

Hope

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I am aware that quite a lot of the time, I suggest that humankind is facing multitudinous crises, many of which might threaten our well-being.

The threat to democracy, the threat from climate change, the danger from the destructive use of AI that it seems some are likely to want to create, and the callous attitude of many ultra-wealthy people towards the rest of humanity, who they appear to consider expendable, mean I think I have good reason for having considerable concern about our futures.

I then read [this article in The Guardian yesterday](#), in which a new book by Dr Luke Kemp entitled 'Goliath's curse' is reviewed. I thoroughly recommend the article. It discusses the potential collapse of our society and why, based upon the author's research, this could be much more devastating than any previous collapse of a civilisation in the last 5,000 years of human history. I accept that analysis. I think it is entirely reasonable.

Despite that, I live in hope.

That might partly be because I very often get my pessimism in early. I don't always think that things will work out for the best, and then I am pleased when they turn out better than I expect, which is a trait that my wife has learned to live with. The net outcome is that I am almost continuously pleased with how well life is going.

Ultimately, though, I think I have hope because I believe in the capacity of human beings to do what is right. I believe, as Luke Kemp obviously does, that human beings are ultimately altruistic, generous, empathic, and communal. They do, quite simply, care.

There are, undoubtedly, those amongst us who seem intent on amassing either wealth or power for the sake of their personal aggrandisement, which we know because that they accumulate wealth beyond anything they might need for their well-being. But the rest of us are both capable of identifying those undertaking this activity and ultimately

resisting it.

We might, of course, ultimately fail in that endeavour. I accept that possibility, which is why I often express my concerns. But I still retain the hope that we can change direction. This is one reason why [I've talked about storytelling recently](#)—because I believe that the narratives that we tell ourselves and each other are incredibly important if we are to achieve this goal. But more than that, I believe that those narratives can inform our behaviour in ways which can affect change.

Luke Kemp seems to do the same. He summarises this by saying 'don't be a dick', and, to be candid, that's quite a good prescription. If you want to effect change, don't do the things that undermine it, in other words.<

So, if you believe that climate change is a threat, act in ways that mitigate it.

If you believe that there are people threatening democracy, do all you can to support it, and demand that its reach be enhanced and its functioning be improved, whether or not those power-hungry individuals in charge of the Labour Party at present agree with you or not.

If you believe that some have power based on their wealth that is inappropriate, then discuss how we can change the tax system and other forms of regulation to mitigate this concern.

But most of all, if you think that we really do live in society, and that we stand or fall altogether, behave as if you are a member of that society.

That might mean trying to get on with some you won't agree with, and seeking to persuade them that there is merit in accepting the differences that exist between us. That is because that which divides us is almost invariably smaller than what we can agree upon, because what we all have in common is our humanity, our basic concerns, and our cares, most of which, if we take time to reflect, we share in common wherever we find ourselves within the spectrum of human existence.

We can, in other words, hope if we want to. We have a right to do so. I think we should. Unless we do, we quite literally have no hope. And that is why I feel hope is so important.