

Reading Is Dangerous

By Nolan Manteufel | 07JAN2023

Reading is dangerous,
Because you don't know where you'll go,
A thousand leagues under the sea,
Or get trapped in snow.

Is a poem I started writing,
When I discovered this world of profiteers,
And given the opportunity to join their ranks,
Focused in the opposite direction.

Emotionally.

While other stories show you where you want to be,
Compared to where you are now,
Let my story show you where you are now,
Compared to where you have been.

Like the opposite end of the compass hand,
My story has a different direction.

Like the shorter one of the clock hands,
My story has a different scale.

Allow us to consider a time,
Not so many ages past,
When knowledge circulated based on physical proximity,
And shared interests rarely resulted in collaboration opportunities.

At this past time, not so far away...

Our largest group was smaller than our average group herenow,
And negative feedback rarely left the domain of sticks and stones.

Our intelligent predators rarely received personal negative feedback,
From their peers in the largest groups.

Circulating knowledge carefully among likeminded predators,
And limiting opportunities for collaboration to those with similar interests,
Our cultures had massive pockets of intense emotional distress,
Which the predators kept insulated from empathy with the remainder of the group,