

The Role of Humanity:

The human race seems very intelligent. We have discovered a great variety of scientific principles and developed many advanced technologies. We have found fossil fuels and utilized it to establish modern civilization. However, we seem to be quite slow to understand the huge problems we have caused. By burning fossil fuels and eradicating forests over the past two hundred years, we have raised atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations to 400 ppm. Yet, over the past hundred thousand years atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations had been oscillating between 180 to 280 ppm. The sharp increase has led to global warming, ocean acidification, and abrupt climate and environmental changes.

How well do we understand how the planet works? We aren't even able to accurately forecast the time and location of typhoons making landfall. How much confidence can we hold in the ability to forecast the future of environmental changes on the planet? Can the workings of the global environment be as simple as handling a car, tell it to reverse and it will reverse? Or is it like a boat, taking considerably long to reverse? Or is it like the Titanic, with an iceberg collision in its future, never again able to revert to its original state?

Who said the human race is the highest life form? These fermenting bacteria may not agree. When drinking alcohol, be sure to appreciate the contribution of the fermenters. Then your spirit might be quiet enough to hear what nature is trying to say.

