



## *Emma's View*

*(A newborn babe with 2020 vision)*

**Emma was born on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. She was expected to meet her world in February 2020, but perhaps pushed her arrival forward to coincide with the dawn of Covid-19. By the time she reached her due-by date, Covid was rampant in Wuhan and threatening places beyond China.**

In her first three years Emma witnessed a world in turmoil, brought about first by the pandemic, followed closely by a war in Europe. Beyond these transient disasters loomed the longer-term specter of Climate Change. Emma wondered why the world was like this. She couldn't understand why many leaders did so little to rectify critical global issues. In fact, some seemed hell-bent on making things worse!

Emma looked ahead to the world of 2100, when she would reach the age of 80. From what she had witnessed so far, it would be a rough ride; a tumultuous journey, beset with challenges. Then she came across an old Chinese proverb, which made her think:

*'If you don't change direction, you'll end up where you're going.'* "Exactly," she thought.

Emma also noticed there were people around with brilliant ideas. One Israeli historian, Yuval Noah Harari, was enlightened to say the least. He identified three mountainous obstacles that faced her 21<sup>st</sup> Century - Nuclear War, Climate Change and Artificial Intelligence – though she knew there were also a host of other, slightly more fixable summits, such as migration, species extinction, water shortage and plastics.

In addition, there was a teenager who caught her eye. She was a small young lady who seemed to possess the foresight of a prophet, along with the unshakeable strength of a formidable giant. Known to the world simply as Greta, this fair-haired Swedish schoolgirl had succeeded in placing the urgency of The Climate Crisis on a pedestal with flashing lights ... for all to contemplate and act on.

It became obvious to Emma, after sighting pictures of her blue planet taken from space, that she had been born into an extraordinarily unique environment. She hung on the words of Apollo astronaut Scott Kelly:

*“Absolutely breathtaking. Like someone took the most brilliant blue paint and painted a mural right in front of my eyes. I knew .... that I would never, ever see anything as beautiful as planet Earth again.”*



But she remained confused. People had borne witness to this exceptional spectacle more than 50 years before, but they had done very little to preserve Earth's sanctity.

Emma knew she must become involved during her lifetime to help remedy the impending catastrophe: to assist in bringing Yuval's ideas together with Greta's practical actions. She longed to be in that place, where enlightened theories became sustainable solutions.

But for now, it was time to get back to the mundane basics of learning to walk and run, read and write. How she wished she could skip over the next 20 years, to dance alongside Greta ... or even become the next Greta! From this moment on, that notion would consume her being and become her goal for life!

At that instant she was disturbed by her mum, who seemed intent on changing her nappy. Such a bore when she had all these grand thoughts in mind



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*Duncan Gregory*

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