

A Study of

A

**UNIQUE
BEING**



The Origin of Life

Looking at the state of this earth, at the time when recorded history began, 6000 years ago, and findings based on archaeological and scientific research done of the earth and the living organisms going back hundreds of thousands of years before that time ... this earth (man's living environment) at that time was found to be somewhat primitive, made up of animal and plant life, including primitive man ...

Although this may not be new or revolutionary information, yet, if one visualizes primitive man and his environment at that time, that picture tells a very interesting story.

There were no built structures,
neither was there any kind of infra-structure.
which means that,
there was no organised or developed environment!

Every living creature or living organism merely reproduced itself!
Yes,
there were the natural climatic cycles and the Ice ages.
And yes,
there was increase, **but NO development**, no progress!

Until

a mere 6000 years later everything looks totally different ... **somebody** or something not only changed this earth, but mightily impacted and developed it, even reaching far beyond its borders.

Whobody did that?
And, how did man do that?

Well that is the subject of this study.

A STUDY OF A UNIQUE BEING

Man & the origin of life.

Many studies and much research have been done on the origin of life,
... studies that have also included man and the origin of man!

Much has been said, written, and even speculated
... about life and the source of life,
... about earth and its origin,
looking for some universal energy as the source of life.

Yet, in most cases the answer remains elusive!
Why?
Has science been looking in the wrong places?

Maybe LIFE is not just about a living organism?
Maybe LIFE is not just about some form of existence?

**Is life not actually about being alive?
Is life not actually about man himself ...
and the impact that the living of life has on all else?**

What is Man, and that life in Man?

About 1000 years BC, King David asked this question,

¹ *What is man that You are mindful of him?*

In essence questioning man's part or role in life,
linking man's life very directly to life itself,
and the importance of his role on earth.

What is there in man that differs from other life forms on earth?

Is there any truth in the writings of Moses,
or was that pure speculation?

² *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground,
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;
and **man became a living soul.***

¹ *The book of Psalms Ch.8:4* ² *Genesis Ch.2:7*

*Any study of life should include both,
the life of man and the life in man,
looking at man's intrinsic and essential role
... in the development and future of this earth.*

*Unless the **life in man** is recognised as the catalyst to development,
studies about life will be hypothetical, abstract theories,
without any real value to ... **man's life or future!***

A STUDY OF A UNIQUE BEING - *The origin of life!*

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Man is an inquisitive, inquiring being,
always wanting to know - **WHY?**

Although '**WHY**' is not the first word a child says,
yet from the minute he does start to ask – 'WHY'
that little word starts shaping his life, and his future!

An Inquiring Being!

Questions about the origin of life and of Man, his being, his origin, what, who and where he is from, have both fascinated and occupied man's thinking, for as long as history exists!

And yes, many theories and counter theories have been postulated, which, if they have proven nothing else, have at least established,
... that there is something different about mankind,
... that there is something special about MAN himself!

There are probably many places from where one could start looking for answers to the origin of life and particularly of man - this man who

*... seems to be of the earth, yet at the same time,
... seems to be an alien on the earth.*

Logically and scientifically the place to start however would be with man, (who is the subject of this study) yet not with man's physical makeup or origin, but with **what is unique or different about man!**

So, let's start with the one who is asking the question in the first place!

- MAN -

Man, the only (*known*) being who considers and therefore also questions life and the origin of life, must obviously have some characteristic in himself, that is not found in other living species on earth that prompts him **to ask questions.**

Man is an inquisitive, inquiring being, who always wants to know - **WHY?**
Now you may well ask why? ... and that is exactly why ... **YOU asked!**

Although '**WHY**' is not the first word a child says,
yet from the minute he does start to ask – 'WHY'
that little word starts shaping his life, and his future!

Man's inquiring nature is peculiar to man, and is not only at the root of what makes man different but is also what has led man into a myriad of creative activities that has brought man to the place and position he is in **today.**

Man's inquiring mind,
... is probably his greatest asset
and is at the root of what makes him different!

Is there really a reason for asking so many questions?

Yes, because it's not about getting to know about man's past,
... although that is of interest,

But it is of vital importance for man's future!

For what we find out and decide today,
is what determines our tomorrow!

one-1 **Worth the question?**

Knowing that man is inquisitive is interesting, but is there really a necessity or a real reason for wanting to know whether man is different?

Is there any reason or benefit in knowing what man's inquiring mind is all about ... and of what value will an answer be to us?

**Not only is it vitally important for such questions to be asked,
... but we most certainly need to have some answers...**

Not just because it is interesting to know,
Not just because it will tell us something about our past,
Not just because it will explain our current situation, global problems etc,
... even though knowing all of that is important.

But,

... because it is vitally important for man's future,
so that he will be able,
... to correctly approach current social problems,
... to correctly approach current economic problems,
... to correctly approach future planning,
not only in the planning of future development,
... but also to shed some light on,
the future existence of man, as man!

So, in venturing to present some answers to these questions,
... let me start by making this statement.

If you are living just for yourself,
... then you are on the wrong planet.
Nothing on this planet functions independent of anything else,
and MAN ... you are no exception!

Does man have any unique characteristics?

Does man have a latent potential or ability,
or some other peculiarities that motivate or energize him?

Although there are occurrences in nature and the animal kingdom,
... when things are stored up,
... when protection may be necessary,
... and resources are used more than just consumed.

However those are primarily responsive acts.,
and solely based on need and a survival instinct

Whereas with man those actions are intrinsically cognitive;
man is not only living off his environment,
but purposefully impacting his environment!

one-2 **A closer look - at you!**

Is there more to man than just an inquiring mind?

Well, let us take a closer look at man, however,
... not in the way psychiatrists, psychologists or therapists do,
... nor in the way sociologists or educationalists do,
... neither in the way of environmentalists or economists,
... nor for that matter in the way of any other *-ists*,
but let's look at what makes man ... **MAN!**

What special (unique) characteristics does man have?

What is it about man that is different or important?

Does man have a **potential or ability** that makes him different?
... any latent **characteristics** or elements to develop?
... anything that **motivates, energizes** or spurs him on?
any **peculiarities in man's makeup** that shape his life?

To start with, here are some interesting facts about MAN!

Man is one of the weaker beings on this planet,
... yet seems to control it all. (*although it may not always look like it*)

Man is probably the only being on earth,
... needing additional protection from his environment,
Man has to actively contend with his natural habitat to survive,
... *man needs external protection from the cold, the heat, the wet,*
... *from most everything in his 'natural' environment!*

Man is probably the only being that prepares, plants & builds things,
... food to eat, a place to stay, a means of protection etc.,

Man not only lives from, but also influences his environment,
... and creates a micro (& macro) environment for that purpose.

Man is the only being that develops the resources of this earth,
... mining - minerals, precious stones, iron, timber and fossil fuels
... using those resources to make tools and generate power, etc.

Man is also the only being that consciously brings about change,
... that produces and develops things beyond his physical needs,
... and mostly does it with an ulterior motive beyond his existence!

It is this purposeful development,
using the resources in his environment
that holds the key to what makes man different!

Simply evolving or purposefully developing?

In looking at the **history of this planet** on which we live,
 ... specifically for clues to the beginnings and existence of man on the earth,
 ... for any specific **changes** that may have occurred,
 ... for any special **developments** that have taken place,
 there is clear evidence that ...

Things on earth have certainly not been static!

In fact, this earth and in particular its human inhabitants,
 ... have not only been in a **state of constant change**,
 but man has **constantly been developing!**

What has caused this change in both man and his environment?
 ... Is it purely due to natural evolution, or
is what we see around us the result of purposeful development?

In studying nature and the changes found in nature,
 ... it is evident that these changes are as such not actual development,
 ... but are basically due to evolution.

Yet,

... as soon as you include man and his environment in this study,
 you are immediately confronted with the reality that ...

The change and development in man's sphere of influence,
 ... would seem to have mainly been initiated by man himself,
 ... **and therefore are a direct result of man's own actions!**

We need therefore to take a closer look at the changes & developments,
 ... in nature and organic material,
 ... in the living creatures and their environment,
 ... in human beings and their environment,
 with specific reference to what caused these changes.

Whether man was directly involved,
... and if so, what was man's role in this development?

The change in human existence & life,
is progressively leading to development and improvement!
Whilst,
... in animal life it is purely adaptive! (*not at all progressive*)

one-4 Purposeful development

A closer look at man's environment reveals that the changes in man's sphere are indeed calculated, purposeful development, which include ...

A **built-up environment and infrastructure** to support it!

The **use of natural resources** (*not just the consumption thereof*),
... to build and develop this visible environment man lives in.

The **exploitation of natural**, even hidden **resources**,
... discovered by man using his inquiring mind, and
... exploitation made possible through man's technological advancement,
which is used to support and fuel even further change and development.

Technological advancement in research and production.
Transportation that goes far beyond this earth's sphere.

Communication, that even boggles the minds of its developers,
... with ever increasing technological interaction and presentation.

Even without attempting an in-depth study of these developments or changes,
... what is clearly obvious is that,

The **change in human life** and existence has not only evolved,
... but is constantly and exponentially developing and growing.

Whilst the **change in organic** as well as in **animal life** and existence,
... has been **purely adaptive** (and not at all progressive)

Man has contributed to and impacted his environment,
... maybe sometimes negatively, but mainly positively.

Whilst the rest of the living creatures have only drawn from,
... or **adapted to changes in their environment**,
changes they did not initiate, but in fact had to respond to, to survive!

The **progressive change in human life**,
... and in particular in human development,
is distinctly **different from any change in other living creatures**,
and is the result of purposeful development by man.

Not only is Man more capable and superior to any other species, but **Science has also shown man to have unique stretches of DNA,**
... not found in any other known species!

*** **Isolation and chromosomal localization of unique DNA sequences**

... (from a human genomic library)

Unique human inserts were found in about 1% of the phage screened.

Google (1982)

*** **Greater Than 98% Chimp/Human DNA Similarity? Not Any More ...**

Chimpanzees and other apes have about 23 kilobases (a kilobase is

1,000 base pairs of DNA) of repeats. Humans are unique among primates

Google (2003)

*** **Research finds unique human DNA** - Welcome back to The Frost blog

New human gene discovered ...

Scientists say they have discovered a gene sequence which appears to play a central role in giving humans **their unique brain capacity.**

Google (2006)

one-5 Fact or coincidence?

It is often suggested or argued that the differences in the development patterns between man and other life forms are simply coincidental, and that in the end man is no different to the other living creatures!

In endeavouring to substantiate these claims, some theories have even been developed to try to prove that man evolved from the animal kingdom. Theories that remain theories, as no real proof exists.

*Should not man, this proficient, capable being that he clearly is,
stop wasting time trying to find the reason for his obvious superiority
... outside of himself,
... **when the answer lies so plainly inside of himself?***

Quite clearly, the results of man's activities on the earth,
... and even his endeavours beyond the earth's boundaries,
have proven his special abilities and capability, if not his superiority!

Furthermore, scientific research of nature and the earth itself,
... as well as of man and his physical makeup,
have actually concluded, **that man is uniquely different.**

Scientific research for instance revealed,
... through the study of DNA blueprints,
... and by identifying the sequence of DNA bases of the human race,
that there are rare stretches of DNA,
... found only in man, relating only to mankind!

What this has brought to light is that,
... the basic physical makeup and DNA pertaining to humans,
... may in many ways be similar to some other living creatures on earth,
but,
... there is a 1% difference, in fact a 1% uniqueness,
... that separates the human being from all other known creatures.

There is therefore **definitely something different about man!**

**Man is not different because of his physical environment,
but because of the way he impacts his physical environment!
through his unique and distinct intellectual and conceptual capabilities!**

one-6 **Man is different**

That man is different, is becoming more and more obvious.

That man cannot simply be classified with any of the other species, is also becoming evident.

However, just knowing this does not tell us much about man himself as yet, and therefore what we need to establish,
...is what differentiates man from other (known) living creatures.

We have already established, that what makes man different,
... is clearly not due to man's physical environment,
as all the other living creatures are in that same environment!

It is also not because of man's physical makeup,
... or because of man's natural makeup,
as too many other living creatures have a similar natural makeup,
... **yet are NOT doing or achieving what man is!**

There must therefore be something about man,
... or more accurately **something in man**,
... that **makes him fundamentally different!**

The fact is,
... as DNA studies have also confirmed,
that there is a distinct difference or uniqueness in man,
... that goes beyond his natural or physical makeup!

An uniqueness that should be acknowledged,
... that should be nurtured,
and most importantly,
... **that should be furthered!**

Why is man's approach to the research of life,

... so **"back to front"**?

Why is man looking for the reality of life that is within him,

... **outside of himself**?

Why is it that man who is so obviously different from other species,

... **is trying to disprove his peculiarity**?

Instead of focusing on the unique being that he is?

Yes, Man is truly different!

What other proof does man need to prove to himself that the unique things that he has done and keeps on doing, prove he is different.

Look at how man is continually developing his physical abilities,
... no other living creature does that!

Look at man's very distinct, constantly developing non physical abilities,

... **cognitive***

... **perceptual****

... **intellectual*****

... **conceptual******

... no other living creature has that!

These very distinct (non physical) attributes that are peculiar to man,
... are in essence the attributes that personify or embody
... the creative and productive capabilities that are special to man!

Capabilities that are continually increasing and developing,
and through which man, as a peculiar species,
... has developed in ability and skill,
... not just beyond the skills and abilities of all other known species,
But,
... on a creative and superlative level,
... through which man has and in fact still is,
fundamentally and powerfully impacting his environment!

** reasoning, rational thinking*

*** sensitive, aesthetic & aware*

**** philosopher, logical thinking*

***** imaginary, inventive, ideational*

**Is there really a difference between,
a comparative study,
in which similarities between certain objects are studied, and
an objective study,
... in which an object is mainly studied in isolation?**

Man is on the earth,
and man is of the earth,
so there are obviously numerous
similarities with other creatures on earth,

However, we are not looking for similarities,
we are looking for what makes man different.

Unique or just different?

In studying any subject, there are two basic paths you can take,
... you can do a comparative study or an objective study.

Most research studies of life and in particular of man have concentrated on those things that are common to man and other life forms.

Now, although this type of study will provide answers, however as the scope of such a study concentrates on similarities, the findings will be limited.

In a **Comparative Study**,

as its name suggests,

... what is investigated and studied is only what is common to all, completely ignoring individual distinguishing traits or qualities, which is indeed a major hindrance to understanding what or who man is.

If you make a comparative study, looking for similarities,
... all you will find is what is common to both,
and thus set about ***to prove how they are similar!***

Also,
there is a distinct weakness in a comparative study,
... as differences that may be found between the species,
although these may be noted as such,
... they are usually not fully investigated,
... and their significance thus not adequately or correctly established!

In practical terms this means,
... that the results obtained through a comparative study,
... are limited to studying known facts,
instead of looking for what caused those facts.

This only reaffirms what is known about life,
... instead of considering the origin of what constitutes life.

**How then do we discover or establish what is original or special,
... about man and thus about life?**

Are there similarities between the species?

... Yes, there are many!

Is there proof of these similarities?

... Yes, the proof is obvious!

Man is not just on this earth, but he is also of this earth,

... so you will find distinct similarities!

Is MAN similar to other species on earth?

Physically yes, up to 99%, so there is nothing to prove!

But, MAN is 1% unique (*see man's DNA*)

Thus, studying what is different in man,

... **will unveil the origin of man!**

two-1 **A Unique being - an objective study!**

An Objective Study ...

To find out what man really is, you need to study man himself, yet
... not in what you can see,
... not in what you can touch,
but by looking at what is in man, his makeup, his character!

**If you focus on what makes man different or special,
... you will find a uniqueness,**
... the distinctive characteristics - **of man**,
and be a step closer to finding out where this uniqueness comes from!

There is a very pertinent reference to this hidden dimension in man,
referring to man's beginnings, that certainly gives us food for thought.

*¹ And the **LORD God** formed man of the dust of the ground,
and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;**
and **man became a living soul.***

You may well say that what is written in Genesis does not prove anything,
... that in fact it is only a myth that cannot be proved!

Truth however is that science has already proven that myth to be true!

As already mentioned earlier,
Scientists have identified a 1% uniqueness in man's DNA blueprint
*(the 99% similarity is confirmation of man being formed of this earth,
and thus having much in common with the other creatures on earth)*
The 1% uniqueness not found in any other species, except man,
suggests that there is something in man,
... that may well **not** be of this earth!

Could it be that man is uniquely different?

The indications are that there is a distinct difference in man,
and therefore by studying what is special about man,
... **what man really is, and what makes man truly unique,**
the difference will be revealed!.

¹ Gen 2:7

MAN has the ability to visualize & functionalize
whilst also considering the effects of his actions!

MAN not only thinks, but is spurred on by his thoughts
reaching out beyond his natural and known environment!

What are these attributes or characteristics that are peculiar to man,
... that would seem to be intrinsic or typical to man?

They are,

- dynamic - interactive - perceptive - inventive and impelling!

What this means is that,

... **man has the ability to visualize and functionalize,**

whilst at the same time,

... **man concerns himself with the positive and negative impacts,**

... that his actions may have on his surroundings,

as well as how these actions may influence or change his environment.

Also man is the only known species or earthly being, that
... **has not limited himself to his natural environment,**
but has purposefully involved himself with the extraterrestrial,
... that reaches beyond the natural or known environment,
... and dares to enter that unknown realm -(outer space)
whereof he has not only been dreaming, but actually has ventured to go.

Of what significance is this?

Man obviously has something more, something unique in him,

... an intellectual or conceptive ability,

... an impelling driving force,

that reaches deeper or beyond this physical earth,

... that originates from outside of this earth we are on.

¹ *Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion ... , over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."** So **God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.***

¹ Gen 1:26-27

MAN is not just a living creature,
... subject to his living environment!
MAN is also a living soul,
... in control of his living environment!

Unique, with limitless potential and possibilities!

This may sound un-natural, possibly because it is... *supernatural*?

For whilst our physical bodies are of this physical earth,
... the inner man, the soul of man, in which the character of man resides,
has its roots somewhere else.

*¹ And the **LORD God** formed man of the dust of the ground,
and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;**
and **man became a living soul.***

Thus confirming that,
Man is not just a living creature,
... subjected to his living environment.
But man is also a living soul,
... in control of his living environment,
and capable of so much more than all else in his living environment.

two-3 Unique with limitless possibilities!

The origin of this uniqueness may be a subject for debate,
but **what is sure is that man is unique,**
... not specifically in his physical makeup,
... but definitely in his inner being, his soul.

It is this uniqueness that enables man to reach further than this earth,
... beyond its environment and influence.
For man, even with his as yet limited use of his abilities,
... is already active outside of this physical earth's limitations!

Furthermore, man has proved that he is not just capable,
... but that he is capable of far more than what he has achieved to date!
Man has also shown that,
... he has in himself what would seem to be limitless abilities,
... and thus also limitless potential.

Whether man uses these,
... and whether man benefits from them,
... depends on man living that uniqueness!

¹ Gen 2:7

MAN, made from his environment (earth), controls his environment
... **therefore not dissimilar ... but simply DIFFERENT!**

Not static in existence or development,
but productive, progressive and dynamic!

two-4 Not dissimilar - but different

Fact is that what is different about man,
... are **not similarities that have become different**,
but **'differences' that are total opposites to all other natural things**,
... and are at the same time unique to man!

Having established that there is something special about man,
let us analyse and compare some of those more distinct differences,
... so as to ascertain the validity thereof!

Man versus Nature

In nature, there is the survival of the strongest,
... with man it is the opposite, **survival of the shrewdest!** (*Lk.16:8*)

In nature protection against the environment is natural, built-in,
... with man it is the opposite, **man needs external protection!** (*Gen.3:21*)

In nature, food is eaten as it is found, raw and unprepared, unprocessed,
... with man it is the opposite, **man prepares most every meal!**

In nature, everything grows and merely adapts to external conditions,
... with man it is the opposite, **man causes the change!**
... man constantly develops and grows (and even in his needs)!

In nature, resources are consumed relative to survival needs,
... with man it is the opposite, **man uses resources to satisfy needs**,
and at the same time man's development **creates needs**,
... needs that require more or different resources!

In nature, replenish-able, natural resources are consumed,
... whereas man not only needs and consumes resources,
... but man **uses resources to sustain his development!**

In basics ...

Nature is fundamentally static, with numeric growth only,
... and its demand on resources is relative to that numeric growth.

Man's development is dynamic and productive,
... thus also progressively increasing his demand for resources!

Man's characteristics are uniquely different to other species,
and man's DNA is 1% different from all else found on earth!

Does this also mean that man has a unique origin?
that man originates from somewhere else?
... that he is partly alien?

These idiosyncratic, even eccentric characteristics of man,
... that often seem in conflict with nature and his surroundings,
are clear evidence of the fact that man is not just different, but unique.

Furthermore it points to the reality that man's activities are not simply different,
... but in comparison with the purposeless or instinctive actions,
... of the other species with which man co-exists on earth,
man's activities are generally intentional and purposeful,.

It is therefore more and more evident,
... that **man could not and did not,
evolve from any other earthly species or being!**

What makes man what he is, **is unique to man!**
A reality that is furthermore substantiated by the fact that,
no other species has even started to evolve or develop like man!

two-5 **Unique ... (an alien?)**

Where does this uniqueness come from?
What is the source of this 1% unique DNA in man?

If it was of the earth, it would also have been found elsewhere on earth,
... but as comparative studies have established, it does not.

So, where does this uniqueness in man come from?

Is there some truth or valid indication in the account of creation
... as is written in the Book of Genesis?

¹ *Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness; let them have dominion ... ,
over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.**"*

² *And the **LORD God** formed man of the dust of the ground,
and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;**
and **man became a living soul.***

¹ Gen 1:26 ² Gen 2:7

What is it that we should be studying - when we are studying life?
The existence and origin of life?

or

The living of life?

Just being alive or living life are light years apart

Life as a concept or force – has potential
Living that life – releases that potential

Unless there is a way of implementing what has been established,
Unless there is a real solution, that can be practically formulated,
Unless there is a direct benefit from applying such a principle,

any discourse or principle stated,

... is of little or no value!

It may fill a book, but it won't fill a stomach!

It may satisfy the curiosity, but it won't benefit the reader!

There are many studies and theories on the origin and existence of man, however there are not so many on the principles that govern life itself. The existence or promulgation of life is one thing, but finding **the reason for life** and **the result of living life** is what will put all that information and those statistics into a real perspective.

Life as a form of existence presents possibilities and opportunities, as we can see in nature, where life facilitates existence. On the other hand, the living of life, the living of the possibilities and opportunities life presents, as man has so uniquely shown, furthers and develops life by utilising (*living*) the potential in life.

Therefore, to understand and benefit from the reality of life, man's uniqueness and how that impacts man's life, need to be studied and understood.

Man is unique, therefore the principles that govern man's life are as unique, and it is in establishing those principles that we need to look beyond the similarities with other beings, and concentrate on the facets of man's life that are uniquely different.

In seeking to uncover the principles behind man's uniqueness, there is a vast array of folklore, traditions, mythology, to be found in secular and even biblical references, however unless these can be practically substantiated they remain mythological or hypothetical.

Remember we are not only looking at the life of man,

... but in particular at **the life in man**,

and therefore at what makes man do and achieve what he does!

So, what are we looking for?

What is it that makes man and man's existence real?

What is the reality of man's uniqueness?

What is the potential of man's uniqueness?

and ...

Could this indeed be the blueprint for man's future?

**The potential and the ability to create,
to make something new, that never existed before!**

three-2 Potential and Ability

One of the first things that becomes clear when studying man, and in particular the uniqueness of man, is that man is much more complex than just a living organism or a living being.

Man does not just exist, but impacts existence.

What man has achieved or accomplished on earth, reveals an ability and a potential in man, that not only highlights man's uniqueness, but points to,
... man having a greater purpose and destiny than man's co-creation!

What the study of the uniqueness of man also reveals, is that man not only has, but continues to systematically impact, change, and
... most importantly, develop his micro and macro environment.

What are the implications of this?

Primarily it means that **in man**, and therefore in the living of his life,
... there is an **ability** that has the **potential for change!**
... there is an **ability** that has the **potential for development!**

This means that there is therefore in man,
... an **ability to create!**

An ability and potential to make something that did not exist before!

This basically means that,
Man has an ability in him, in his make-up, character or inner being,
to purposefully change what is in his surroundings or environment,
... to add to it,
... to adapt it,
... to manipulate it,
and thereby develop or transform what there is,
... into something that was not there before!

What is this ability?

Is there a reason for this ability?
Is there a secret to this ability?
Is there a purpose to this ability?

**Creativity, is more than productivity,
... it is more than the end product,
more than just an available force.**

**Creativity,
is a fundamental part of man's being and life,
not just in the lives of some special group,
but in the life of every single human being!**

**Creativity is NOT the exclusive privilege of a few geniuses,
... but the potential lies within each of us.**

The tendency to change and manipulate with the intention of developing something different or new, may not be peculiar to man, but certainly is a dominant activity in man's life.

This ability or activity is best described as CREATIVITY!

What is also clear from our study so far, is that there is no evidence that this creativity or creative ability that man has, is evident or apparent in any other creature on earth.

Furthermore, this ability seems not only to be special or unique to man, ... but is very much an intrinsic part of man's activities and life on earth, and in fact plays a vital part in man's existence and survival on earth.

A uniqueness or ability that is evident in most every facet of man's life.

What is creativity all about?

Creativity is founded or established in originality,
... the ability to imagine, to visualize, to invent,
... the ability to structure, to generate, to produce,
... to be resourceful, to be skilful, to be ingenious,
Creativity is about making or doing,

- **something new and original,**
- **something useful and profitable**

not only to man, but also to his environment and his future!

Not only is creativity a special attribute, but it's indeed an integral part of man's life and thus of his impact and influence on his environment and surroundings, and even on his own personal life as well.

And although it is becoming more and more recognised, there is still a tendency to limit creativity to particular groups of people or specific activities such as economic development and growth, thus falling short of recognising the fact that creativity is an integral part of all of mankind.

Creativity is also not just an attribute or ability that is available to some people some of the time, but is an intrinsic part of man's being.

In fact, when one looks at the development and progress of mankind, ... creativity is the major force or catalyst behind all of man's achievements, ... and indeed of all else that pertains to man's life and increase on earth.

A Creative, Innovative Attribute & Ability!

The ability to recognise potential!

The ability to think beyond the visible!

The ability to modify and change what is visible!

The ability to develop and enhance what is available!

The ability to visualise and produce what did not exist before!

Creativity is not so much a question of chance or talents,
... it is an attitude, a way of thinking.

three-4 **Creative (& innovative) Ability**

What exactly is this creativity or creative ability in man?

How does creativity impact or determine man's development?

CREATIVITY is ...

- an ability that is evident throughout man's history, and apparent in his development from his *'primitive'* beginnings.
- an ability that has been the cornerstone of man's life.
- an ability that has shaped man's growth and development.
- an ability which has enabled man to change and develop his environment through his own skills, and has enabled him to use what is in his environment for his own benefit.
- an ability that man has used to help him develop and achieve **what has not been done, neither made nor achieved before.**
- an ability to even reach beyond man's known environment, taking man, not just to the moon, but far beyond!

One only needs to look around yourself to see how that this creative ability and potential found in man, has both initiated and fuelled a process of incomparable growth and development,.

... from crude stone tools, simple clothing and makeshift shelters, to sophisticated metal equipment, properly constructed shelters, ... manufactured products, transportation vehicles, industry, ... architectural advances and complicated engineering masterpieces, ... villages, towns, cities, as well as political and economic empires.

An ability that continues to impact man's ever increasing sphere of influence, which is conclusive evidence of

... ***man's inherent creative ability!***

Man is in himself - NOT an END-PRODUCT!

Man is constantly evolving,
... not into something new,
but, **into the fullness of what is latent in man himself!**

Man's greatest challenge is to find out,
... what motivates him to use his creative ability.

Where does this ability in man come from?

Ancient writings of the 3rd & 2nd millennium BC., (early and late Bronze Age) such as the 'Instructions of Shuruppak' and more particularly the 'Pentateuch' (the five books of Moses) refer not only to the Ten Commandments and the flood, but also to over 6000 years of man's history, and offer some very interesting food for thought, particularly with reference to
... man's uniqueness in comparison to all else,
... as well as man's special position here on earth!

*¹ Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**; let them have **dominion** ...*

*² and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and **subdue it**; **have dominion over** ... everything that moves on **the earth**."*

Whether or not one considers these ancient writings as factual accounts or as mere stories, is not the issue. However, when comparing these written accounts with what is known about man's early life and his subsequent development and achievements,
... **there seems to be factual substance in those writings.**

Furthermore, these ancient references not only seem to formulate the principles and path for man's life and development on earth, but at the same time they also 'predicted' and affirmed man's dominant role,
... not only with regards to this physical earth,
but also in the development and growth of the socio-political & economic fabric, that would provide the necessary environment to sustain mankind and the society in which he now lives and operates.

To fully understand this uniqueness and ability of man, you not only need to know the principle behind this uniqueness, but also what
... initiates it,
... empowers it,
... and sustains it!

¹ Gen 1:26 ² Gen 1:28

**Making a difference on the
- OUTSIDE -
Out of the difference on the
- INSIDE -**

three-6 **A unique and creative life**

As we have seen, when we compare man with all other creatures on earth, man is found to be vulnerable and physically weaker, even needing protection, not just from the natural elements and environment in which he lives, but also from the other creatures with which man co-habits on earth.

We have found man to be distinctly different to all other creatures around him, yet at the same time,

... vulnerable because of what makes him different!

This vulnerability however, is not a weakness,

... but is in reality a strength!

This unique creative ability, although concealed, soon became evident in man's life, and man has successfully used it ever since,
... to sustain himself,
... to protect himself,
whilst at the same time,
... subduing, influencing and impacting his surroundings,
... and greatly developing his environment,
in a way that no other creature on earth is capable of doing.

Man is creatively and successfully different, so much so that his very existence has positively impacted his environment through his uniqueness.

Man has prospered, living **a blessed life**, despite being the weakest,
... by using that potential, that ability in him, to live a full life!

Man has developed, living **a fruitful life**, despite his limited strength,
... by using the resources that are in his environment!
... by producing things that impact and develop his environment!

Man took **control over his environment**,
... by taking responsibility for his environment,
... by controlling and uplifting his environment!

This unique potential and ability in man, foreign to all else on this earth,
... seem to come from outside of this earth,
... from whoever gave man that uniqueness in life!

If man is so able, so specially gifted,

Why does it seem that so many lives are meaningless?
Why is it that only a few seem to impact their surroundings?

Why does it seem that not everyone has these unique abilities?

Are we missing something?

Resourceful or not?

Having looked in depth at man and the reality of life, man's achievements and man's impact on his environment, what has become clear is that,
... man is not only unique in his make-up and ability,
... but man is also unique in his needs and demands!

Moreover, in man's toolkit of unique abilities, there is the ingenuity,
... to utilize available natural elements and resources,
... to beneficially apply natural laws,
in order to meet or satisfy man's unique demands.

Man is not only unique in his demands, but also uniquely able to meet or satisfy those demands, through what one could best describe as,
... man's unique innovative ability,
and
... **man's unique ability to create!**

Having established man's uniqueness, and thus also
... man's ability to positively impact his own life and his environment, why does it seem that,
... not all of mankind is positively affected or impacted?

Why is it that so many people seem to live meaningless lives?
Why is it that so many people are not impacting their surroundings?
Why is it that so many people are not changing their surroundings?

Why is it that this uniqueness and creative ability in man,
... are not evident or active in so many people?

Should not every person, every human being on earth,
... be uniquely able?
... be creatively active?

Unrecognised creative ability.

In the process of life, man is constantly doing things,
and using his creative ability without even noticing it.
... matching his wardrobe - changing a recipe, etc.

You may not have created a rocket to go to the moon,
... but you used your creativity all the same.

WHAT IS MISSING?

Man's **active** involvement!

Man not only has unique abilities,
but a free will and the freedom of choice,
to both recognise and activate those unique abilities,
- without which all those possibilities are totally meaningless!

four-2 A missing element

Life as the word implies ... means to live, to be active, to be doing,
... and as is so obvious in our own lives,
just having a potential or an ability,
... without using it (*living it*), will not bring any results!

This means that there is something that triggers or releases that ability,
... that potential in our lives,
that needs not only be present but also active,
... in order for that creative process to begin.

What is this first step?

As we have found out,
... most of **man's special abilities are latent**,
... and therefore need to be activated and developed.

However, the activation or **developing of those abilities**,
... is not automatic,
... but **requires a decision and accompanying action!**

Therefore,
... unless man actively gets involved and uses his ability,
... man will achieve nothing, in spite of all his abilities!

Just making a decision to want to be creative and achieve,
... as we have experienced in our own lives,
is simply not enough!

That ability that is dormant in most people,
requires an input, a stimulant or catalyst to activate it,
... so that man's creative ability is released,
... and can be used for his benefit!

This **motivational input** that man needs, is probably the biggest stumbling block in man's life, for although man has such an array of abilities, purely **just having a need or a desire**,
... is not enough to cause man to achieve or to succeed!

What is it that motivates man to get involved?
What enables man to use his creative ability?

To be creative – ***requires self-motivation!***
To be self-motivated – ***requires a PURPOSE!***
To have a purpose – ***requires a GOAL!***
To have a goal – ***requires a VISION!***

If you don't know where you are going,
YOU WILL NEVER GET THERE!

four-3 **What motivates man (to become creative)?**

Although man does have limitations or handicaps,
... **as for instance requiring physical help to achieve his goals,**
man through his creative ability, has overcome most all of his limitations.
But, having abilities such as being capable of thinking and
... **visualizing beyond his physical capabilities,**
does not mean that man is actually living his uniqueness.

What releases that latent creative ability?

To be creative in the first place **requires motivation,**
... and not merely motivation, **but 'Self-Motivation'!**

Now, to be '*self-motivated*'

... requires a special condition or input.

To be 'self motivated', **man needs a purpose,**

... to have a purpose, **man needs a goal,**

and to get a real goal, **man needs a vision.**

(man needs a picture of where he's going)

This may not sound earth moving at all, but
... it is probably the most important element required in man's make-up.
A very wise old saying or precept explains this,

¹ ***Where there is no vision, the people perish:***

What is so significant about this proverb?

If you don't have a purpose or goal in life,
... **you have no purpose for life!**

If you don't have a plan to get somewhere or do something,
... **you have no reason to move** (to live)!

If you don't know where you are going,
... you will never get there, because
... **you have no direction in life!**

¹ *Prov.29:18*

Dare to dream & look further than the problem!

*¹ Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom.
And in all your getting, get understanding.*

Wisdom is about knowing what to do with knowledge,
and how to use it to impact your future!

If you can't visualize it, you will never be able to take hold of it!

We are so often encouraged to step out in FAITH.

“How” - you may well ask?

VISION – you have to see something!

TRUST – you have to believe in it!

FAITH – you have to go for it!

¹ Prov4:7

Man needs a vision, **a purpose in life** ... *something to live for,*
... for without a purpose to work towards,
... and without a goal to attain,
... **man, even with all his abilities, is totally lost!**

Having a vision is one of the fundamental principles of life,
... and if you take a closer look at your own life,
... at the high points and low points in your life,
you will not only see the reality of that principle,
... but also its evidence in your life!

The high points or successful times in our lives,
... are the times when we felt truly alive!

What was prevalent in our life at those times?

... *we had something set before us,*
... *we were striving to get somewhere*
... *we were achieving our goal,*
... *and no negative influences or opposition could stop us!*
We had a vision!

The low points or stagnant times in our lives, were
... when we felt lost, aimless, even confused!

What shaped our lives during those times?

... *nothing!*
... *we did not know what to do or where to go,*
... *nothing had any meaning or had any real value to us!*
There was no vision!

The living of LIFE!

Life simply means to be alive,
... to be **actively doing something!**
Doing something with a purpose,
... pre-supposes that you have a goal,
... and therefore, that you have a vision!

What you want to have in life,
... **is not a vision!**
What you plan to do in life,
... is where vision starts!

What does - to VISUALISE - mean?

The ability to look past the problem or need.
The ability to look beyond what you see,
to see what needs to be done!

four-5 The ability to visualise

Having a vision or being able to visualise,
... is not only important in man's life,
but **is an essential part of man's make-up and ability.**

Visualising is not only about having an idea,
... a special desire, something to do or somewhere to go.
Visualising is also not just about something to manufacture,
... a new garment, a new gadget or a new mode of transport,
but it is an important part of every aspect of man's life!

Visualising actually initiates and dominates man's every activity,
... his physical development and well being!
... his educational progress and mental development!
... his social development and living environment!
... his economic development and structural growth!

In fact it establishes man's present - & - determines man's future!

¹ ***Where there is no vision, the people perish:***

What is this attribute or ability to visualize (*things*)?

The ability to look beyond what you can see ...
The ability to look beyond what is known ...
... and ***visualising something that is not (yet)!***

The ability to look beyond what is in front of you ...
The ability to look past the problem that confronts you ...
The ability to look beyond any need there may be ...
... and ***see what is needed to change the current situation!***

The ability to look past the negative,
The ability to look past the limitations there may seem to be,
... to look for the positive,
... and what will release the positive and so solve the problem.
Visualising the answer that will take care of the need.

¹ *Prov29:18*

Man's life is not about where man is,
but about where man is going!

And, where man is going,
is directly related to where man comes from!

How can you know what to do?
How do you visualise the future?

It's as simple as asking,
the One who made it all!

*¹ **Call to Me**, and I will answer you, and show you
great and mighty things, which you do not know.*

¹ Jer 33:3

four-6 Visualisation - where does it come from?

*¹ While we look not at the things which are seen (physically),
but at the things which are not seen:
for the things which are seen are temporal;
but the things which are not seen (physically) are eternal.*

When you grab hold of the 'living reality' of what man really is,
... **that man is a unique being,**
... **and not just a visionary, but a creative visionary,**
then,
... you will also recognise the fact that man's life,
... and therefore man's existence is not based or built on where man is,
but on where man is going!

All that man is and what he is capable of,
... directly relates to **what is in man and where he is going!**

So also is the fact that where man is going,
... is closely related to where man comes from!
There is a definite connection between man's past and man's future!
... it is already in man, just waiting for man to 'unearth' or expose it!

This uniqueness however is common only to man,
... and is not found in any other living being or species on earth,
as history and simple general observation prove.
Fact is though, that the life and future of all other species on earth,
... are linked and governed by man's life and development.

It is therefore also obvious that an essential part of man's uniqueness,
... is to take responsibility for his environment,
... as well as for all other forms of life that share man's environment.

Where does this uniqueness come from and who put it there?

*² Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness; let them have dominion ...*

³ and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;

¹ 2Cor 4:18 ² Gen 1:26 ³ Gen 1:28

There is an aptitude,
a characteristic & principle to life,
that is fundamental,
to man's creativity,
and to a successful creative lifestyle.

Man's unique abilities, as we have seen,
... are not universally recognized or accepted,
it is therefore necessary to, as it were, 'unearth' this uniqueness.

There is a characteristic or principle in life,
that is fundamental to man successfully living a creative lifestyle.

A characteristic or principle,
that man needs to recognise,
that man needs to nurture and develop,
... **that man needs to 'live'.**

... that will help man to visualize.
... that will develop man's creativity,
... that will help man live his uniqueness,

What is this aptitude, characteristic or principle?

Looking at man's life on earth and his interaction with others on the earth,
... there is one thing that quantifies and qualifies ALL these interactions,
... and that is **a value system!**
Everything is quantified or qualified by an apparent or comparative
- Value!

Now this may seem or sound simple and straight forward,
but in reality, **value** has become subjective and totally manipulated,
with the result that the reality of value, a real value, has lost its worth!

One needs only look around to see that,
... the placing of a value on any object does not follow a set standard,
and is in most cases,
... based on a 'random standard',
and mostly set to benefit the one setting the value!

LIFE – versus mere - EXISTENCE

To live means to change and to develop your environment!
To live means to do something to enhance existence!

It also means to impact your environment,
... not just living off it!

Having A LIFE ... not just having life!

five-1 **To live or Not to live ...**

How does having a value system, vision and creativity influence our lives?
Does life actually have a real value?

To understand life and the value in or of life,
one needs to make a clear distinction between,
... **life and mere existence!**

Living creatures such as humans, animals, insects etc.,
as well as plants, solid and non-solid matter, liquids, gasses, etc.
... **all exist!**
Some of them also breathe, eat, move and reproduce.

Being alive however not only means,
... **to not be dead or to just exist!**
but it means to be,
... **actively impacting the environment you are living in!**

In the case of most 'living' organisms, animals, insects,
... **this activity is solely to ensure continued existence.**
thus they remain in the same basic state where they began,
... which **is nothing more than existence!**

Man, on the other hand, is the only (known) 'living creature'
... that does not merely exist,
but who actively uses the life in him for more than just existence!

As we learnt from looking at the uniqueness of man,
... man, in his act of living, impacts his environment,
... and thus adds to the environment and living experience.
All the other living creatures and organisms,
... although they may help sustain the environment,
... do not have an impact on their environment,
... and thus only live off their environment!

The reality of a meaningful life (more than just mere existence),
... is found in doing something that,
... **changes and develops the environment where you LIVE!**

Well known concept – little known principle

The concept of 'being fruitful',
as the principle of life and the living of life,
- is not at all foreign -
as development, progress and growth
are totally dependant on increase,
... and increase is a result of being fruitful!

five-2 Living – for a reason

Life, in contrast to mere existence,
... is in basics the practical application of a simple principle, i.e.,
doing something that produces and enhances your life experience!

Existence is always only about self, about self-preservation!

Life or the living of life on the other hand,
... is not only about self, or self-preservation,
but is an outward expression of what is inside,
... **purposefully impacting the environment,
for the benefit of self and others!**

What principle is it that promotes purposeful living?

There is a well known concept, but little known principle to life,
... that is not just a **principle** of life,
... but in essence, is the **foundation of life!**
Being fruitful.

Being fruitful ... the basic principle of life, of growth, of development,
... **and of having a future!**

How does this apply to man and to his life?

Although all the necessary elements for success are found in man,
... success is not automatic in itself, but is directly linked to productivity,
and productivity is dependant on 'being fruitful!'

To understand the vital importance of 'being fruitful',
... it is necessary to understand its practical application in life,
and as an essential part of life and living.
It is also important to, not only know the implications,
... but also what the results of 'being fruitful' - in life are!

To produce for yourself is existence,
... to produce for others is progress!

That's VALUE

The benefits others derive from what you have produced,
are at the same time resources for a future project!

five-3 **Living - a productive life**

As important as productivity ('being fruitful') is in life,
... as essential it is to know what those fruits actually are or should be!

The general or practical understanding of the word fruitful, is to be
... *productive, prolific or plenteous (having more than what you need)*.
This, specifically in man's life, means
... **doing something that increases, impacts, helps or enriches**,
not only self, but very specifically - **others!**

To understand the full potential of 'being fruitful' as opposed to simply being
productive, let's look at an example out of nature ...

There is much we can learn from a fruit tree in its natural environment,
... and in particular from its importance in nature.

In simplistic terms, a fruit tree bears fruit,

However the question is,

Why and for whom does a fruit tree bear fruit?

Does a fruit tree eat its own fruit?

... No, it does NOT!

Therefore a fruit tree does not exist primarily for its own benefit,
... but for the benefit of others!

Bearing fruit for the sustenance and benefit of others!

However, inside of that fruit, there is another element, a seed,
... that ensures its future existence and growth!

At the same time, the fruit itself, if it is not consumed,

... has an added potential,

what is not consumed fertilises the ground for the next season.

A simple principle with unlimited benefit,

... if purposely used for others

... **it not only benefits man's today, but ensures his tomorrow!**

LATENT ABILITIES!

May be dormant ... but are there, waiting to be used!
However, if you are not looking past yourself,
... you will not recognise them!

six-1 Latent abilities

Does this notion of being fruitful have any real credibility?

Sure it does, and powerfully so!

All you need do is look into the history and development of man, and you'll find that man prospered and developed much more, ... during those times when others were the object of man's efforts!

Take for instance the times after natural catastrophes, ... after wars or any other kind of upheaval or disaster, **when the object of man's efforts was to benefit all.**

During those times most everyone prospered, most everyone benefited, **and man's advancement was much greater than at any other time.**

Being fruitful is not primarily about increasing or having more, ... but it is a result of the living of life, and the underlying principle for achieving the fullness of life!

However, bear in mind that this potential stems from ... **a latent characteristic or ability,** and thus this uniqueness has sadly been neglected, resulting in. ... man's unique visionary and creative abilities being underdeveloped, ... man's growth and development being stifled, with disastrous consequences such as lack and poverty all over the world.

So why is it that this inherently fundamental 'life principle' ... seems to be so inactive in so many places and situations?

Because, unless it is recognised, ... and unless it is acted upon, it simply remains a mere possibility, ... **a latent potential, irrespective of how powerful it is!**

The potential has always been there,
- are you looking for it?

six-2 **Recognising hidden potential**

If these abilities and potential, being able to visualize and to be creative, are of such importance, why are they not obvious to man?

Surely if they are as beneficial and even essential to man's development and future, **why are they latent or hidden?**

Actually all of these abilities and potential have not been hidden from man, but were already mentioned in ancient writings, dating back over 4000 years, in which specific reference was made to man's position, his character and thus also the results of a productive life.

¹ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion ...*

² *and Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over ... every living thing that moves on the earth."*

³ *(2) And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: ... (8) "The Lord will command the blessing on you in your storehouses **and in all to which you set your hand,** and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.;*

Why then have so few recognised or benefited from something that so clearly would seem to be inherent in everyone, and therefore also available to everyone?

Well, if you have been to school,
... you surely know that there is in man
... **an endless potential to learn and to develop.**
However unlike the natural instinct to survive,
... which is evident in most every living creature on earth,
these abilities that go beyond survival,
... are inherent but not instinctive,
and therefore not readily recognised.
They need to be identified, nurtured and developed.

¹ Gen 1:26 ² Gen 1:28 ³ Deut 28:1-8

In order to achieve the fullness of what is unique in man,
- man needs to pro-actively use his potential -

six-3 **Become pro-active**

Looking at the infra-structure and built-up environment around us, today, it is obvious that certain people have from time to time identified, nurtured and developed those unique abilities to a greater or lesser degree. However, what is also plain to see, is that in too many people that potential has not been developed at all.

I believe the time has come for man to become aware of that potential, ... and to recognize the full extent of his (latent) abilities.

At the same time it is essential to understand that,
**... the potential and those abilities are not limited to a chosen few,
... but are available to and in fact resident in - everyone!**

Mankind is unique!

... (so forget about the 'chosen few theory)

As good as it is to know about and to have these unique abilities,
... and as beneficial as they can be in life,
unless man actually uses these abilities ... today,
... they will produce little and have no value in man's tomorrow!

In other words,

It is time for Man to recognise and live his potential!

Man needs to utilize what he has been endowed with,
... for only that way will man achieve the potential that is in him,
... and supply in his need and that of the environment he is in!

In order to develop and fully achieve
... the fullness of what is so obviously unique about him,
man needs to pro-actively use what is unique to him,
... to develop and to sustain his environment!

The resource is not the potential.

The potential lies in what we use that resource for.

With such an apparent uniqueness in man,
and therefore such great potential available to man,
... why has this uniqueness been overlooked,
... and why has this potential not been utilized?

What is missing?

Why is it that there is so much potential,
... and at the same time so much need everywhere?

Why is it that such a large majority of mankind is NOT operating or
living anywhere close to the potential that there is in man?

Take for instance the need or lack in so many places worldwide,
... particularly in what is termed, underprivileged or developing countries.
The usual reasons or excuses for why nothing seems to be happening there,
... and why there this an ever increasing **need or lack** in those communities,
are ...

- ... lack of finances,
- ... lack of resources,
- ... lack of opportunities,
- ... lack of skills or training,

Are uniqueness and ability really going to help man out there?
Are not the circumstances simply too limiting?
Or ...
Is there something else that is lacking or hindering?

What is the key to turning man's situation around?

LACK of RESOURCES?

Is it a lack of resources, **or a lack of understanding value?**

Show a Financier the value that your proposal (vision) will create,
... and he will be only too willing to provide for the resources!

Is there anything, in spite of man's unique abilities, that is limiting equal opportunities and thus development in different countries and economies?

It is often argued that the lack of development and progress in so many countries or communities, is mainly due to,

... **lack of resources**,
 ... **lack of training and education**,
 and most of all, **lack of finances**, etc.

Although there may be some truth in these arguments, they are however in most cases not the defining factors causing this lack. Man through his ingenuity has more than proved himself capable of overcoming these conditions, even using some environmental limitations to his advantage.

This clearly shows us that,

man is only limited by self and the failure to capitalise on opportunities!

A closer look at the socio-political arguments so commonly put forward for the lack of productivity and development, reveals that it is not primarily a lack of finances or resources as suggested, but that what is lacking is that,
 ... **there is no sense of responsibility and of understanding value.**

In fact in places with the most resources, there is the least development.

It is not a lack of resources and finances,
 ... but a lack of vision and good management,
 which is often accompanied by serious financial mismanagement!

Development of resources requires more than just finance,
 for without a real value system, development opportunities
 and potential will be overlooked.

Mismanagement and bad planning have resulted in vast quantities of natural resources, in particular financial resources, being grossly misused and wasted because of **a lack of value!**

The principle of being fruitful is based on a value system that is fundamental to man's development and progress, and when this value system is not in place, man's development and growth are limited, and he cannot achieve the fullness of prosperity he is capable of achieving.

Money merely represents a measuring system,
that only quantifies the trading value of an item,
... a value that is not absolute,
but subject to market forces!

*¹ For we brought nothing into this world,
and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

However we can add value to our lives by developing
and improving our environmental conditions and life experience!

¹ 1Tim 6:7

Not a money value system ... but a people value system!

Man has in himself unique abilities and has used his **creative ability** ... to build cities, industries, empires and to take man to the moon and beyond. However, ... man has yet to recognise the **real VALUE of his intangible abilities!**

Understanding the real value of his abilities, will also help man recognise the real value of the available resources around him, so that through the correct use of those resources, he will be able to successfully deal with the socio-economic problems in this world.

Socio-economic problems that are increasing rather than decreasing!

seven-2 Responsibility ... a Self-check, a Value check

What is this value and how does it work?

We teach our children to value things,
... to look after what they have,
... to be careful with money,
to appreciate and not to waste!

But do we teach them to value who and what they are?
... to **value their lives and what makes them unique?**
And to value the community in which they live?

Now you may well say,
... of course we teach them to value life!
But unless we have taught them to value the lives of others,
... all we have done is to make them **SELFish**,
totally missing the reality that man was **NOT** made to be a loner!

Man, that unique being, with such unique abilities and capabilities,
... **needs others to manifest and realize his potential**,
... to develop, grow, achieve and succeed in life!

Man was made to live in covenant,
... being a strength to others and receiving strength from others!
A strength that is released through living a fruitful life!

VALUE starts with what you see in yourself!

Fighting something like AIDS through medication,
... puts your life and body in a state of war!

Removing the cause of AIDS, the wrong life style,
... puts your life and body in a state of wellness and peace!

seven-3 **To value or not to value – that is the question**

An incident at a HIV/Aids convention made me realize that most people do not have a real value system, and that an awareness of this needs to be created in people, communities and particularly those who are in positions of authority.

In 2008, at the height of the initiatives to combat HIV/Aids, there was a convention in Canada to which experts, prominent guests, and specifically also people who had actually contracted HIV/Aids, were invited.

The convention was aimed at finding solutions to fight Aids,
... and to stop the spread of Aids!

Amongst all the interviews, discussions and rhetoric, there was one interview that caught my attention, that opened my thinking to what the real problem was, not just with regard to Aids, but also to most of mankind's dilemmas such as poverty, unemployment, conflicts and even wars.

At one of the workshops aimed at Aids victims, the discussion was about real life situations.

One of the participants, a young female Aids victim from Southern Africa, talked about her situation and how she contracted Aids, as well as explaining her outlook on life.

Her argument went something like this ...

'You people do not understand our situation!'

(a rather common starting point :-).

'I come from an underprivileged place, and where I live there is little or no work, we have little money, nothing to do most of the day, sex is free, it is fun ... who cares!

Don't tell me, we are to blame!

Sounded good, but something bothered me,
... something was seriously wrong, not specifically with her,
... but with her thinking, her reasoning, and with her life!

What?

What principle was her argument founded on?

Was there any real merit in what she said?

A VISION for LIFE

Without a vision or goal in life,
you're subject to the dictates of your environment!

However,

If you have a **VISION for LIFE** and a **goal in life**,
you will not only change and enrich your own life,
but you will positively impact your environment!

Your wants, needs or even desires, are NOT a vision,
... at best they are a challenge!
What you **plan** and ultimately do about your challenges,
... **that is a VISION!**

This young Aids victim saw no value in life,
 ... and neither did she place any value on her own life,
 with the result that she, like so many others, had no vision for her life,
 ... and therefore also no vision for her future!

In other words,

she had no vision (creative thinking) to influence or direct her actions!

Which, according to a very old proverb, is an important principle to life.

Over 3000 years ago, King Solomon, well known for his wisdom
 and his prosperous life, wrote this rather poignant proverb ...

¹ *'Where there is no vision, the people perish.'*

If you have no vision of achieving something ... *tomorrow*,
 ... there is no real *tomorrow* in your life!
 And what you do *today* is therefore built on nothing!
 ... and *tomorrow* will also bring just that, NOTHING!

The alluding question thus is ...

Why is it that so many people do not seem to have a (real) vision?

... and therefore are not considering or caring about tomorrow?

What is it that this girl was missing in her life and in her thinking?

Like so many people all over the world,
 she clearly had no vision for her life beyond her current situation,
 ... which according to King Solomon's proverb,
 directly resulted in her being in the serious predicament she was in!

WHY did she not have a vision for her life and thus for her future?

Could it be the result of the society she grew up in?

Sure the environment and society we grow up in can be a factor,
 but only if we allow it to be.

Old masters and scientists like Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci
 and Galileo all achieved great heights despite their more
 than limiting circumstances.

The question therefore should be,

... why did that young woman not see any value in her life?

¹ *Prov 29:18*

Creativity is not particular to some group of people only.
Creativity is particular to, and latent in every human being,
... and **is subject only to having a vision and a goal!**

Man can be creative anywhere,
and it is in using his creativity
that man is lifted out of uninspiring circumstances.

Was it the result of the economic environment in which she lived?

Industrialization, uninspiring work and a bad economy can be factors, but although these can cause people to become mentally stagnant even institutionalized, the real reason for this stagnation is man himself allowing others to think for him, to decide for him, instead of he himself making his own decisions, and thereby becoming,
... **master of his circumstances** and of **his environment!**

The criterion is not the environment, but
... **what man's response to his environment is!**

If man does not adequately **respond to his uniqueness & abilities**,
... by himself making informed plans or decisions,
he will be influenced, and even controlled by his environment.

Of course there is cause and effect, and of course there is manipulation,
... but why people allow themselves to be herded along or manipulated by a system or circumstances, is what **needs to be dealt with and eliminated.**

Only by dealing with the root cause will the external influences be eliminated in a way that furthers the individual, thus enabling him to,
... **be an asset in society, and not controlled by the 'system'.**

As the proverb¹ propounds, everyone is able and should have a vision for life. Therefore man's lack of a vision is not because of the society, the economy or any other external influence, but is the result of a lack of awareness and understanding by man that he is able and should have a vision for his future...
A future filled with life, and not mere existence!

The key to a vision and creativity, is in seeing a value!

Back to the Aids victim ...

Why did that girl open herself to something like Aids?
... Not because she did not have a job!
... Not because she did not have any money!
But ...
Because she saw no value in herself,
... and therefore **put no VALUE on her life and future!**

¹ Prov 29:18

If you want to **get out of the box** (*progress*),
... you have to **think outside of the box** (*vision*),
... so that you can **live outside of the box** (*creativity*)

Believe in yourself & become who you are!

There's no person who does not, or does not want to think of himself as special in some way or another, and of course they are right, however
... **too few people actually believe that they really are special!**

You have probably also heard it said ...

'You have to believe in yourself!'

'Why don't you have some faith in yourself!'

And certainly we should. But what does having faith in yourself really mean?

In basics one can say that faith is about believing that something you are not in control of, or you're not capable of, **is possible and will happen!**

Now, if you look back at your own life, particularly in relation to *'having faith'*, you'll notice that you have had faith in yourself nearly all the time.

As a child you were not born being able to ride a bicycle, but you did not stop trying until you could ... call that determination if you like, but you had that determination because you believed you will be able to do it!

That is ... having faith in yourself!

You may well say, that didn't take much faith because you saw others riding on their bicycles. Agreed!

BUT, what about the person who, before there was a bicycle, thought it would be wonderful to have something that would take you from A to B ... that does not need feeding, or a motor, or any other outside assistance!

He believed it could be done, he had faith, he created a bicycle!

What is it that is in you - that you are believing in?

Do you believe that you can achieve anything in life?

That there is something in you that makes it possible?

That there is an ability in you that makes you able?

And when you start seeing that there is a something in you,
... you have taken the first step into recognising and living that ability!

Is everyone really special - Is everyone really unique?

Yes, everyone is - including YOU!
- and there is an easy test -
Have you ever read a book or heard a story told,
... then you see the movie,
and it is nothing like you had imagined or visualized!

Why not?

Like our finger-prints, everyone's brain is unique,
therefore we all assimilate, conceptualize and
visualize the information we receive - differently!

In other words,
from the same information received,
we all create or form pictures in our minds,
that are different to that formed by anyone else.

This clearly proves that we all have the ability to create
not just a different picture - but even a new picture

Therefore ...
when we see a need or an opportunity, and we allow
our minds to make a picture about the need we see,
we will start creating picture solutions,
and start becoming those unique creative beings,
... that we are created to be!

Yes, there is something special in everyone!

The notion that - in education no child should be left behind,
... is a step in the right direction, however
as positive as the thought behind it may be,
... the resultant drop in standard, does not uplift the child!

The correct approach is - **nobody is a failure!**

How can or should that be implemented?

The fundamental principle in teaching and training, should be that,
... everyone has a value, despite their circumstances or position!
... everyone has abilities that need to be exposed and developed!
and that,
... everyone can achieve if they have a real goal!

People need to be taught to visualise things not done or seen before,
... to look for a solution beyond the need!
And, that what is made should add value to life,
... value to the living and expressing of life!
Something that will bring value to themselves and to others!

Of course man can deny his uniqueness (as is so often done),
... and deny that there is anything in him that makes him different, special.
Yet, man himself has already proved that he is special and unique!

Simply look at man's created environment,
... and man's continued exploits,
a reality that clearly displays and proves his unique abilities,
... confirming his superiority and uniqueness,
that is not found in any other creature on earth!

Life was found on earth
... before man,
but uniqueness was not found on earth,
... **until man!**

Man's life and man's impact on his environment,
... on earth and even beyond,

... **are not static!**

Man's effect and influence on his environment,
... **are dynamic and exponentially increasing!**

Just look around yourself...

... **but there is one major limitation - man HIMSELF!**

eight-3 **Are there limitations?**

This creativity is not something on the outside of man that he has access to,
... it is not something that he just employs when he needs something new,
No,
... this creativity **is an ability or potential in man**,
... an ability that is part of man's character, part of his being!
However, to fully benefit from and use this potential,
... man has to overcome a major limitation ... **HIMSELF!**

Physically man cannot always accomplish what he is capable of thinking!
And ...
Physically man often needs help to produce what he can visualize!

In reality however, this is not a limitation, but a challenge,
... and man successfully overcomes his limitations through his ingenuity,
which is clear proof of the creative potential and ability in man!

On the other hand, man,
... by his own decisions and actions,
limits himself in his mind, in his thinking and perception,
... by allowing traditions, customs and emotions,
... as well as outside influences and negative pressures,
to **negatively influence his thinking**,
... causing him to question his uniqueness,
... and thereby limiting his abilities!

The result is that instead of living the visionary and creative life,
... that man was created to live,
in control of his environment, and
... positively impacting his environment,
man has allowed himself to be negatively influenced,
... by his environment and his circumstances.

The key to man's uniqueness is,
- taking responsibility for who he is!
- taking responsibility for where he is!

eight-4 The Key to man's uniqueness

As we have established, the inherent potential of man's uniqueness, ... is not primarily survival, although that is surely a part of it, but the fundamental objective is development and growth.

A reality that is clearly seen in man's constant progress, ... which is the direct result of development and growth.

What is also important to note, is that, ... **the motivation and strength of this uniqueness**, contrary to expectation, is not based on domination nor on power, ... but it is based on the benefit of the common good, ... on altruistic benevolence towards others!

History has shown that,
... whenever man sought power and control,
... real success was evasive or short lived!
However,
... whenever man sought the benefit of others and not just that of self,
... **man developed and increased!**

Most success stories began in response to a common need,
... developing something for the common good!
... and therefore for the benefit of others.

Any farmer will tell you that growth and success,
... are based on what you do for the common good - for others!
A principle that you can put to the test yourself!

If you eat the seed there is lack!

If you plant the seed, there is abundance (for all).

¹ *While the earth remains, **Seedtime and harvest,***

It is in the action of considering and reaching out to others, ... that man's true superior position and strength are established! There is strength in numbers, which means, ... **taking the responsibility** for what is in you, ... and expressing it in life for the benefit of those around you.

¹ Gen 8:22

The purpose of man's uniqueness is,
Using his uniqueness for the benefit of where he is,
by impacting and developing, what there is, where he is!

Knowing that there is a special and unique ability in man,
 ... an ability that would seem to not only fuel man's development,
 but in fact also determines his future,
 ... **is not only important to know, but imperative to respond to!**

There is a unique ingredient in man, like there is in every seed,
 ... which, as man starts living or using that for the common good,
 releases power that beneficially impacts man's environment!

How does this principle work?

Take farming, probably the oldest and most commonly practiced activity,
 ... to practically demonstrate this principle,
 of using potential to produce goodness,

- ... preparing the soil for planting - **setting value.**
- ... planting good seed - **imparting value, the right seed.**
- ... tending, watering - **maintaining and protecting value.**
- ... growing and harvesting - **producing goodness and value.**
- ... for the benefit of others - **expressing value, being fruitful!**

There are numerous recorded events in which this (visionary) principle was applied, such as during the time of Joseph 4000 years ago in Egypt, that fundamentally influenced and impacted man's history and development.

What is the origin of this fundamental yet powerful principle,
 ... that so mightily influenced man's history?

***Then God blessed them,
 and God said to them, "Be fruitful
 and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;
 have dominion ...***

... an ability put in man!
 ... expressing that to others!
 ... an action to be taken!
 ... taking responsibility for that ability!

¹ Gen 1:28

Recognise and accept that goodness that is in you,
- let it out - work with it -
and you will live that fruitful life you were created to live

How does, or should this uniqueness in man,
... direct or shape our lives, our future?

In our lives and in our being, there is a built-in ability and productivity,
... based on goodness and value!
Yet, not just goodness and value of self, for self,
... but specifically and intentionally directed at others!

We need to recognise that quality in us,
... as untapped, latent or unrecognised as it may be, as real!
For even though we may seem to have a selfish nature,
... which so often seems more dominant than all else,
we as quickly feel guilty (*our conscience*) when we act selfishly!

**Where does this feeling or thought come from?
What is this emotion or thought based on?**

Quite clearly it stems from that latent goodness or quality that is in us,
... (God's image & likeness)
a potential that, because of its uniqueness,
... requires us to actively respond to,
... or consciously suppress or deny it!

We have that ability and goodness built into us,
... and as nature shows us,
if we work with that goodness,
... it will produce fruit for others
... and an increased potential for the future!

So ...

**Stop denying what makes you different,
... and what makes you unique!**

**Start living that uniqueness,
... start linking into the source of your uniqueness!**

Man ... is NOT an END-PRODUCT!

Man is constantly evolving,
... not into something new,
but, **into the fullness of what is latent in man himself!**

Man's greatest challenge is to find out,
... what motivates him to get involved,
... what motivates him to use his creative ability.

Over the past 6000 years of history, man has proved that he is a,
 ... **unique and creative being**, and
 through living that uniqueness, man has changed his life and his environment.

Creativity ...

the ability to respond to a challenge, see beyond the problem,
 ... find a solution not seen before, beyond physical constraints,
develop, produce, progress, achieve!

Vision.

Call it imagination, dreaming, a vision, whatever you like ...
 ... but it's the ability to see more than has been seen before!
 An ability we ALL have, and we all should use,
 for without a vision, there's nothing to see, nothing to do, except exist.

What makes a vision real?

For a vision to be real - you need to see - a VALUE!

Without seeing a value, there is nothing to see!

Value.

You need to see a value in yourself,

If you don't see yourself as valuable,

... why would you want to do more than just fill your stomach?

If you don't see a value for yourself,

... why would you want to do anything that will add value to your life?

You need to see a value in others,

If you don't see a value in others,

... what possible reason is there to do more than fill your stomach?

If you don't see a value for others,

... why would you want to do anything to add value to their lives?

Where do you start?

Start by looking inward, at what makes you different!

You have something unique in you that the rest of creation does not have!

And learn to live who and what you really are!

What is this freewill that man has?

Freewill is that one ingredient in man's character which distinguishes man from all else on earth.

- nine -

Uniquely free

nine-1

A Freewill!

What is the driving force behind man's gifts and abilities?
What is it that causes man to be ...

Inquisitive,
perceptive,
conceptual,
rational,
functional,
and a creative visionary?

Man's freewill.

What is this freewill that man has?
Freewill is that one ingredient in man's character
... which distinguishes man from all other living creatures on earth.

With the exception of man, all the other living creatures
... primarily live and respond according to instinct,
... they instinctively gather food, and eat what is available!
... they instinctively protect themselves and their offspring
and instinctively live and move in the environment they grew up in!
They do not take responsibility for themselves or their environment,
... but simply act and live according to their natural instincts!

Man on the other hand always considers his surroundings,
... he weighs up the options available to him and makes choices!
He makes the choice to take responsibility or to ignore responsibility.
Why does man do this?

Because man has a freewill.

**Man therefore is always having to make decisions,
... having to use his freewill!**

Not only is man able to decide, but he has to decide.
In essence man does not operate by instinct, but by what he knows.
He thinks because he has to make a decision about his next step,
... he has to choose, he has to use his freewill to survive and to live!

Like all other living creatures, man has to eat to live,
... but in his eating he decides what he likes,
not only to meet his physical need,
... but to satisfy his desires, and his fantasies!

**Man therefore is always having to make decisions,
... having to use his freewill!**

In essence therefore one can say man's freewill,
not only makes him live the way he wants,
... but makes him responsible for his own life!

#Free to choose!

Man has a freewill,
and although his freewill gives him freedom of choice,
... man's freedom of choice has a price!

nine-2 **Choice at a price**

Man has a freewill,

and although his freewill gives him freedom of choice,

... man's freedom of choice has a price!

Man not only can choose, man has to choose.

Therefore man not only considers the options before him,

... but man looks for possibilities,

... man looks for opportunities, new things, different things!

However as exciting even liberating those prospects are,

... with that freewill choice comes the responsibility,

not only for self but also for everything around man,

... and for the consequences of his choice!

Yet it is this responsibility that makes man's freewill real,

... that makes man's freewill powerful!

Man's freewill and the resultant responsibility,

... not only make man the unique being that he is,

... but also superior because of the responsibility.

And it is the uniqueness of that freewill,

that makes him inquisitive,

... because he needs to use his freewill,

that makes him perceptive,

... because he needs information to be able to use his freewill,

that makes him self motivated,

... because he needs a purpose in life,

that makes him focused,

... using his freewill to choose direction to achieve his goals.

Challenging man to be the creative visionary he's supposed to be,

... and to achieve his purposes and goal,

by taking the responsibility for his life,

... for his freewill choices and for his environment!

#Responsible for his choice!

Man has a freewill,
and the responsibility that comes with it.

nine-3 **Responsible for his choice**

Man has a freewill,
and the responsibility that comes with it.

Scripture tells us that God created man in His image and likeness,
... with God's character, in God's class, unique.

God also gave man the gift of a freewill,
... the right to decide for himself.
A right that needs to be used wisely,
... by taking the responsibility for his life and future!

But, what does this responsibility really mean?

Although God has a freewill and can do what He likes,
... even so, because of His word,
God personally takes the responsibility for His choices.

So, when God gave man a freewill,
... the right to choose to go his own way, or God's way,
when man made the wrong choice,
... God took the responsibility for the gift He gave man,
by making a way for man to use his freewill,
... to reverse the wrong choice he made.

Yes, man has a freewill,

... and a chance to make a second choice.
Man can choose to go his own way, and nothing will stop him.
However, man is responsible for the decision man makes,
... and for its consequences.

'Man' ...
you are unique, created above all else, in God's class,
...use your gift, that freewill you have wisely,
by taking responsibility and using your freewill,
... to live the life you were created to live!



To Jan D van der Merwe, as an architect, creativity and therefore the impact of creativity on the environment as we know it, is no foreign concept.

He also believes that man's direct involvement in the shaping of the socio-political fabric of society, is not a by-product of life or the result of evolution, but is the direct result of man's unique nature - his unique origin.

THE STUDY OF A UNIQUE BEING

Evolution theorists propound that all living creatures have a common ancestor, and that there is no differentiation between the species due to their common ancestry.

Although there would seem to be some validity in this theory, but because it is based on seeking similarities, it ignores the reality of the clear differences that exist between mankind and the other living creatures, and thus also the notable and substantive results of those differences.

If evolution is the real criterion, then all creatures should have evolved, developed or changed, which has not happened.

Closer examination shows that with the exception of mankind, all other living creatures on earth have merely responded to, or adapted to their changing environment.

Mankind on the other hand has not only evolved and adapted to, but has in fact impacted and changed his environment by purposefully using and developing the available resources through his unique potential and abilities.

- What is it that makes mankind unique?
- What is the source of mankind's special abilities?
- Where does mankind's uniqueness come from?

Whilst this book does not presume to give all the answers, it will challenge your concept of the origins of life, whilst shedding light on what makes mankind different, creative, even unique, and how this difference has and continues to impact mankind's future!