**Harari writes that “The story of the luxury trap carries with it an important lesson.” What is the luxury trap? What is the lesson we should learn? Find your own example of this lesson.**

Dear Dev,

I hope that everything is fine. I am writing this letter to share what Yuval Noah Harari describes as the luxury trap and what we should learn from it.

What is the luxury trap? According to Harari, luxury trap refers to the human struggle to make life easier, making people slave to luxury, and every transition in history create a trap. Humans have a never-ending craving for better experiences and new obligations. As a result, people strive for a better life but always fall into traps with different challenges after completing a transition. The luxury trap emerges because humans’ pursuit of easier life leads to more social and economic hardships. For instance, early humans survived without agriculture because there were adequate natural resources to sustain the population. However, the agricultural revolution degraded living conditions because farmers focused on increasing production, leading to the destruction of the ecosystems. Farmers worked harder to grow surpluses than nomads, who lived an easier life. The increased demand for food led to burning down forests to feed the growing populations. Each generation attempts to make life easier and improve living standards. However, each “improvement” makes life harder for humans due to fateful miscalculations. For instance, rapid population growth during the agricultural revolution contributed to malnutrition among children and increased infectious diseases due to overcrowding in permanent settlements.

What important lesson should we learn from the story of the luxury trap? Harari mentions that people worked hard to satisfy their needs for limited resources. The luxury trap concept explains humanity’s search for a better life. However, the search for a better life leads to changes that nobody wanted or envisioned. Thus, luxuries like cars, expensive holidays, large houses, and good wine have become necessities in the modern world. Conversely, people cannot go back to nomadic life due to limited and climate change. Technological advancement has increased productivity and saves time through automation, the internet, and improved communication in a globalized world. However, innovations lead humans into a luxury trap due to the inability to avoid technological limitations. For instance, the trap associated with modern technology includes social isolation, addiction, low value of human capital, weapons of mass destruction, and memory degradation. Humans create new realities and form large-scale flexible cooperation to make life better.

Best,

Dhyey Mavani