

The Black Cloud

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A sudden, sharp noise woke me up from sleep, and I sat almost bolt upright in my bed. It was my alarm clock, going off at the timer that I had set at nine o'clock in the morning. When I looked outside through my window, though, it looked nothing

like a nine o'clock morning. It was very dark outside, as dark as you would expect it to be at midnight. What was going on? My clock dials showed a sharp 9 am. Then why was it so dark outside? Did my clock malfunction? I had to check it out.

Man is endowed with reason and creative power so that he can increase what has been given to him, but up until today, he has been destroying and not creating.

Locking my gaze at the window, I got off my bed and made my way slowly to the balcony. Opening the door and stepping out, the sight I was greeted with was something I had never seen before. The entire sky was completely enshrouded by a seemingly infinite stretch of pitch dark nimbus cloud, spread out in all directions. Not a single ray of sunlight could seep in through that incredibly thick blanket. That was not all; every now and then, strong gusts of wind broke out restlessly here and there, like a few invisible rockets.

The clouds remained firmly in their positions, still and motionless. Once in a while, there would be an angry rumble of a deafening thunder, causing my heart leap into my mouth. The roar of the thunder was virtually ear-splitting. This civil strife in heaven amongst the clouds would for sure continue for at least the whole day. And what would follow would certainly be a heavy downpour of torrential rain. Mother Nature

was not going to be merciful today!

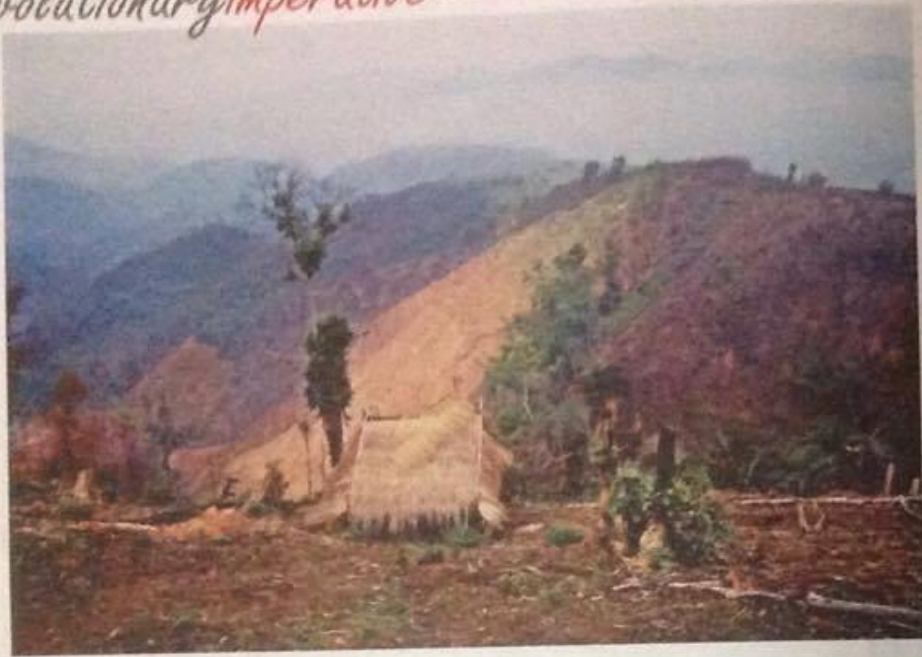
Why should Mother Nature be merciful? Ask yourself from the most inner chamber of your heart. Ask your conscience: why should Mother Nature stay silent to those who have viciously wronged her with their woeful wantonness? Did we as human beings ever think twice before brutally torturing her like inhuman barbarians? No, not at all. We have broken her bones, torn her muscles, perforated her veins, and contaminated her blood. We have done all that could possibly be done to paralyse her completely and drive out all the life in her. Even after all that, how shamelessly we human beings call ourselves the best creation of Nature!

The Earth is certainly a planet of phenomenal benevolence and mercy. If you tickle her with a hoe, she laughs with harvest. However, nowadays we are directly stabbing her with utmost cruelty, not sparing anything at all.

Man is endowed with reason and creative power so that he can increase what has been given to him, but up until today, he has been destroying and not creating. There are fewer and fewer forests, the rivers are drying up, the wild creatures are almost exterminated, the climate is being ruined and the land is getting more and more barren day by day.

Increased carbon dioxide emissions due to increased use of fossil fuels give rise to global warming, which is slowly diminishing most of the habitats of animals in the polar ice caps as the ice is slowly melting away due to higher global temperatures. This is just a small part of a very long story about our acts of cruelty. Mass deforestation has occurred in the last few decades and many regions rich in lush green vegetation have been diminished to arid deserts. Large-scale fishing in seas and oceans has demolished innumerable ecosystems in the water bodies and several species have been dragged to extinction even before we could even discover them. Illegal hunting, poaching, trading of skins and ivory from elephant teeth have spared none of the animals.

We have acidified the oceans and changed global climate with our increased usage of



fossil fuels. We have built so many dams that half of the world's river flow is regulated, stored or impeded by man-made structures. All these changes caused to the environment are a degradation of a pristine Eden – a disaster by definition.

After considering all these facts, is it not justified for us to be severely punished for our misdeeds? Do you not think that it is right on Mother Earth's part to show her wrath towards her ferocious foe – the human race? That is justice, right? That is the justice that we all fight for in courts and that is what our Constitution talks about. That is the form of justice that human civilisation has proposed all these years and the usual "retaliation against exploitation" concept. And it is also a lucid indication of the fact that our so-called "modern civilisation" is turning into a modern day "evilisation".

The possibly life-threatening effects of climate change, a series of minor earthquakes in many regions due to tectonic plate movements, catastrophic floods in many parts of the world, solar storms, and the devastating tsunamis that tore Japan apart are just a few reflections of nature's grudge

on humanity.

Today, we have apparently forgotten Newton's Third Law – "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction". This might just be a simple rule of thumb used by Physics students, but if we think about it deeply, then we can see it clearly states that a man's destiny depends on what he does. In other words, if he does something good, then bright results will wait for him in the future, and if he commits bad deeds, then misfortune will certainly befall him. Considering all the bad deeds that we have already committed, we cannot undo our actions. As a result, it is reasonable to assume that disaster is on its way shortly and there will be no way we can escape from this doom.

So, the next time you cut down a tree or kill a bird just for amusement, remember that nature is very closely observing you, and it will not be long before you are dragged in the same direction to some kind of disastrous trap set out by nature, survival from where is positively impossible! ☹️

The author is a class X student from Turkish Hope International School.