

Prologue

Second Draft

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We humans have become extraordinary creatures.

We invented bronze, and iron, and steel, and aluminum, and vastly increased the strength and size of the human skeleton.

We invented steam engines, and gasoline engines, and electric motors, and jet engines, and vastly magnified the power of human muscles.

We invented horse-drawn carriages and trains and bicycles and automobiles and speedboats and airplanes and space shuttles and vastly accelerated human footspeed.

We invented telegraph lines and radio communications and telephone lines and fiber-optic cables and satellite communication systems and vastly widened the reach of the human nervous system.

We invented microphones and cameras and radar and seismographs and infrared and video and vastly expanded the listening power of the human ear and the seeing power of the human eye.

We invented semiconductor chips and memory chips and processing chips and circuitry and computers and software and computer networks and the internet and vastly heightened the capabilities of the human brain.

We invented machine guns and warships and ballistic missiles and atomic bombs and hydrogen bombs and vastly enlarged the killing power of human rage.

We have turned ourselves from an unpromising beginning as hunter-gatherers into a race of giants. We numbered a little over a billion in 1900, we numbered two and a half billion in 1950, and now we are six and a half billion strong. We have indeed gone forth and multiplied. And multiplied. And multiplied. And multiplied.

We humans are now a formidable juggernaut of a species – so formidable that Nature herself has begun to crumple in our grip. Like the sorcerer's apprentice, we are being outrun by the multitude of forces we have set in motion.

We are dangerous indeed.

There is one more lesson. We humans must now acquire wisdom.