

Why Everything is Fucked

By Caitlin Johnstone, 22 December 2019

We all slid out of the womb an itty bitty helpless information sponge into a world full of mentally ill giants, all of their inner demons. And now everything, understandably, is fucked.

That's basically our whole entire situation in a nutshell. You can add on as many extra details as you like: propaganda, billionaire wine cave fundraisers, whatever--but ultimately our plight is due to the fact that we are completely helpless and knowing nothing, forced to trust crazy giants to give them the grand introductory lesson. Why were those giants crazy? Well you see, they got here the same way you did: small, slippery and cornered by gibbering lunatics who were all in a mad rush to teach them how to be insane.

And those giants came into the world under the exact same circumstances, as did the giants who came before them, and so on.

It's a grand old tradition of ours, ultimately stretching all the way back to our own evolutionary birth in the cerebral cortex in a mammal who up until that point had been primarily concerned with sneaking in a snack away from sharp-fanged predators. This newfound capacity for complex abstract thought burst onto this planet and manipulated by the cleverer primates.

And thus human madness was born.

The most powerful early humans were the cleverest humans, the ones who understood how to use this newfound capacity to their own advantage. They realized that by simply saying something is true in a sufficiently confident way, they could treat it as true.

Those clever humans used this newfound ability to place themselves in charge, and to make a bunch of more powerful humans of the next generation proclaiming that the less powerful humans must submit to the more powerful humans. Over time, the rules became more numerous and complex, weaving in moralism, codes of filial piety, and insane, power-serving religious dogma, and poverty.

These power-serving rule sets were picked up and used to justify highly traumatizing behavior in the service of the state: institutionalized torture and brutal executions of the disobedient, and just within domestic power structures, rape and physical abuse in households all around the world.

This eons-long tidal wave of deep trauma and power-serving rules structures passed from generation to generation, becoming more demented flotsam and jetsam as it went along, to ultimately come crashing down upon your crown and your body.

That is your legacy. That is everyone's legacy. Countless generations of cumulative madness, washed into the world through exploitation and senseless cruelty stretching all the way back to the dawn of our species on this planet.

This heritage of madness is funneled straight into our sponge-like brains from the moment we emerge from the womb, through an extremely traumatic and confusing ordeal known as childhood, after which we are handed the keys to the kingdom and the charge. See if you can figure out how to run this place better than we did."

And we're just like:

We never stood a goddamn chance. None of us did. The deck was stacked against us long before we got here. And now you get political commentators constantly railing on about "Gosh, if only we could get people to join a third party and read World Socialist Website and turn up to demonstrations and take back the power of this thing around!" Not realizing that everyone else in their country went through the same traumatic, confusing beginning of their lives, the only difference being that most of them got a lot less lucky in sorting out their heads. They themselves are still quite mad.

This is ultimately the answer to every question about why things are fucked right now. Why does it seem like the election? Why do the wars keep expanding instead of ending? Why is the news man always lying? Why are we publishing facts? Why are those nuclear superpowers hurtling closer toward direct confrontation? Why are we dying? Why are the mass shootings increasing? Why is everyone so miserable?

Because every adult on this planet started off tiny, helpless, impressionable, and surrounded by gargantuan forces. We can't be sane. That's why.

Notice I said "almost". It is still possible to find one's way into a relationship with reality that is guided by reason. We have to start way, way, way back at the beginning and deeply re-examine even your most fundamental assumptions. We have to find out that while the mad giants gave us information that was very useful for interacting with other mad giants, we also learned how to navigate through life in a wise and truthful way.

And that's what I'm pointing to here: it's important to get clear on just how far back the crazy goes and how we got to the situation in which we now find ourselves. If you begin with the assumption that our problem is simply a matter of being out of alignment with the correct ideology, you'll miss the real obstacle entirely. You've got to zoom the camera out and see the whole picture.

Can you become a deeply sane individual, untainted by your ancient heritage of madness? With a lot of help, yes. Can all humans become deeply sane and untainted by their ancient heritage of madness? It would take a lot of time and a lot of precise.

But then, I believe in miracles.