

CONNECT

Who Can See The Elephant?

3205 YD

You may see Nelly – but do you see the whole of her? Not necessarily!

- 1 We are all, by now, familiar with the phrase “the elephant in the room”. It’s a reference to an object which must surely be so obvious to everyone - given its brutish size and it standing right in front of our eyes.

The interesting thing about the phrase and more importantly about the concept it seeks to describe, is the fact that it’s needed to be shared in the first place. One might think that because an object is so big and so obvious - and in our faces - none of us could possibly miss it. In reality, some of us do or at least that’s what they say – and that’s curious! You may wonder why?



- 2 The concept pointed to here is a fascinating one and causes us to ask why would anyone ignore the obvious - Nelly in our room - for goodness sake?

The concept I wish to explore in this article is not the one I have drawn attention to, but another which has some connection – with elephants.

The concept is one relating to human society and the way we conduct ourselves – rather poorly as I have observed over time. What I refer to here, is the problem many of us face on a regular basis and we see the same difficulties played out in the media almost daily.

The problem with us all – to one extent or another – is that we have fallen in love – and I mean we have fallen in love with the idea of being RIGHT – and we love to be right all the time. Well, who wouldn't, let's be honest?

- 3 In part – if not in whole – it's an ego thing really. We love to be right – and even if we don't voice the words – we have them sound in our heads don't we – those words being “Ha – I told you so!”
It's possible that because we are talking about ego here, this is more of a male affliction than a female one. I shall have to explore that – but not here.

Any intelligent being from off-planet must have a right laugh at our expense. I mean, how stupid this idea sounds – us needing, loving in fact, to be right the whole time. If we were never right, now that wouldn't be a laughing matter for anyone. If – on the other hand - we were right ALL the time – and I mean genuinely right – that would make us rather God-like. The chances of that being possible are rather remote in truth - and anyone with that condition has probably already moved on to their next life in a universe needing a new God-like entity. Given again my own observations, the deluded ones in this respect still walk among us.

So, what I want to explore here and now, is the concept where we might already feel that we don't need to be right – and that's because being right is not our primary goal. This is an idea based on the concept where we know nothing – at least to begin with. Leave aside intuition for the moment and let's play with the idea.

Let's assume that there is a problem to be solved.
Let's say we know there's an elephant in the room but can't see all of her. Because of that, we're going to apply our minds and intellect to the problem.

To make things a little more real, let's say that none of us in the room has a great deal of knowledge, expertise or intuition even. I'm not discounting intuition, since I rely on my own a great deal and know it serves me well.

Let's say the problem we are looking to address relates to that biggy – Climate Change – of all things!

- 4 What each of us would do, is first share what we have seen with our own eyes. And what each of us will have seen will be different - if only slightly different - from what someone else may have seen.

The first point to make plain here is that we all come with our own personal observations and – importantly – interpretations of those observations. Now people can make a mistake in their interpretations but not so often with their observations. At least that is fairly true with respect to climate issues. Police sometimes have a task in getting people to describe or recognise who they saw rob a shop. But here I'm referring to the difficulty of remembering brief viewings in brief moments in time. Remembering what the weather was like last month – that very wet July or even the same month last year - can be a whole lot easier to recount.

So, what our group - assembled in the room with the problem - needs to agree and understand first, is that we all have contributing observations. We all have a fairly unique view of the elephant from the perspective we hold – but we should all accept that none of us have a view of the whole elephant.

This is the value of having people sharing. By sharing we can get closer to gaining that complete view – of our Nelly.

Because none of us can see the whole of Nelly in her entirety - from our individual standpoints - we need to get others to share their view of our elephant but from a different perspective – their very own unique perspective. We might therefore, on a zoom call, get the Inuits in northern Canada to tell us what they see going on with their weather in the Arctic. Additionally, we could get the many scientists down on the Antarctic ice cap to share with us what they see - and have seen.

The inquiry goes on, seeking the viewpoints of others from around the globe. And once those observations are all in, we might then – naturally – invite the weather scientists to offer their perspective on what they have measured and what they have interpreted from those measurements.

Now with these technical ones involved we are in danger of losing it a bit – since they tend to talk in code with technical jargon and terminology. These are problems to be recognised and guarded against. The technical ones need to approach the group as if they are talking with the wise tribal elders who do not have their level of technical knowledge. So, resisting the temptation to sound all very clever and *all knowing*, like they tend to, these technical ones have to downgrade their commentary into a form which is easily understood by everyone – the wise elder types like what we are!

- 5 The end result of all this is, the group will have amassed a volume of data – observational, mixed between scientific and that casually documented. The casual being something like:

“In all the years I have lived in this coastal fishing village – the rise and fall of the tides has never altered.”

Something like that was said recently in a documentary by a rather funny presenter - **Samantha Edwards** – talking about smart 15min cities, of all things – approx. 8min in. The talk is very educational – wonderfully tongue in cheek - and definitely worth a watch.

[Counterspin Media](#): Unmasking the Smart City Agenda

Samantha Edwards talks about a new concept coming for us all – something called “Managed Retreat” – a WEF introduced term apparently.

In New Zealand it seems the government wants to get people away from the coasts and into a small number of big cities. Hmm! The politicians seem to be using the threats associated with climate change to herd people into one place. Makes me think of sheep – does it you?
Another subject for another day, definitely!

Back to our subject.

- 6 At this point in the proceedings – having had view of all the observations from all the unique angles - added to with all the scientific interpretations – we’re in a position to hear the different theories about what is really going on.

And maybe it's all nothing and the changes observed are nothing new and have been going on since God was a boy. And that means well before anyone chopped firewood for a carbon-releasing open fire. Or maybe not. The trick to follow here is simple and hugely effective. That trick is to deep dive into the theories - asking ever more detailed questions and then assessing the apparent quality of the answers obtained.

Now what this exercise assumes, of course, is that all the observations are genuine. The interpretations are made with no particular agenda in mind except, that is, to find the truth. That is not the same as proving oneself to be right. We've been talking about that!

There's one goal and one goal ONLY in this task - and that goal is TRUTH. Nothing more - and nothing less! Period. Over!

- 7 There is one other point to make about this exercise and how it plays out. And the point I'm going to make here can be extremely irritating if not thoroughly inconvenient to many on the wrong side.

Let's say that in this fictitious room of ours - gazing at this elephant of a problem - we have reached what many will call a consensus. Let's say that of the 100 people given the task of looking over this elephant, 99 agree. The climate change problem is manmade. Boom - a result!

Actually - NOT a result!

The problem now - if you see it - is that there isn't a consensus at all, since one person is not in agreement - they're at odds. That person sees things differently. And the thing is people, you don't have to be one among the majority - one of the 99 in this case - to be right. You might simply be one of a convenient majority - and still be wrong! If it really is truth we're looking for - that one person making up the inconvenient minority with an irritatingly different perspective - could be right - making you and the other 98 wrong.

Maybe that's something the 99 can live with - or not. Depending on the situation and the costs and consequences of making the wrong decision, it may mean that we have to start over. Maybe we need to look over all the detail again - looking for new theories that could better - more neatly - explain ALL the results in the data and all the observations collected.

Maybe, that person with their lone dissenting voice didn't explain their case well enough. Maybe that dissenting voice knew something - intuitively perhaps - but couldn't express it in a way that all the others could understand. Again, depending on the costs and consequences, a vote might determine the chosen outcome. But - it still could be the wrong outcome.

- 8 We have looked at the idea of putting aside our innermost desire and our love of being seen to be right - knowing, as we all do, that we could later get proved to be wrong. We've hinted at the idea; ego could have something to do with our problem and maybe it's men who are mainly to blame for that. I hope though we have spotlighted the real objective for any exercise of this type - and that is the following.

Our goal should always be to find the real truth and to prove it so. Just one dissenting voice – and that one voice might come from the inner stranger we all have in our heads or gut reaction – can be enough to point us, if we are alert and sensitive enough – to where it is we all wish to arrive.

As a collection of people, our goal is TRUTH and NOT just to be right. In reaching this place, we will honour every contribution and every viewpoint, no matter how trivial sometimes that viewpoint might seem to be. Truth rarely comes gift-wrapped and clearly labelled. It is found by working hard for it. The prize of finding it is beyond description and is worth celebrating every time it is found. Intelligent off-worlders would praise us for it.

So, the takeaways today are simple one-liners.

- Always keep an open mind and the door open for different possibilities
- Remember your view of Nelly is limited – you'll only see some of her
- Listen to all dissenting voices – even if they struggle to speak clearly
- Age and qualification of witnesses is not always relevant or important
- Never be quick to jump to conclusions – since they're often wrong
- Be wary of those who tell you - their truth cannot be questioned
- Be suspicious of those who label others to discredit and ridicule them

And, thinking of those who have been labelled and discredited – many have since been proved right.

PS1 One relevant and interesting observation not to be missed here, is this one.

This whole business of searching for the truth – collecting the observations, technical and non-technical – making the interpretations and assessing the theories applies to all of the big issues of our time. When truth is the real goal, we have to wonder why it is:

- Persons tell us “We are your single source of truth”.
- Some persons seem to have agendas they're following.
- Persons making the decisions refuse to discuss those decisions.
- The same persons silence or ridicule others' views and opinions.

It's when these factors appear to be present – either singularly or collectively – we should start to ask even deeper questions. If we have enough questions – questions in spades – we'll always dig the TRUTH out of hiding!

PS2 All the above quoted references are included in the CONNECT LIBRARY. The LIBRARY is our Records Repository where articles on this and other related subjects can be found. Also to be found are articles linked together in strings. The strings relate to particular threads – connecting articles across different subjects and topics.

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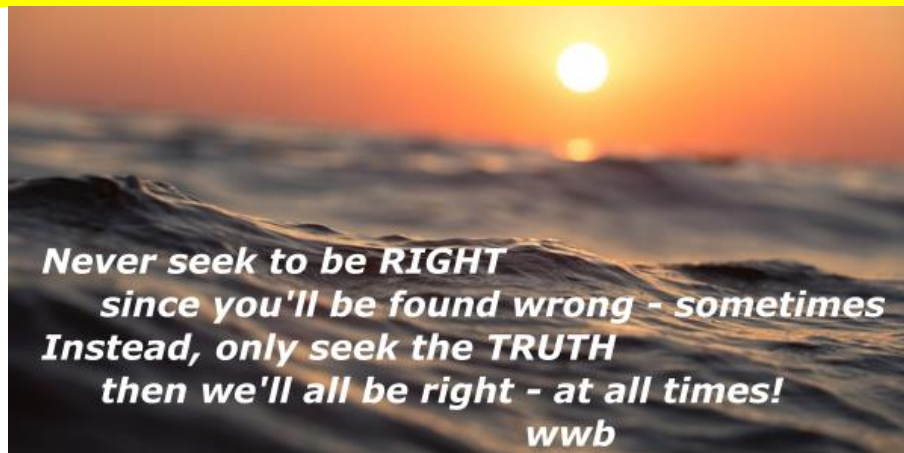
Connect is only interested in finding and sharing the TRUTH.
In search of that TRUTH, we only pose questions – we have no answers.

By: David Charles

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