences between the original Great Dying and the Second Great Dying that we humans set in motion.

The Permian Extinction was caused by the release of greenhouse gases from volcanic eruptions over the period of 20,000 years. We humans may have achieved the same since the industrial revolution, about 200 years. So, the Second Great Dying is taking place 100 times faster than the first. Let that sink in for a moment.

As well as being faster, the Second Great Dying will probably be deeper than the first. This is because we humans have accumulated toxic chemicals and radioactive elements in such volumes and concentrations that they will kill-off species that may otherwise have survived a climate catastrophe. You see, the first Great Dying didn't include plastics in the ocean, ozone-depleting chemicals, artificial nitrogen, or the radioactive materials that will inevitably spew from the ruins of the nuclear industry when the power goes down and the cooling pumps fall quiet. A recent example of this comes to mind. I read an article about a Coelacanth that have been found dead with a plastic bag in its stomach. Coelacanth s are fish that live in caves hundreds of metres deep in the sea. These ancient fish were able to survive the Permian Extinction, but seem to be susceptible to the tide of ocean plastic.

Fortunately, the Perium Religion has an antidote for these human-caused woes: action. If enough people believe and practice accordingly, we may be able to avert this looming extinction and instead live to enjoy the Long Future. The two key practices advised

by the Perium Religion are to [live with Earthity](#) and to [follow your Periumission](#).

All cells in a body have common duties such as the regulation of internal chemistry and the exchange of gases and minerals with the blood stream. For the body to be healthy, cells need to act as good neighbours to the fellow cells, and to the body as a whole. Applying this to humans, we need to live with Earthity - the reverence and respect for our fellow humans, and the natural living systems of Earth. This concept advises Perium's Golden Rule: *Do Unto Others And Nature As You Would Have Them Do Unto You*.

While they all have common attributes, cells also have specialist roles in the service of the body. So too should Perians have a specific life mission that fosters the well-being of *Imperium vitae-planeta*, the living planet. Some people invent [clean-technology](#). Others heal injured wildlife. Others sit in the road to block the traffic in support of the [Extinction Rebellion](#). Perians should find a Periumission, a mission through which they help to ensure the wellbeing of *Imperium*.

Clearly, if enough people lived with Earthity and pursued a Periumission, it would be possible to swerve the trajectory of human civilization towards wise stewardship of the whole Earth system and the Long Future. Unfortunately, today, very few people are open to Perium or ideas like it.

Instead, for the most part, Western people ascribe to a belief system that is an amalgam of short-termism, consumerism (capitalism and growth), New Age spirituality (crystals, dream catchers and yoga), mainstream religion, and pop and celebrity culture. Adding to this are the distractions of post-truth (it is true because I believe it is), fake

news, climate denial, conspiracy theory, and pseudo-science. With all this nonsense sloshing through their heads, it is easy to understand how Western people are so disconnected from the living planet, and what we are doing to it.

This mental decay is bone deep. So, it is very difficult for a rational, Earth-friendly, science-based belief to penetrate the force-field of the Death Star that is the mind of a Western human. This is hugely problematic because while there is plenty of money and technology to solve the world's problems, but not enough people paying attention.

Looking ahead at the darkening storm-clouds, it seems almost inevitable that civilization will collapse before the humans [wake-up](#) to what is going on. Perhaps the wake-up will happen as the collapse unfolds. This is possible, but so much damage has been wrought to key Earth systems – climate, biodiversity, ocean acidification, nitrogen cycle – it is hard to see how we could avert ecological collapse and civilizational catastrophe even if we were fully awake. Complicating any efforts we might make, the response of the Earth system is influenced by lags, momentum, heat build-up, tipping points and positive feedback loops. There are consequences to what we have been doing to the planet for the past 200 years. We can't just halt two hundred years of Earth abuse and expect everything to be okay. So much madness and misery is already baked-in.

Today is better than tomorrow, and will be so for many decades to come. No longer is the question: Can we avoid collapse? The biosphere and climate is already collapsing. The question is how do we slow, then stop the collapse that is already underway, assuming that we can?

No one knows what comes next out of the spectrum of collapse scenarios. A best-case scenario might be a collapse of industrial civilization that happens soon while there is still a functioning biosphere, and the establishment of a successor civilization that struggles through decades or centuries of hardship before the climate re-stabilises. The worst case is a rapid plunge into the Second Great Dying which leads to the eradication of most species on Earth, with humans one of the first to go.

Either way, there is much madness coming our way. As such, it is necessary to adopt a philosophical frame that is suited to the coming changes, and this ultimately needs to be based on evidence, fact and science and a reverence for the biophysical systems that make life possible. This is what Perium offers. The ongoing development of the religion seeks to help people enjoy meaningful lives despite the collapse going on around them.

So, if you are wondering why you are here, and what you ought to do with your life, I suspect that you might be reading the right document. You might consider [becoming a Perian](#), living with Earthity and getting your teeth into a Periumission. This bold new religion will help you deal with the inevitable challenges that lie ahead, and position you to be one of those who can help make it better.

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