

# **The Enchanted Planet**

**by**

**Will Coxon MA**

For the First Time ever I am  
Dedicating a book, this book,  
to someone.

Except, of course, it is not  
just to one person.

I am dedicating this book  
to

The Bowden Family

Ali, 'Rat Killer' Gran, Big Richard  
Little Richard, Lovely Lilly,  
Little Olly and Uncle Willy

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## The Story

Our great heroes – Anita Cassidy and Wild-man Willy – arrived at the ancient Manor House known as Tom Lockruairida which stands by the side of the tiny Lock Lockruairida, it is a large 3 story 18th century stone built monolith, that was fully restored by the Elfin-kind Aliens in the 1950s as an Educational College

Thus it was that our heroes entered The Great Organising Chamber of the Custodian Committee – as it was now called – but previously it had been known as 'The Great Debating Chamber of Tom Locruainda' – if you remember from the novella 'The Enchanted Lake'.

There they found desks and chairs set out in two squares – one inside the other (see diagram 1) – and 14 people scattered about in 3 groups.

Anita and Willy approached the nearest congregation and introduced themselves. This was quickly followed by the members of this group introducing themselves.

First up was, Santiago Lopez – 37 year old good-looking extroverted Argentinean, who plays guitar and played football – married to an actress with 2 children. Successful in putting himself forward as Representative for the Committee because of his forceful disposition.

Then, Rebecca Da Cruz – 40 year old school teacher from Rio in Brazil. Mother of 1 – single/divorced. Rep of Teachers Union was natural choice for Representative for the Committee. Good speaker and organiser.

Then, Joe Cool – 50 year old Texan politician. Liberal Republican and country and western 'sad fuck'. Easy talking and listening. Married with 2 children and bored housewife partner. Children both dead with covid 25.

Then, Margarita Aquila – Mexican hard-faced bitch still sexy in her late 40s. Popular with men and women as she is outspoken in her TV role as presenter. Not married but with numerous lovers – most of which are dead care of Covid 25. Grown-up love child (m) from her teens.

Then, Malissa Taro – Solomon Islands Regional Rep before pandemic. Shoo-in after. 37 single no children. Very dark with New Guinean features. Good administrator. Needles and confrontational. Whole family wiped out by virus.

And finally, Mike Shepard – New Zealand policeman. Mid 40s amiable podgy fruitcake. With heart of gold that has been deep frozen since his last marriage went belly up. Married 3 times divorced 3 times pleased that they are all dead care of Covid 25 but new one on the horizon – a man who obviously believes in hope over experience.

They have hardly started chatting when the Administrator enters the Chamber and asks for their attention. He is a very thin Scotsman in his 60s who is in charge of domestic arrangements and bureaucratic affairs for the Committee. A Hugh Laurie type of character who suits the name everyone calls him by – Administrator.

“Can I have your attention” he says this in a very thick highland accent, “I have some rather disturbing news which concerns the Committee and its members.” He makes a break here to ensure total silence and dramatic effect, “The arch-deviant, MussilyBurger, has escaped from an insane asylum in Austria and is believed to have made it to the Scottish Isles (previously known as the British Isles) with the intention of ‘blowing-up’ everyone associated with the Committee and its Custodian objectives.’

There now ensued a lot of concerned voices engaged in questioning expletives. The Administrator allows a few minutes of this out burst before holding up his arms and waiting for silence.

“A detachment of armed police from the Edinburgh Constabulary are on their way to guard Tom Lockruairida, and of course your good selves. You will please remain

inside the building until they have arrived and secured the area. We only have 5 armed security personnel here at present. But this should be enough until the reinforcements arrive."

With that the Administrator departed ignoring a thousand questions that broke forth.

Rebecca Da Cruz the 40 year old school teacher from Rio in Brazil approached Anita and Wild-man, "You two are Scottish Nationals if I am not mistaken?"

"We are indeed." Answers Anita.

"From the Europa delegation?"

"That's correct."

"So you would know about this ... man?"

"MussilyBerger?"

"That's the one."

"Well Rebecca, he's a lunatic. An insane man of the dangerous kind. He's already killed several people whom he tried to convert to his crazy beliefs. And killed several more when he was arrested. He was in a sanatorium in Vienna awaiting an assessment to see whether he is fit to stand trial." Anita tries to fulfil the rational answer behind Rebecca's question.

"He swears he is fit to stand trial and it is everyone else who is insane with their custodian and societal beliefs." Wild-man adds on seeing Rebecca's rather negative reaction.

"It's causing a bit of a philosophical storm in the rarified atmosphere of Europa's Legal circles." Anita further adds but without any further success. Then she turns to Willy, "You'll have to give the full story as much as you can."

"Thanks a lot." Wild-man frustratingly said.

Wild-man has the full attention of the other 15 members of the Committee. An attention filled with silence. He can see there is no avoiding the explanation as far as he knows it and so walks up to lectern and mounts it, "I only know about MussilyBurger because the Austrian regional assembly had voted for me and I was thanking them for their support when the news came in about MussilyBerger's attack on the regional assembly." He pauses best to arrange some structure in his mind, "It was a violent attack that was initially successful due to the surprise element. But then he was eventually overcome by sheer weight of numbers but not before he had killed several more, most with his bare hands."

At this several members of the Committee were shocked into outbursts.

"Please, please, let me continue and hold yourselves ready for questions only after I have given you what I know."

Silence soon returned to the Committee.

"He stands at 6 feet 5 inches tall and weighs in at 19 stone of solid muscle. Although he used explosives he was not armed with guns or weapons of any kind. It was because of this that he was not shot even though there were several members of the Regional Assembly who were armed. He was eventually subdued by a member who laid him out with a blow to the head with a baseball bat. He was shackled – arms and legs – and held in a secure room where he railed against anyone that presented themselves to him. What was gained from his outbursts was as follows. He would not seem to have a social component. By this I mean he did not believe that human beings were social animals. Unlike those of us gathered here today or for the rest of humanity for that matter. He believes that societies, societies of any kind are the very root source of all evil. It is human societies that cause all of the problems in the world and have done since time immemorial – actually he might have a point there. We tend to say it is the kind of society, whether democratic or authoritarian, while he says it is all societies."

"But that is Bonkers." Says a voice which all gathered agree with.

"Indeed," Says Willy, "but that's the point. And that's why he gets furious when people accuse him of being insane. He says it is him who is sane and it is everyone else who is insane. As a result he refuses to plead insane which would get him off the charges brought against him and wants to be tried in a normal court as a sane man. This caused a great deal of consternation amongst the local authorities and so he was placed in an asylum for the criminally insane for assessment. You can imagine how much this upset him. And then. And then he escaped killing several people on his way. And what a way of killing them. He uses his bare hands to literally pull the heads off his victims. And what he does to women – well." He turns to Anita unsure whether to tell those gathered. She gestures him to continue, which he does, "He forces their legs back behind their necks and proceeds to fuck them to death with a penis of enormous size."

The silence in the room was deafening.

"Now I will proceed beyond this horror fest." He allows a moment for the transition to effect their attention, "As Anita and I have had a great deal longer to prepare for this gathering. We thought it best to give an indication of what we are expecting in terms of a Custodian Society. This, you understand, is just our take on the proceedings. What kind of society will be arrived at by consensus amongst us all." He stops to give direction, "If you all take a desk. Any desk. You will see that we have provided you with a new computer which has already been uploaded with our views on a Custodian Society, so that we can go through all the points in turn. This will set the president for everyone when you deliver your views."

First up on the screens comes a short introductory statement:

A Custodian Society should be democratic in principle – if there are problems then they should best be solved by consensus and where not then by democratic voting. We



will be applying this to the procedures of this Committee.

Respect must always be given to our fellow citizens and applied with the biosphere in mind at all times. This is best encapsulated in the Saying: 'Humankind, child of the Biosphere, Custodian of the Planet'.

What makes a Custodian Society? Which, after all, is what the committee has been set up for.

For a start the distribution of wealth will have to be fair. It was noted before the pandemic wiped-out the vast majority of Human Beings that it was the poor as much as the rich that were destroying the biosphere. Clearing the forests for farm land so they could eat, using the wood for their fires and using the land for cash crops so they could have at least a semblance of civilization.

So a complete rearrangement of society will be required so this situation can never arise again. And to that end all citizens will have certain rights, responsibilities, freedoms and abilities to access various aspects of the society. And, must not indulge in activities detrimental to the Custodian Society

All citizens have basic rights:

Free Healthcare for Life.  
Free Education for Life.

And

All citizens have responsibilities:

10 year commitment to Custodian Duties.  
5 year commitment to the Social Volunteer Organisation.  
1 year commitment into Research and Development of Custodian Society. (with indefinite extended time commitment for individuals 'driven or led' down this path)

And

All citizens have freedoms:

To create.  
To accumulate material possessions.  
To sell.  
To barter.  
To act in cooperative ventures.

And

All citizens have the ability to access societal organizations, such as:

Cooperative Banks.  
Libraries.  
Resource Institutions.  
Universities.  
Registered Clubs.  
NGOs.  
Charitable Organizations.

And

The Economic System that the Custodian Society is to be based on.

The use of a 'Medium of Exchange' – money – was to be kept from the old system. It is far too useful; including placing a universal 'price' on everything and in day-to-day transactions. But it also has another great benefit in that printed money can be used to create real world assets. All that is needed is a Central Bank to print the money and a Development Bank to distribute the money to individuals and organizations to create real world assets. By this ingenious expediency the whole world can develop and evolve.

And finally 3 miscellaneous subjects:

1) Not to indulge in any activities detrimental to the Custodian Society.

2) Those not wishing to join the Custodian Society will not receive any of the benefits that its citizens do!

3) It is to be a Volunteer Society where its Citizens volunteer to be part.

Having given the members of the Committee enough time to comprehend what has been proposed Anita takes over from Willy.

"I suggest that we go through it line by line. Are we in agreement?' She asked the Committee, swinging around to see if there is any dissent. But there is none, "Then let me start with this first line ' A Custodian Society should be democratic in principle – if there are problems then they should best be solved by consensus and where not then by democratic voting. We will be applying this to the procedures of this Committee.'

An objection strait away from Kamon Li his name means from the heart. From Chang Mai Thailand 46 year old Singapore Chinese married to Thai woman 'my Darling'. Came to prominence after collapse of local government. Local Thais like him for his love of Thailand. Was a Political History Professor at Singapore University, "I am glad this suggestion about democratic voting has been brought up at the very beginning. Having studied the history of this means of settling problems I have found it wanting in the extreme. Take American politics as an example. Democratic voting delivered Donald Trump – a bad enough outcome in itself – but it divided the American people into two hostile camps that hate each other. Then another example where democratic voting delivered conflicting passions, Brexit. There was a country divided down the middle where strong animosities delivered a house divided against itself. Why in this new era should we still have these mechanisms that lead to division and conflict, storing up conflict for years to come. Reaching consensus is the ideal way and by far the best way to settle all disputes. But where in the past where consensus could not be reached we turned to democratic voting. We no longer have to do that because we can turn to the Custodian Principle of what is best for the Biosphere. This will make any problems subservient to the well being of the Planet. So that consensus can be reached because we have this greater arbitrator – the

Biosphere – at our disposal for solving human problems. It's a wonderful thing for the Custodian Society because it brings with it, its own solution to our problems. So ...” he appealed to those present, “Who agrees with me that we should abandon democratic voting and supplant it with consensus arbitrated by the Custodian Principle?”

There was general agreement all round and Anita – and I – were pleased beyond measure, “Then we should change this first paragraph to reflect this.” Anita does the business with her computer that transfers itself to everyone else, “Is everyone happy with how I have altered this?”

General agreement.

“Then let us turn next to the second paragraph, ‘Respect must always be given to our fellow citizens and applied with the biosphere in mind at all times. This is best encapsulated in the Saying: ‘Humankind, child of the Biosphere, Custodian of the Planet’.”

Joe Cool – is a 50 year old Texan politician. A Liberal Republican and country and western ‘sad fuck’. Speaks out as if he can't stop himself, “Sorry there folks but I'm a bit of a nut when it comes to sentimentality and that saying about Humankind being a child of the Biosphere and the Custodian of the Planet, really does suck. It's not a lump in my throat that it raises but puke from my stomach. And yet, and yet when you think about it, it really does sum it up. Just like Tammy Winnet when she sang those immortal words ‘Stand by Your Man’. Which still appeals to red-blooded men even today.”

This statement has stunned those gathered into either embarrassed silence or confused muttering.

Anita, taken slightly aback, suddenly regains control, “Thank you – Joe Cool is it?”

“Yes mam.”

“Well Joe, if the words are a bit sentimental I'm sure we can all agree with the sentiment.”

General agreement all round.

"Now let's press on to what makes a Custodian Society? Which, after all, is what the committee has been set up for.

For a start the distribution of wealth will have to be fair. It was noted before the pandemic wiped-out the vast majority of Human Beings that it was the poor that were destroying the biosphere as much as the rich. Clearing the forests for farm land so they could eat, using the wood for their fires and using the land for cash crops so they could have at least a semblance of civilization.

So a complete rearrangement of society will be required so this situation can never arise again." Here Anita turns to her audience, "How do you all feel about this statement?"

There is a deep rumbling amongst those gathered, so Anita, wanting to address this uncertainty, stretches out one arm from her side, "I'll swing this arm around and as it passes over you please stand up if you have anything to say."

Her arm barely moved when a woman stood up, " My name is Anika Anand it joy. I was an Indian social worker before the Great Cull. I'm 43 and my 2 children survived along with me although my husband didn't. I have always been driven by the injustices in my country and in the world at large. I would just like to say that pointing out that the poor were as much to blame as the rich for the destruction of the Biosphere fills me with anger. In purely practical turns it was probably true but that simplifies things too far. The rich dictated the allocation of resources leaving the poor no alternative to act as they did. It is the rich that should carry the blame and we should never forget that."

The agreement was universal and Anita made a note of this on her computer.

Next up was a man. "Ekon Abayoni, my name means bringer of happiness. I am 33 and I was a Local Government official in central Nigeria. I took control of my local area after pandemic spared me and was an easy shoo-in for

representative after I was brought to prominence by Nigerian media. I have recently found a new partner who shares my views so I count myself lucky. And I know she would want me to say that it is essential that a complete rearrangement of society should be first priority. We should not take anything from the old world but make everything anew."

At this last statement everyone jumped to their feet to applaud.

Anita moved on, but only people agreeing with Ekon stood up to reiterate what he said. There was no one to disagree.

"Ok, then let's move on. Let's move on to what citizens rights, responsibilities, freedoms and ability to access can be expected. And of course not forgetting that citizens must not indulge in activities detrimental to the Custodian Society and/or the Biosphere."

General agreement.

"So let's start off with a citizens basic rights." Anita reads off from her screen, "All citizens have basic rights:

Free Healthcare for Life.

Free Education for Life.

I take it there is no disagreement with these rights but perhaps there are amongst you those that think there should be others?"

Yazuf Ezra, from Turkey, is a bitter ex-religious leader after covid 25 killed his whole family and extended family. 39 but looks a lot older. Now has the zeal of the converted which is from Islam to Custodian. He stands up with vigor and speaks too loudly, "Financial support. Financial support when a person is disabled or falls ill. This should be a basic right. Otherwise this Custodian Society will only be for the healthy and those that are fit."

There is general agreement.

Anita alters the Basic Rights on her computer to read:

Free Healthcare for life.

Free Education for Life.

Free Financial Support during periods of illness or disability.

"Would anyone like to suggest further Basic Rights?"

"Freedom to have as many children as you want." This comes from Rebecca Da Cruz a 40 year old school teacher from Brazil. Mother of 1 – single/divorced. Rep of Teachers Union was natural choice for Representative for the Committee. Good speaker and organiser.

This brings the first real dispute to the Committee.

"Surely this risks overpopulating the planet again. We should limit the number of children any woman can have to 2. This is a replacement strategy that would make sure we will never overpopulate the planet again." This comes from Lizzy Tao her name means 'The Way'. 35 year old woman from Hong Kong. Single and very beautiful. Member of the Chinese Communist Party. Rose quickly through the ranks because of willingness to suppress the democracy movement and because of excellent organising abilities. her Zeal has transferred seamlessly from Communism to Custodian.

More voices call out most stressing the need to limit the growth of the population.

It is at this point Wild-man Willy feels compelled to speak, "If everyone agrees that we can not afford to overpopulate our planet again then I suggest this. It should be a Basic Right to have up to 3 children but no more. This should average out the population to one of stability with small differences over generations but keeping us firmly inside the safety parameters of stable population."

Silence as people consider this proposal. Then a consensus and Anita writes it in as as Basic Right:

Freedom for every woman to have up to 3 children.

"If that satisfies everyone then can we move on."

"To lunch." comes a voice to be greeted by much laughter.

For Anita and Willy lunch was different as they retreated to their room and indulged in wild almost violent sex which is often the way of their love making. For desert a light tonguing on both accounts.

Back in the The Great Organising Chamber of the Custodian Committee Anita and Willy arrive back late interrupting an obvious debate. Anita brings the Committee to order, "Now where were we?"

Alyssa Modise from Cape Town in South Africa, stands up obviously a pre arranged act with the blessing of the rest of the Committee. She is a 44 year old Academic in Local Government Studies. Family all dead due to covid 25. Organised region after collapse of administration. Big and remarkably jolly. Tested when some survivors balked at Custodian direction – ruthless in stamping this out, "We have decided that another Basic Right should be the ability of women to have an abortion when ever they want or need one."

Sounds of agreement.

"Ok, that sounds quite sensible. I'll write it in." Which she does, then, "Any other Fundamental Rights?"

Silence.

"Then lets press on to Responsibilities:

All citizens have these responsibilities:

10 year commitment to Custodian Duties.

5 year commitment to the Social Volunteer Organisation.

1 year commitment into Research and Development of Custodian Society. (with indefinite extended time commitment for individuals 'driven or led' down this path)

Any questions?"



"Yes, I've got a few." This is from Lizzy Tao. This 35 year old woman from Hong Kong is Single and very beautiful. Member of the Chinese Communist Party. Rose quickly through the ranks because of willingness to suppress the democracy movement and because of excellent organising abilities. Her Zeal has transferred seamlessly from Communism to Custodian, "What actually are Custodian Duties?"

"What are they indeed." Anita responds with a rhetorical question, then, "In the first few years it will be research into what protects the Biosphere and what makes the Biosphere flourish. After we have collated all the research then it's a matter of building on the findings. Does that satisfy you?"

"Only partly. This 10 year commitment I take it is over a life time?"

"Yes. A year being 250 days with each day made up of 8 hrs - 9 till 5."

"I see. Plus another 5 years for the Social Volunteer Organisation?"

"Yes."

"And for the other 25 years. What happens in them?"

"That's for whatever an individual wants to do for their own gratification and personal development."

"I'll go along with those 25 years but I feel personally it should be equal shares between the individual pursuits and what should be social commitment. What I can't go along with is the way you have given 10 years to Custodian Duties (CD) and only 5 years to the Social Volunteer Organisation (SVO). Surely you've got these times the wrong way around. It should be 10 years for the SVO and 5 for CD. Have you any idea how much it takes just to keep a society going? Think about it - schools, hospitals, roads and other infrastructures and a host of other social elements too long to mention here - like factories to produce just about everything we use day to

day." Lizzy Tao turns for support from the rest of the committee. And in large part gets it.

Anita turns to Willy for support but all he can do is shrug his shoulders.

"Ok. I must admit to not having any experience in these matters. And I can see from your profile that you almost certainly have. So I will bow to your superior knowledge. Does everyone else agree?"

Anita is amazed to find that they do, "Then I shall write it in." Which she does even splitting the personal social split to equal.

All citizens have these responsibilities:

10 year commitment at least to the Social Volunteer Organisation (SVO).

5 year commitment at least to Custodian Duties (CD).

1 year commitment into Research and Development of Custodian Society. (with indefinite extended time commitment for individuals 'driven or led' down this path)

So that individual development will share an equal amount of time with their social and custodian duties.

"Does that look just about right?"

General agreement,

"Then let us press on to Freedoms;

To create.

To accumulate material possessions.

To sell.

To barter.

To act in cooperative ventures.

"Excuse my ignorance but what exactly does Freedom mean?" This comes from Rajeev Swami a teacher from Goa in India. Gentle almost mild but is thankful that his wife and

daughter survived. Excellent administrator and a person who everyone loves. 43 years old with singer for a wife and a sweet daughter. Students voted for him in great numbers the ones that survived that is.

"That's not such a daft question as you would think. Freedom is one of those concepts that everyone thinks they know. But, a closer examination reveals it is quite a slippery word. It's a word that strangely enough needs limits to define it. Let me give you an example. If you take a boat onto the ocean you are free to travel the world. But in reality your freedom is curtailed by the land masses which provide the limits of your Freedom. Let me give you another example – one that MussilyBurger would understand. We have our individual Freedoms but they are all limited by the society we live in. Indeed this is MussilyBurger's very point. To be totally free, as he sees it, one has to live outside of any kind of society. Because all societies place limits on the individual. I like to think that Freedom has to do with Agency – the ability to act with Freedom. Here we see Freedom as a dynamic principle, rather than something static. This of course brings up the subject of free will. Unless we have free will, then we are nothing more than automatons – then where is our Freedom then. And back to our list of Freedoms starting off with 'Freedom to create'. This seems so obvious that I nearly didn't include it. But indeed, it is central to our understanding of Freedom and the Freedoms we are allowed in our Custodian Society. Our Custodian society limits our Freedom in regard to how we act in regard to the Biosphere. Being creative in how we act in regard to the Biosphere is fraught with danger. The creative act itself may easily disguise the true action and consequence. Be creative by all means, but be aware that the creative may disguise actions detrimental to the Biosphere. Placing creativity above the welfare of the Biosphere is not a good idea. Now how should I phrase all of that?"

She turns to the rest of us for help.

"The limits to our Freedom to create should be limited by the Principles of our Custodian Society." Comes the answer from Anika Anand. She was an Indian social worker. She is in her early 40s with 2 children. Single parent

after her husband died of covid 25. Driven by correction of injustices. Plump but strong. Shoo-in when she applied for position of rep for the Committee by local community.

There is a quick consensus.

"Then passing on to The Freedom to accumulate material possessions."

Here there was much discussion to put it mildly. There was, in fact, violent arguments and not even the Custodian Principles seemed to help arrive at a consensus. The arguments went something like this: first of all there were people who thought that the ownership of material possessions was against everything a Custodian Society should be about. Then there were others who thought that ownership of material objects was pure common sense – how can you deny anyone jewellery or objects of art. Then there were others who wanted to accumulate wealth as a means of self expression.

There was also a debate over what constitutes a material possession – for instance was a tattoo a material possession.

Anita tried to get me involved in this discussion as I was against materialism as much as she was. I, however, flunked this request because it became obvious that I wasn't such a none materialist after all because I have become enormously attached to both my books and my scribbling.

In the end a consensus was reached and was framed by Anita like this:

Citizens should have the Freedom to accumulate material possessions as long as they are for the benefit of the Custodian Society and/or the benefit of the Biosphere.

Citizens should not have the Freedom to accumulate material possessions if they are for the hedonistic pleasure of the individual. And this on the pain of confiscation and ejection from the Custodian Society.

This pleased everyone.

Next up: The Freedom to sell or to barter.

This was agreed as long as the the above conditions on accumulation are to be applied.

And finally The freedom to act in Cooperative Ventures.

This also was agreed along with the addition of the conditions on accumulation.

Moving on to:

All citizens have the Ability to access societal organizations, such as:

Cooperative Banks.  
Libraries.  
Resource Institutions.  
Universities.  
Registered Clubs.  
NGOs.  
Charitable Organizations.

The first 'bone on contention' was the use of the term 'Ability'. Not many of the members liked it but finding a suitable alternative was difficult in the extreme. And because of this it was agreed to keep the term but mark it out by the use of an underline, so that it looked like this: Ability.

The list of societal organizations is certainly not comprehensive and no doubt will be added to all in good time. But the general consensus was that the list was a good start and the Ability to join them made perfect sense. So Anita made a note of this, on this – the blueprint for a Custodian Society.

Next up and with important ramifications was The Economic System that the Custodian Society was to be based on.

The use of a 'Medium of Exchange' – money – was to be kept from the old system. It is far too useful; including placing a universal 'price' on everything and in day-to-day transactions. But it also has another great benefit

in that printed money can be used to create real world assets. All that is needed is a Central Bank to print the money and a Development Bank to distribute the money to individuals and organizations to create real world assets. By this ingenious expediency the whole world can develop and evolve.

Thrown open to the Committee for comment it was Lizzy Tao who grabbed the chance to exercise her knowledge of these matters.

"As a member of the Communist Party in the old world order, I was privy to many different banks of knowledge. One of these was the ability of printed money to create real world assets. Indeed, it was this expediency that allowed China to become the richest country in the world in 30 years. From being a very poor country where poverty was wide-spread to a 21st. century super power where poverty was all but eradicated. This was all achieved on the back of the ability to use printed money to create real world assets. So I can not tell you how pleased I am to see that this expediency is at the core of the Economic System of the Custodian Society."

Everyone was impressed, including Anita, and Lizzy Tao got a loud round of applause.

"I'd like to thank Lizzy for simplifying what could have been a difficult subject for the Committee to debate. I take it I can just add it in as read?"

General consensus.

And finally the 3 miscellaneous subjects

1) Not to indulge in any activities detrimental to the Custodian Society.

2) Those not wishing to join the Custodian Society will not receive any of the benefits that its citizens do!

3) It is to be a Volunteer Society where its Citizens volunteer to be part.

Everyone thought these were obvious and essential so they were passed into the blueprint without further discussion.

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No sooner that we had come to the end of our discussion for a blueprint for a Custodian Society when a noise behind us had us all turning around. The sound was of a man's head bouncing down the stairs from the entrance to the chamber.

The shock was profound. Everyone reached for their guns and trained them on the man that was now standing at the top of the stairs. MussilyBurger was wearing a big smile and also an explosive vest with detonator in his hand and pressed down so that if he was killed the vest would explode.

"Ah, Mr. MussilyBurger, we've been waiting for you. Before you blow us all to pieces perhaps you would like to tell us of your grievances. Please, come and join us in the inner circle so that we will at least know why we have died." Wild-man Willy said all of this without a trace of nervousness.

MussilyBerger thought, but just for a minute, then moved down into the centre of our desk arrangement.

No sooner was he into the central position when Anita pressed the switch. This sent a small current travelling clockwise around the outer ring and a small current anti-clockwise around the inner ring. This made the space that MussilyBerger was occupying turn into a new dimension.

We could just about see him – ghost like through a purple haze. Anita shut the currents off and the new dimension disappeared along with MussilyBerger.

A wild cheer went up from the Committee. Having dispensed with MussilyBerger without having to kill him ourselves it was hardly surprising.

Anita's alien technology and no-how had produced the perfect outcome. The two-tailed fox basked in our admiration.

With the conceptual skeleton for the blueprint of our Custodian Society finished as far as it could be taken we decided that we should have a party to celebrate.

All the members of the Committee had brought along friends and family, so the gathering was well over 50 people. Anita and I had invited the Bowden family – Ali Baba, 'Rat Killer' Gran, Lovely Lilly, Big Richard and Little Richard and of course the guest of honour Olly the flying child who had played such a part in 'The Rapture'.

The party took place in the 'Round Room' which was the perfect size for the number of people present. Olly, of course, stole the show by flying over the heads of those gathered. Until tired, he did a full landing by grabbing hold of his sister around the neck with his arms and around her middle with his legs. They hugged onto each other with great affection as only a brother and sister can.

As for Anita and myself we snook away early so we could 'make hay' as is the want of lovers everywhere.

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# Appendix 1

## The Blueprint for the Custodian Society

This Blueprint for the Custodian Society is based on the Custodian Principles of which there are only 2.

1) Humankind will protect and defend the Biosphere.

And

2) Humankind will endeavour to assist all species that make up the Biosphere to flourish.

This rearrangement of society from the one that existed before The Great Cull by Covid 25 could not be more stark. Fairness will be the watch-word and towards this end all citizens will have basic Rights, Responsibilities, Freedoms and Abilities. And must not indulge in activities detrimental to the Custodian Society.

And all decisions should be reached by consensus. Abandoning the previous decision making process of using democratic voting. This is now seen as too divisive. When problems arrive we now have the Custodian Principles to guide us to a consensus.

Basic Rights:

Free healthcare for life.  
Free education.

Free support for the sick and the lame.  
Every woman has the right to have 3 children.  
Every woman has the right to have an abortion.

**Basic Responsibilities:**

10 year commitment (at least) to the Social Volunteer Organisation (SVO).

5 year commitment (at least) to Custodian Duties (CD).

1 year commitment into Research and Development of Custodian Society. (with indefinite extended time commitment for individuals 'driven or led' down this path)

So that individual development can be seen to be important, it will share an equal amount of time with their social and custodian duties. This suggests 20 years of a 40 year working life. This can only be a guide as everyone is expected to work until they can no longer. There is to be no such thing as retirement.

**Basic Freedoms;**

The limits to a Citizens Freedom to create should be limited by the Principles of our Custodian Society.

Citizens should have the Freedom to accumulate material possessions as long as they are for the benefit of the Custodian Society and/or the benefit of the Biosphere.

Citizens should not have the Freedom to accumulate material possessions if they are for the hedonistic pleasure of the individual and this on the pain of confiscation and ejection from the Custodian Society.

The Freedom to sell or to barter. As long as the above conditions on accumulation are to be applied.

The freedom to act in Cooperative Ventures as the conditions on accumulation are applied.

**Basic Abilities:**

All citizens have the Ability to access societal organizations, such as:

Cooperative Banks.  
Libraries.  
Resource Institutions.  
Universities.  
Registered Clubs.  
NGOs.  
Charitable Organizations.

This is not an exhaustive list and will no doubt be added to all in good time.

The Economic System that the Custodian Society is to be based on.

The use of a 'Medium of Exchange' – money – is to be kept from the old system. It is far too useful; including placing a universal 'price' on everything and in day-to-day transactions. But it also has another great benefit in that printed money can be used to create real world assets. All that is needed is a Central Bank to print the money and a Development Bank to distribute the money to individuals and organizations to create real world assets. By this ingenious expediency the whole world can develop and evolve.

And finally, 3 miscellaneous subjects:

1) Not to indulge in any activities detrimental to the Custodian Society.

2) Those not wishing to join the Custodian Society will not receive any of the benefits that its citizens do!

3) It is to be a Volunteer Society where its Citizens volunteer to be part.

The end word — CIVILIZATION

To be truly Civilized we must recognize that we humankind are just a part of the Biosphere and our role is to be Custodians — to protect and make flourish.

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## Appendix 2

### Notes for the Enchanted Planet

- 1) World Eisteddfod – a meeting to organise the world along Custodian lines.
- 2) A Committee – ‘The Committee For The Formation of a World Government’ – made up of representative of the various peoples still alive after the Covid 25 pandemic.
- 3) The committee was organised by Anita Cassidy, and who, appointed her self as the Alien representative, along with a reluctant Wild-man Willy as the representative to represent the Laired who was considered too young to participate.
- 4) Wild-man was reluctant because he considered himself ‘A Man Without Qualities’ and hence unsuitable for such a position. Not realizing that he was, in fact, a man more deserving than most for sitting on the committee.
- 5) The other members are, a)An African b)A North African c) A South American d) A Central American e) A North American f) An Indian g) A Middle-Eastern h) 2 from South-East Asia i) A Chinese j) A Japanese k) A Pacific Islander l) A European (12) – Easily equated with the Apostles. But is this too much and too easily read as a Christian tradition. Or does it matter if we are looking for a ‘common name’ to identify them. Or could it be just a joke between Anita and Wild-man. The Eisteddfod Apostles has a nice ring to it. And besides, the term ‘Eisteddfod’ has been pinched from another meaning to do with music.
- 6) If Anita had something to do with the choice of Who, what would have been her criteria? Something along the lines of Academia – Three main branches – Science, The Arts and Social. With the sub-branches of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths – Philosophy and Fine Arts – Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology and archaeology (10) and adding Ecology and Evolution. Bringing the total up to 12. Looks like a shoo-in.
- 7) But what characters – 6 men and 6 women – obvious. 3 macho and 3 sensitives. 3 sex objects and 3 rad-fems – Too obvious and not relevant in this new era. Women more people oriented , men more thing oriented. Sexual jealousy in men, emotional jealousy in women.**cognitive variables** (for example, reading comprehension, mathematics), **communication** (for example, talkativeness, facial expressions), **social and personality** (for example, aggression, sexuality), **psychological well-being**, and motor behaviors. Using results from a review of 46 meta-analyses, she found that **78% of gender differences were small or close to zero**. A few exceptions were some motor behaviors (such as throwing distance) and some **aspects of sexuality (such as attitudes about casual sex), which**

**show the largest gender differences.** She concludes her article by stating: "It is time to consider the costs of overinflated claims of gender differences. Arguably, they cause harm in numerous realms, including women's opportunities in the workplace, couple conflict and communication, and analyses of self-esteem problems among adolescents."

- 8) Physiological differences of the genitals responsible for the difference in sexual behavior.
- 9) Social Capital seen as strong trait in women and responsibility to social and cultural potential. Giving women a bigger say in how societies develop. But this probably stems from
- 10) Our hunter gather past which in turn stems from the fact that women are the main child carers, which stems from the fact that women have breasts – a physiological fact.
- 11) Group sex to get over sexual jealousy in men and emotional jealousy in women. (see 7) (lots of controversy in how this pans out.
- 12) There is a completely different reason for having the committee made up of 16 individuals – **Dimension Building** – this is a new branch of Physics/Philosophy. One way to build a dimension is to connect a 1-dimensional line of components as if they were a 2-dimensional grid

1 ——— 2 ——— 3 ——— 4

5 ——— 6 ——— 7 ——— 8

9 ——— 10 ——— 11 ——— 12

13 ——— 14 ——— 15 ——— 16

Then these can be arranged on a 1-dimensional line

1 ——— 2 ——— 3 ——— 4      5 ——— 6 ——— 7 ——— 8

9 ——— 10 ——— 11 ——— 12      13 ——— 14 ——— 15 ——— 16

This effectively creates 2-dimensions in 1-dimension.

When an electrical current is passed around the outside edge this effectively renders 6, 7, 10 and 11 a null region. Effectively creating a space for an extra dimension. Anything can be placed in this extra dimension effectively making it disappear from normal 3-dimensional space. The possibilities for the committee are endless – removing unwanted problems and simply making them disappear is just one.

This must seem unfair on the individuals in position 6, 7, 10 and 11 but not if the individuals are rotated in these positions.

- 13) To start with Anita takes up position number 1 and Wild-man Position number 13 thus avoiding any contact with the extra dimension taking over the space occupied by 6,7, 10 and 11.

Such an arrangement for the committee lends an Enchanted Flavour. Making it unmistakably an object of the new era. Consequently all none Custodian ideas can be swiftly dealt with.

What makes a Custodian Society? Which, after all, is what the committee has been set up for.

For a start the distribution of wealth will have to be fair. It was noted before the pandemic wiped-out the vast majority of Human Beings that it was the poor that were destroying the biosphere. Clearing the forests for farm land so they could eat, using the wood for their fires and using the land for cash crops so they could have at least a semblance of civilization.

So a complete rearrangement of society would be required so this situation could never arise again. And to that end all citizens will have certain **rights, responsibilities, freedoms, access and must not indulge in activities detrimental to the Custodian Society**

All citizens have basic rights:

Free Healthcare for Life.  
Free Education for Life.

And

All citizens have responsibilities:

10 year commitment to Custodian Duties.  
5 year commitment to the Social Volunteer Organisation.  
1 year commitment into Research and Development of Custodian Society. (with indefinite extended time commitment for individuals 'driven or led' down this path)

And

All citizens have freedoms:

To create.  
To accumulate material possessions.  
To sell.  
To barter.

To act in cooperative ventures.

And

All citizens have the right to access societal organizations, such as:

Cooperative Bank.  
 Libraries.  
 Resource Institutions.  
 Universities.  
 Registered Clubs.  
 NGOs.  
 Charitable Organizations.

And

Not to indulge in any activities detrimental to the Custodian Society.

Those not wishing to join the Custodian Society will not receive any of the benefits that its citizens do!

The Custodian Society bares a strong resemblance to the Volunteer Society in my screenplay 'Mothball City' (written in the early 90s) – hardly surprising as I have long harboured such thoughts

### **Notes on writing**

I have taken a flavour from the writer Robert Musil and added it to my already flavoursome style used in 'The Enchanted Lake'. Musil has long been a favourite of mine even though I have only read him in what is regarded as an inferior translation. I am at present trying to catch up in this regard by reading a 1996 translation by Sophie Wilkins. I must admit it has the feeling of 'high-German' – if there is such a thing – compared to the copy I read in the 70s while travelling in India. I'm sorry I can't furnish the details of that copy as I obtained it through a 'swap' with another traveller and which I swapped it for some further reading material later on in my travels.

Using some of the material of Musil in The Man Without Qualities namely the 'Committee' and also the character 'Moonsbruger' I like to think adds a certain detachment from my own style. Whether this is possible is certainly up for debate. What is not is that something of 'The Man Without Qualities' has had some influence on my own writing. Unfortunately I am too close to that subject to give any insight of worth.



Writing 'The Enchanted Planet' as a follow on from 'The Enchanted Lake' offers me the chance to deliver my own thoughts on what kind of world I would like to live in.

The Custodian Perspective would have to be how I would like Humankind's relationship with the Biosphere to be. Human Beings have great qualities that can be utilised in the service of the Biosphere and best achieved, in my opinion, through the Custodian Perspective.

## **An Experimental Chapter Beginning**

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### Chapter One

Ulrich's recklessness might from the beginning have been motivated in part by an underlying faith in some harmless explanation for everything that shying away from believing the worst that always leads one into danger, nevertheless, when his old servant unexpectedly came up to him in the hall, he almost knocked him down. Fortunately, he stopped himself in time, and was told that a telegram had come, which Clarissa had signed for and was now holding for him upstairs. The young lady had arrived about an hour ago, just as he, the old man, had been about to leave, and she would not let herself be turned away, so that he had preferred to stay in and give up his night out this once, for if he might be permitted to say so, the young lady seemed to be rather upset.

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It was Anita that was upset, even though it was he, himself, Wild-man Willy, that had been 'half-inched' from his cosy life at the MacBowden's country estate, known locally as 'Black Dirk's Scabbard' — reason unknown — and thus it was that Wild-man felt somewhat peeved that she had 'half-inched' his right to be upset. Taking it upon herself to show all of the behaviours and mannerisms of those that are upset even to the point of shedding a tear, and doing so with such sincerity as to solicit a genuine emotion from the Wild-man's breast. Peeved and aggrieved rather than piteous and hurt. He loved her beyond measure

but she would steal a mile given an inch, which would often result in Willy's disgruntled state as it did on this occasion.

He was now a member of the illustrious Committee who's purpose was to secure for the world a Custodian Society, and this, without having so much as blinked or given a 'how's your father'.

The two-tailed fox simply took it fore-granted that he was exactly what the Committee needed — a man of distinguished qualities. While he himself tended to think of himself as A Man Without Qualities, best suited to a life of idleness and hedonistic pleasure. Or so he thought when asked. Which of course he never was, but, he did have the answer already for quoting if he ever was. Thus revealing that this was more a wish than reality. He wanted to think of himself as A Man Without Qualities having given himself up to idleness and hedonistic pleasure.

Anita knew better. The very thought of Wild-man as A Man Without Qualities brought a sniggering smile to her face. And the idea that he was best suited to a life of idleness and hedonistic pleasure brought forth a belly-laugh of enormous proportions from her enormous bosoms.

She knew only too well the gulf between the man and what the man thought of himself and it made her love him even more.

Which, of course, rankled with Willy in that he suspected that it was possible that she knew him better than he knew himself. But, undisturbed, by this thought, he continued to believe that he really was A Man Without Qualities.

Therefore, as remarkably it would seem, Wild-man found himself on the same side as Anita, in regard to any argument about his status. He would argue that he was A Man Without Qualities and she would argue that he was indeed A Man With Great Qualities one of them of which he possessed was Great Modesty, thus not allowing himself to even suggest that he had any Qualities at all let alone Great ones such as Modesty.

I'm sure the reader will neither be deluded by the machinations of the two-tailed fox nor the self-deluded image of Wild-man Willy.

Thus it was they entered The Great Organising Chamber — as it was now called — but previously it had been known as 'The Great Debating

Chamber of Tom Locruainda' if you remember from the novella 'The Enchanted Lake'.

Buried deep in the Forest of Stratherick, the ancient Manor House known as Tom Lockruairida which stands by the side of the tiny Lock Lockruairida, is a large 3 story 18th century stone built monolith, that was fully restored by the Elfin-kind Aliens in the 1950s as an Educational College specifically for the purpose of providing Scotland's Civil Servants and Bureaucratic Services with personnel of the highest degree of intelligence and preparedness for the arduous task of running the country. Only Aliens needed to apply as only Aliens were accepted.

The Aliens had handed this extensive building over to the Committee for establishing a Custodian Society for the world. It had been felt — by the Elfin-kind — that this building would serve best humankind as the nerve-centre in setting up the Custodian Society. Especially now that the vast majority of the Elfin-kind had returned to their home world.

The building was almost a living organism, so full of surveillance equipment was it. Feed-back systems upon feed-back systems which had been initially built into the building to help the Aliens in their original study of humankind and the process of 'The Rapture'. It was now put to use in the service of humankind, and, as a means of 'keeping an eye' on these novice civilization builders. Just, you understand, to make sure that they didn't stray too far from the optimal path of obtaining a Custodian Society of worth.

Anita and Wild-man entered The Great Organising Chamber in a state of great anticipation. The other members of the Committee were already present. Standing around in small groups in and around the arrangement of chairs and desks that made up the Committee's working environment.

This environment was structured as follows:

1 ————— 2 ————— 3 ————— 4

5 — 6

7 — 8

podium

9 — 10

11 — 12

13 ————— 14 ————— 15 ————— 16

The podium in the middle was reserved for whoever wished to address the Committee en total either fellow members or others.

The 16 members of the Committee could sit at any of the desks and were encouraged to change desk at every meeting. Thus ensuring that there would be no chance of cabals forming due to position of members and for another reason that will be revealed all in good time.

The 16 members comprised the following representatives of the Regions of the World:

2 From South America  
 2 From North America and Central America  
 2 From Africa  
 2 From Europa  
 3 From India and the Middle East  
 3 From China and South East Asia  
 2 From the Pacific Islands including Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea.

The 2 members from Europa we already know in the wonderful forms of Anita Cassidy and Wild-man Willy. The rest are as follows:

S A Santiago Lopez M  
 S A Rebecca Da Cruz G – means cross  
 N A Joe Cool – means idiot  
 N A Margarita Aguilar means haunt of eagles  
 Africa Ekon Abayoni M means bringer of happiness  
 Africa Alyssa Modise  
 India & M-E Anika Anand means Durga and joy  
 India & M-E Yazuf Ezra –Turkish  
 India & M-E Rajeev Swami means teacher  
 China & S-E Bao Wang means King  
 China & S-E Kamon Li means from the heart  
 China & S-E Lizzy Tao means the Way  
 Pacific Malissa Taro Solomon Islands  
 Pacific Mike Shepard New Zealand

The natural cabals that soon formed:

Cabal 1 — SA, NA, Europa and Pacific — 8

Cabal 2 — India & M-E and 1 African — 4

Cabal 3 — China & S-E and 1 African — 4

There are also 2 regions that could not join other regions because they weren't wanted — Japan and Russia. These would have to be kept informed of the progress being made towards a Custodian Society and considered for membership at a later date. Lots of room for friction and problems.

Psychological make up of individuals:

First, in Cabal 1:

SA, NA. Europa and Pacific

\*\*\*(SA) Santiago Lopez — 37 year old good-looking extroverted Argentinean, plays guitar and played football — married to actress with 2 children. Successful in putting himself forward as Representative for the Committee.

\*\*\*(SA) Rebecca Da Cruz — 40 year old school teacher from Brazil. Mother of 1 — single/divorced. Rep of Teachers Union was natural choice for Representative for the Committee. Good speaker and organiser.

\*\*\*(NA) Joe Cool — 50 year old Texan politician. Liberal Republican and country and western 'sad fuck'. Easy talking and listening. Married with 2 children and bored housewife partner. Children both dead with covid 25.

\*\*\*(NA) Margarita Aquila — Mexican hard-faced bitch still sexy in her late 40s. Popular with men and women as she is outspoken in her TV role as presenter. Not married but with numerous lovers — most of which are dead co-covid 25. Grown-up love child (m) from her teens.

(Europa) Anita Cassidy — Scotland and other world.

(Europa) Wild-man Willy — English writer

\*\*\*(Pacific) Malissa Taro — Solomon Islands Regional Rep before pandemic. Shoe in after. 37 single no children. Very dark with New Guinean features. Good administrator. Needles and confrontational. Whole family wiped out.

(Pacific) Mike Shepard — New Zealand policeman. Mid 40s amiable podgy fruitcake. With heart of gold that has been deep frozen since his

last marriage went belly up. Married 3 times divorced 3 times glad as they are all dead but new one on the horizon.

Cabal 2:

India & M-E, and 1 from Africa from Nigeria

\*\*\*Anika Anand means Durga and joy. Indian social worker in early 40s with 2 children. Single parent after her husband died of covid 25.

Driven by correction of injustices. Plump but strong. Shoo-in when she applied for position of rep for the Committee by local community.

\*\*\*Yazuf Ezra -Turkish. Bitter ex-religious leader after covid 25 killed his whole family and extended family. 39 but looks a lot older. Now has the zeal of the converted. From Islam to Custodian.

\*\*\*Rajeev Swami means teacher which he is. Gentle almost mild but is thankful that his wife and daughter survived. Excellent administrator and a person who everyone loves. 43 years old with singer for a wife and a sweet daughter. Students voted for him in great numbers the ones that survived that is.

\*\*\*Ekon Abayoni M means bringer of happiness. Local Government official who took control of local area after covid 25 was easy shoo-in after he was brought to prominence by Nigerian media. Age 33 with new partner, since pandemic, no children.

Cabal 3:

China and SE Asia, and 1 African from South Africa

Bao Wang means King. 47 year old Business man from Hangzhou china owner of several companies. Organised the social infrastructure after the collapse due to covid 25. Wife and children dead. Keeps busy to forget his great loss.

\*\*\*Kamon Li means from the heart. From Chang Mai Thailand 46 year old Singapore Chinese married to Thai woman 'my Darling'. Came to prominence after collapse of local government. Local Thais like him for his love of Thailand. Was a Political History Professor at Singapore University.

\*\*\*Lizzy Tao means the Way. 35 year old woman from Hong Kong. Single and very beautiful. Member of the Chinese Communist Party. Rose quickly through the ranks because of willingness to suppress the democracy movement and because of excellent organising abilities. her Zeal has transferred seamlessly from Communism to Custodian.

\*\*\*Alyssa Modise from Cape Town South Africa. 44 year old Academic in Local Government Studies. Family all dead due to covid 25. Organised region after collapse of administration. Big and remarkably jolly. Tested when some survivors balked at Custodian direction — ruthless in stamping this out.

