***1-Pager Paper 3 Final Copy by Dhyey Mavani (10/06/2021)***

**Q) 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,

How are you? I hope that you have been well since. I am well, but I have missed our pleasant moments, particularly our philosophical discussions. Today, as I was reflecting on reading ‘The Luxury Trap’ by Harari, I thought of you. The piece was scintillating and informative. Therefore, it delights me to write to you describing the luxury trap and its lessons. Perhaps, you will enjoy it.

Over the years, humans have desired to live a better life. In his analogy, Harari notes that Homo sapiens were pure nomads 50000 years ago. However, they gradually started agriculture to enhance their lives. In later years, farmers applied pesticides and fertilizers to boost production. They also settled permanently and bore more children. Unfortunately, permanent residence and poor diet exposed people to infectious diseases. Thefts were also inevitable. In the light of these challenges, someone would ask why the population never reverted to their previous culture. The truth is that, as they pursued a better life, humans fell into an unforeseen hardship, the luxury trap. They could not deliver themselves; they could not even remember whether they had lived better before.

Likewise, today a graduate takes up a lucrative job and promises to amass enough money and retire early. However, soon after employment, the newbie upgrades their status by purchasing a car, taking a mortgage, and credit cards, among other luxuries. Subsequently, they get into debt and cannot afford early retirement. Regrettably, they have been trapped and will continue working hard forever.

The main lesson from the story of the luxury trap is that the human effort to improve livelihood sometimes presents hardships. For example, the industrial revolution presents pollution, contributing to global warming. The latter reduces the quality of living and brings chronic diseases, such as cancer. Moreover, the advancement of the transport sector brings traffic jams and accidents, hence loss of productive time and life respectively. In the education sector, graduates spend their childhood acquiring knowledge and skills, only to find a saturated employment sector. With their level of education, they feel trapped as they cannot take odd jobs. As a result, they sink into depression and perhaps drug abuse.

Oops! I can’t imagine any of my friends in a “luxury trap”. Can you? And, I am really sorry for ending on a negative connotation.

Cheers!

Dhyey