



## Emma's View

**(A newborn babe with 2020 vision)**

Emma was born six weeks premature on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. Her arrival coincided with the dawn of Covid-19. By the time she'd reached her due-by-date, the corona virus was rampant in China and beyond.

In her first twelve months Emma witnessed a world in turmoil; some places handled the virus better than others: South Korea compared to Brazil, for example. She felt the difference reflected leadership attitudes. She also noted that a focus on the pandemic meant other critical longer-term issues, such as climate change, were neglected.

Emma wondered why this was so? if a problem was created by humankind, surely it should be fixed by humankind, not left to grow like an infected sore. Some leaders, she noted, could fix things; New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern for example, appeared amazingly positive, and able to identify remedial actions for key challenges.

However, she saw that many leaders, in both government and private sectors, appeared hell-bent on ramping up, rather than scaling down challenges. She looked ahead to the world of 2100, when she would reach the age of 80; it promised to be a rough ride!

Emma concluded she must become directly involved, to help develop a more positive pathway. She noted an old Chinese proverb:

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

Emma read of good people with brilliant ideas. Amongst them was historian Yuval Noah Harari, who identified three huge obstacles facing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Nuclear War, Climate Change and Artificial Intelligence. There was also a teenager; a young lady with incredible foresight and unshakeable resolve to bring about sustainable change: a schoolgirl known as Greta, who had succeeded in putting one of Harari's major challenges, Climate Change, into the spotlight, for all to consider and act on.

Emma identified with Greta's straight forward call to action; to replace the much too often lauded values of untruth and greed, by their preferred opposites, truth and trust.

Our young girl with extra-sensory vision, hung on the words of astronaut Scott Kelly, after he had seen earthrise from space:

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

But she was confused. Why then, did people continue to spoil this beautiful blue planet?

After more studies, Emma agreed with Yuval Harari, that the world's challenges could be met, if people worked within well-defined frameworks, to develop multilateral and non-partisan approaches to the planet's major concerns. Most importantly, the methods should be issue-driven, not money-focused. This was where she wanted to be, helping to bridge the gap between Harari's theory and Greta's practical action: to dance alongside Greta, helping to build sustainable solutions. Even perhaps to become the next Greta!

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

*“Well, at least I’m glad to have sorted it out,” Emma thought to herself, as she sat in her high-chair doing more research. “I just need my afternoon siesta, then I can start more detailed planning when I wake.”*

\*\*\*\*\*

