

JUGGERNAUTS

And I know that we've still got time
But I do not think we're invincible
And I'm thinking that it's a sign
'Cos I do not think we're invincible

Crushing all in its path

Now don't get me wrong, I love what you've done with the place
I just wish we had a chance to help build it
Instead of just moving into this home of disrepair
And expected to work, prosper and then share
Constantly relying on consuming to feel content
But only because we've lost touch with this home that we've spent
Trillions of dollars tainting for our wants, not our needs
And now we're growing tired of planting bleary-eyed seeds

And I'm not saying that we could do better
But given the chance we'd try
We'd dig up the earth's timeworn soil
And fill the trench with greedy eyes

We live in an increasingly divided and unequal world. Oxfam recently published a study stating that just 62 people own the same amount of wealth as the poorest half of the world's population.¹ Some believe this is perfectly acceptable, that billionaires probably "worked for it" (even though most fortunes are inherited) but do you really think the scale of difference between how hard a labourer works and how hard a billionaire business owner works is in line with the difference in their wealth? The relation between effort and reward is skewed beyond all recognition once we start comparing such vast sums of money. The billionaire would need fifty pairs of arms, never sleep, and have a brain size proportional to a chihuahua's to have his effort/reward ratio proportional to the labourer's.

Most people are genuinely shocked and angered by the extent of inequality today, but I think as it becomes more and more extreme we will observe a big change in human social interaction and psychology. A sense of disgust will propagate throughout all areas of society and it will begin to amplify. I believe, in the not too distant future, the 1% will begin to feel a very deep sense of embarrassment as the pressure from the magnitude of inequality becomes so widely despised.

Those who have studied the disparity between rich and poor already feel this sense of revulsion. Hell, even in the rare moments I get to rub shoulders with celebrities and wealthy corporate 'fat cats', I feel no respect or admiration, only a niggling aversion. There's nothing wrong with working hard and earning rewards, but when you acquire more money than you could ever need, whilst surrounded by such vast poverty, there is undeniably a moral duty to redistribute it.

Alright, rant over.

'No Sleep Tonight', like 'Gap In The Fence' to follow, is a reaction to the modern rate of inequality. It is a song about the conscience (or should I say lack of ...) of those who prevent progress because there happens to be profit in stasis.

"The sun and sea could power us, no longer cower in oil lust" it is entirely possible for our world to be powered solely by renewable energy.² The main stumbling blocks are political, *not* technological. What this means is we have the capability of combating climate change and pollution and making a safer world that runs on clean energy, *but* we are stalling because there are too many people in the energy



London, UK. Feb 2016 – Alexey Makhov