

Task 2: Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene

Earth is at risk of being in a continued “Hothouse Earth” if we cross the planetary threshold that has been being studied. If this happens there will not be turning back, and there will be changes in Earth we have not seen in millions of years. The worse is once we get to that point, the actions we take will not matter anymore since we will have reached a tipping point.

To cross the threshold will have impact in ecosystem, economics and society. And this only means it will be a non-ending cycle. But, from my point of view, we are already in a non-ending cycle years ago with the beginning of agriculture that led to the system we live in now.

The invention of agriculture fundamentally changed the way humans interacted with nature and with each other. It introduced the idea of ownership, and with ownership came fear of loss, and that led to insecurity and violence between people, as well as disputes for power between nations. People began to protect what was theirs, to dominate others, to create borders, and to fight for resources. This led to power struggles, wars, and eventually the rise of weapons and large-scale industrialization.

Technologies developed not only to replace human labor but to increase productivity and compete for dominance among nations. In doing so, humanity created a hyper-capitalist competitive environment that has had a devastating impact on Earth's health and balance. This system is one of the main driving forces pushing us closer and closer to the planetary threshold, a point I believe we have started to reach years ago. And I think it is barely impossible to get out of it. Not until human beings put selfishness aside.

I probably had no idea about what the planetary threshold was, but every time I see myself and other human beings in their daily lives, I wonder, what are we doing as a society? Why do we behave this way? Why aren't we grateful for the lives we have and for everything that surrounds us? Why do we hurt the place we live in and each other? Why do we ignore reality?

We do not think about anything else but ourselves, and to improve, we should first focus on who we are: in our minds, feelings and thoughts. We have to understand who we truly are and why are we here, because, have we ever asked ourselves if the way we live is the proper one? Does it have any benefit? Are we living in a real world or is it just fantasy? Are we living by the truth or are we just lying to ourselves to get something that will not even make us feel fulfilled, but rather empty? And not only that, but this will lead to the Earth's and human destruction. But I would say we have been in that point from years ago.

If we want to make a change, we have to put selfishness aside, not as a sacrifice, but as an act of consciousness and love. I firmly believe love is the only way we have to become better and to have a better and healthier world. Without love there is no empathy. Without love we do not care about each other's well-being. Without love there is no understanding. Without love you cannot take care of anything. Without love there is selfishness. Without love there is destruction. Without love we are lost.

We have to stop for a while and think about this. Only by recognizing we are part of something greater than ourselves can we begin to shift the course of our actions. We must understand true fulfillment doesn't come from dominating or accumulating as many possessions as we can, or experiencing pleasure.

True fulfillment comes from connecting with others, with nature, with our emotions and thoughts, with the truth, with God. Perhaps change doesn't start in big systems or structures, but in one's heart and mind, and the decision to live in a different way, to live with intention, compassion and clarity. Healing starts with us.