

[UNFINISHED DRAFT]

LANANG LEARNS MORE ABOUT PALM OIL

Table of Contents

LANANG LEARNS MORE ABOUT PALM OIL	- 3 -
LANANG ASKS THE COMPUTER A QUESTION	- 4 -
‘HUMANS! TRY TO LIVE WITH LESS USELESS STUFF!’	- 4 -
PALM OIL IS SEEN AS BAD BY BOTH LANANG & MR ALADDIN ...	- 4 -
PALM OIL FROM AFRICA GOES TO THE WHOLE WORLD	- 5 -
PALM OIL IS SEEN BY LANANG AS UNHEALTHY	- 6 -
PLASTIC TURNING THE EARTH INTO A SINGLE USE PLANET	- 6 -
FOOD WASTED	- 6 -
A RUBBISHED EARTH THE SYMBOL OF THE MODERN AGE.....	- 7 -
ONLY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFFER TRUE HOPE FOR THE PLANET..	7 -
THREE SISTERS: CORN, BEANS, SQUASH	- 8 -
THE HUMAN SPEAR WHICH IS THE HUMAN MIND	- 10 -
THE WORLD A HOSTAGE TO HUMAN WRONGS	- 14 -
A REAL FEAR HUMAN CHANGE FAR TOO SLOW TO SAVE THE PLANET	- 15 -
A SICKENING HUMAN CHEMICAL ‘CURE’ FOR PALM OIL FIELDS-	16 -
PALM OIL CHEMICALS ESPECIALLY UNHEALTHY FOR WOMEN .	- 16 -

TO QUOTE A ROMAN - 16 -

NATURE ALREADY KNOWS WHAT HUMANS HAVE TO LEARN.. - 16 -

IF ONLY HUMANS COULD STOP EATING UNHEALTHY FOODS! . - 17 -

PALM OIL IS NOT REALLY NEEDED IN BIOFUEL..... - 18 -

A HUMAN MADNESS: WHAT WAS LEARNT FROM A FEW HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS..... - 19 -

MIGRANT WORKERS..... - 21 -

TRANSMIGRANT WORKERS - 21 -

HUMAN BUSINESS WINS, MOTHER NATURE LOSES - 22 -

SMALL FARMERS - 24 -

PALM OIL WORKERS..... - 32 -

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES - 36 -

‘EARTH KILL’ MUST END..... - 37 -

CLEARING LAND FOR PALM OIL CAN ALSO MEAN BIG FIRES.... - 39 -

BIG FIRES CAN ALSO MEAN MANY ORANGUTAN DEATHS - 40 -

ORANGUTAN REFUGEES - 40 -

LANANG WORRIES MORE ABOUT HIS OWN BACKYARD - 42 -

A BRAVE ORANG UTAN’S LONE STAND - 42 -

PRIMATES BEING HARMED IN THE HUMAN WORLD - 43 -

ORANGUTAN ESCAPE ARTISTS - 45 -

NONJA THE ORANGUTAN PAINTER - 46 -

ORANGUTAN INTELLIGENCE: A SECRET WEAPON! - 46 -

ORANGUTAN INTELLIGENCE HIGHLIGHTED IN THE RAINFOREST - 47

-

KOKO & CHANTEK	- 48 -
TOOL MAKING & HANDSHAKES	- 48 -
LANANG SPEAKING TO HUMANS IS A BRAVE ACT.....	- 49 -
SO MUCH WONDER LOST SO FEW CAN GAIN MORE MONEY	- 50 -
TALE OF TWO CITIES.....	- 50 -
TRUTH IS DIFFERENT THROUGH DIFFERENT EYES.....	- 53 -
INDIGENOUS WISDOM IS NEEDED TO SAVE NATURE	- 54 -
WITH LESS TREES WAS ALWAYS RISK OF MORE SICKNESS	- 55 -
HUMAN GOVERNMENT	- 55 -
TO DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM.....	- 59 -
HEALTH WARNINGS FOR THE PLANET ALSO NEEDED!.....	- 60 -
SUPERMARKET DREAM WORLD.....	- 61 -
SOME HEARTFELT QUESTIONS BY LANANG ABOUT HUMANS .	- 62 -

LANANG LEARNS MORE ABOUT PALM OIL

Here in the slow time before the big mission to save the baby orangutans is a long description of what Lanang had learnt regarding some of the bad things that resulted from the human business interest in palm oil. It is to be noted that palm oil from an orangutan point of view cannot be seen as good in any way. Thus these sketchy notes display this understandably disapproving primate outlook which many humans may find of interest. Humans may also find that other related matters such as climate change and human rights are also looked at and sometimes in no exact order as Lanang often felt overwhelmed by the many problems that relate back to the way many modern day humans seem to be so willing to destroy so much of nature in order to gain one thing that is not even of any worth outside the human modern world: money. Thus as Lanang spent much time on Aladdin's computer organising for the mission he could not help but start to study the human interest in palm oil which has involved the terrible cutting down of so much rainforest. Sadly, every rainforest lost had been the home of many animals as well as for indigenous humans who had learnt to live in respectful harmony with nature. Lanang could see that indigenous peoples had much to teach the rest of the human race on how to live in a balanced way with nature so as to help overcome global warming which was not only becoming a big problem for humanity but was also harmful to all animals.

LANANG ASKS THE COMPUTER A QUESTION

'Humans! Try to live with less useless stuff!'

Always liking to ask the computer questions an upset Lanang who kept looking at the computer screen as it showed him all the craziness that went on in the human world that only brought so much disaster to his land he now asked this: *'What has been gained after billions of years of evolution to have humans watch stupid ads which trick them to buy things they did not need?'*

PALM OIL IS SEEN AS BAD BY BOTH LANANG & MR ALADDIN

For Lanang it was an important question to ask as beautiful old growth trees in which orangutans lived were being cut down to make way for one thing which humans really did not need at all: palm oil.

'Palm oil is hurting orangutans!'

It was also a big worry for Mr Aladdin and his fellow villagers as they had seen many other local indigenous peoples unfairly lose their lands for what was once mainly a local cooking oil used only in villages in far-away West Africa while it is said it was also used to make soap.

PALM OIL FROM AFRICA GOES TO THE WHOLE WORLD

Then over a hundred years ago African palm oil was used in England which in the new factory age there were many factory machines which needed grease and many factory workers who needed soap.

The way food was grown for many people living in this new machine modern world also changed as if to mirror how things were made piece by piece in factories. Thus there was now big single crop fields which Lanang knew with palm oil trees with many chemicals added to help keep them free from pests, weeds and plant sicknesses. Yet it was a worry that pesticides were also not good for the soil and would also run off into nearby rivers, streams, springs and wells which could poison the water.

There were also special fats added to big amounts of packaged foods so they would taste and look better as well as last longer. It was so the food would even still seem fresh when eaten even though many foods may have travelled a long way over a long time from farm to supermarket.

About fifty years ago the fats used for these changed foods were found to be unhealthy for human hearts so palm oil took their place. Supermarkets especially liked palm oil as it did not cost much so as to become a main way to lengthen the shelf life of their products to help them make more money. Many things in supermarkets now had palm oil in them like soap, candles, toothpaste, lipstick, shampoos, biscuits, junk foods, noodles, chocolate...oh and so much more to bedazzle the mind and eyes when going down shopping lanes...for the shopper to even find out palm oil was in mass-made breads.

As palm oil was cheap it was now used as a cooking oil in many countries including big nations such as India and China in Asia. A large area with many people and of course also with many supermarkets.

Africa was no longer the centre for growing palm oil fruit but Indonesia and Malaysia. Palm oil was brought to Indonesia while it was still the East Indies over a hundred years ago and ruled by the Dutch who came from far away Europe. However, palm oil trees which can only grow near the Earth's equator can now be found in many tropical areas of the world such as from Africa to South East Asia to Latin America. Nevertheless, palm oil fruit was still grown in ever larger numbers in Sumatra and Borneo where the orangutans live and still also face being wiped out in the wild along with

other well known animals of these two Indonesian islands such as elephants, rhinoceroses, sunbears, leopards, hornbills, frogs, tigers and other primates.

PALM OIL IS SEEN BY LANANG AS UNHEALTHY

With palm oil in so many things and with so much palm oil fruit now grown palm oil too was now seen as also possibly unhealthy for humans while it certainly was for many animals and rainforests. With much rainforest cut down to make way for palm oil trees palm oil was thus also a danger to the climate health of the whole planet.

As it was a medical study had also just come out claiming palm oil could possibly cause mouth and skin cancer. Lanang read how a world health group was saying that many people in the palm oil business were telling everyone it was not harmful to human health in the same way cigarette companies liked to play down any health problem even though it was medically known that smoking could cause lung cancer.

'Yes, cigarette companies do not like people to be told that their lives can be shortened by smoking cigarettes,' reasoned Lanang, 'as it means less people will buy them which means less money for cigarette companies. Palm oil companies also don't like it when people are told that palm oil may also be unhealthy for the human heart which was no real surprise when it was for sure that palm oil was in so much sugary, unhealthy junk food which humans should not eat anyway! Humans cut out junk food and you will also cut much palm oil!'

PLASTIC TURNING THE EARTH INTO A SINGLE USE PLANET

It seemed to Lanang that no matter what humans did with packaged foods it was hard to believe they would ever be as healthy or as fresh as the foods which nature grew in the wild like the delicious fruits that orangutans knew to pick and eat. Also all the single use plastic packaging used for this mainly supermarket food only added to the trashing of the earth from overfilled landfills to the coastlines, rivers and even to deep down in the seas and oceans tangling and choking not only many sea creatures to a horrible death but also birds and other animals on the land surface. *'...long strings wrapped up around the world as if to suffocate it...just like the many plastic pieces that have been found in so many dead animals...'*

FOOD WASTED

To think also of how amidst the global food supply chains of the world nearly a third of all food grown every year can go uneaten because it may not be suitable for supermarkets and other food outlets even though it would still be good enough to eat even well beyond the stamped use-by-dates; so much thrown away food which would still be appreciated by the many millions of humans who can still go hungry in the world. To even have those humans without money and food to go to the large rubbish piles of many cities to pick through them to find what can be sold at a pittance and even to be eaten out of quiet desperation. *‘To be poor and powerless in this human world can even be a death sentence.’* thought Lanang who wondered if any animal species had homeless and unfed members amongst them – of course there was none. To think also how starvation was also used as a weapon of war to use against fellow humans with some humans refusing to make sure other humans can have food available made to them because they are enemies and which happens still too often in these so called modern times.

A RUBBISHED EARTH THE SYMBOL OF THE MODERN AGE

‘Alas, what of this human ‘modern’ age...?’ queried Lanang to himself with his ever troubled mental focus returning to the rest of non-human life on the planet. *‘All this human technological ‘progress’ which from an animal point of view is mostly symbolized by the large amounts of e-waste and non-degradable garbage that litters and spoils the the natural world...yes...to have invented plastic which at best takes many generations to breakdown so as to be a menace to the natural world for so long. It is as dangerous to animals as to what nuclear energy waste is to humans which also lasts for a long time and which, of course, is also harmful to every other living thing-*

ONLY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFFER TRUE HOPE FOR THE PLANET

Yet to try to think positively, if only for a little while for Lanang dearly wanted to believe hope in a better future was worthwhile as there were still many humans who were willing to help those without luck and this not only included other humans but also the many luckless living non-humans who were usually suffering just as much if not more due to human ‘advancement’. However, hope can seem like an illusion when it was realised that it was still so often the case that there never seemed to be enough good humans with real power to change the world for the better or to have any goodness last a long time or to have any such human good to always be as justly rewarding to the natural world. Although humans had always sought to master nature usually from a mix of feeling threatened by nature’s great power as well as

wanting to rule over the natural world anyway there has been at the same time and especially before this present troubling modern age also proof of humans willing to co-operate with nature so as to work with the natural world rather than compete with it thus to study nature and then from what is learnt to improve human life while still remaining properly respectful to nature in a helpful way. Indigenous peoples were certainly best in regards to living with nature rather than against it and who have been proven to be the best guardians of the land they live on keeping it in a good state that humans of the modern world cannot do so to only destroy the natural world to take and take and take from it for their own use with no thought of the need to protect the earth for its ongoing regeneration.

THREE SISTERS: CORN, BEANS, SQUASH

Yet, not only could indigenous peoples be trusted to keep the forest rather than destroy it but they could also be best trusted to grow food while still having such a necessary human activity remain in balance with nature which is equally needed for the survival of everything on this ecologically fragile green and blue planet.

Brown. Black. Grey. The drab colours of human carbon pollution and human mechanical industry. Covering the earth. The planet's beauty not only hidden from the birds fluing on high in the skies but also to have stained lands, to have the earth slowly dying. Modern industry is not only to be found in the cities built up by humans with steel, asphalt and concrete but also in the countryside where in the last hundred years in the modern world farming harvesting machines have often replaced human beings to till the earth with single crops often lined out in straight rows which despite the promise of plentiful bounties has also come at great cost to the soil to have it also dry out to lose its rich colours to be dull and faded of life like the heavy skies over modern humanity's mechanized cities.

Human industry killing the planet.

Tilling killing the soil.

Wheat. The first crop of human agriculture. A new development of human civilisation with the rise of cities would finally follow. Yet, nature was also to be finally left behind in many human minds. Nature was even to be kept away as much as possible only to be seen by humans as useful for growing food or for holiday relaxation.

Yes, clear blue sky above nature's still untouched landscapes beyond the hazy skies above the cities.

Natural landscapes being further pushed to the edges of the earth's territories by the ever increasing single crop fields, cattle pastures and mineral mines with forests with their variety of plants, trees, animals and forest peoples being

cut down and leaving all living things within them who had survived this destruction: homeless. The cleared lands also poisoned. More death. For these homeless animals and peoples had become to be seen as invaders on the lands that were once lived on by them but now taken over by those humans who were the real invaders. Flowing living lines of the natural world replaced by still straight lines of large farm fields. It is this difference in patterns which interested this non-human observer. Lanang had learnt that when humans learnt to crossbreed wild plants and grasses to make food production both plentiful and predictable to help guarantee their survival it had been wheat which had proven to be one of the most successful foods to be grown. The bread of life. It was one of the many steps that would be taken by humans to take control of nature. Civilisations would rise and fall in the thousands of years to come and one thing that stayed the same amongst them was to grow crops to keep humanity fed. Yet Lanang would see that in the last few hundred years when Europeans from Spain, Portugal, England, France, Netherlands crossed the oceans to take over other far away lands with other ways of growing foods would also be swept aside so as to still only have crops grown singly as along with being the known way to grow crops for food it was also now seen as the best way to grow crops to make money. Sugar, tobacco, cotton plantations with slaves from Africa put to work on them so as to have this single crop large scale agriculture which with the use of cheap labour would bring in high profits for the plantation owners would eventually become the role model centuries later for palm oil plantations first in West Africa then in Indonesia and Malaysia and then beyond to other areas of the tropics such as in Papua New Guinea and Latin America. Yes, this is how Lanang saw it for although palm oil workers were not slaves in the same way as African slaves who had been captured and chained and brought over on crowded ships across the Atlantic Ocean to work in the Americas the palm oil workers were like slaves having to work long hours risking their health and being poorly paid and having no other choice but to work on the palm oil plantation when there was no other work available or were migrants who had been tricked to come to work on a palm oil plantation when they thought they were going to be offered a better job in a new country but now to find themselves in debt to the people who had arranged their work and travel. These foreign palm oil workers could not escape while the palm oil companies held onto their passports and so although such mistreated people were not officially slaves they were still slaves nevertheless being trapped in a tough work situation whereby they did not have the freedom to make the necessary life choices to get away from what they doing and return to their own countries or to find different work which they would be happy to do and were properly paid and well respected as human beings who truly deserved to have good lives; as it was when their present work masters saw

high profits as more important than having any high moral sense towards their labouring work force then they would stay feeling trapped working on the big palm oil fields; even though they were not physically in chains they were mentally so money wise for they did not have the necessary financial power to free themselves. Yet these toiling labourers kept working as they did with the hope that one day they would be able to somehow finally have a better life; although from Lanang's point of view it was a false hope which for him made their present terrible work lives even more cruel. Nevertheless, what truly mattered to Lanang now was that the earth itself had been made to become a slave with ever much more land of the planet made to work only for humanity and for that land to become sick and even die like the enslaved humans who were forced to work on the same land by the same human masters who did not respect either these humans who were seen as lesser beings or the natural world which had no worth to them other than what wealth could be gained from *selling* what the earth had inside itself or could be grown on it. Thus along with growing what would become money or *cash* crops that were best grown in tropical climates there would be other plants that were foods that would be taken back to Europe which would also be grown for the purposes of making money and in a way that would best make the most profits.

So Lanang now focused his attention on corn, beans and squash which were grown far differently in the Americas where they came from compared to Europe where they were grown singly like wheat on which most farming was modelled on from ancient times. In the Americas these three foods were grown together and would be named the 'three sisters' to show there was a relationship between them which was to the good of all three crops and to the earth in which they grew which was all recognised by the farmers who their indigenous descendants to this day still know it is best to plant them together.

THE HUMAN SPEAR WHICH IS THE HUMAN MIND

It was at this time Lanang started to better record his thoughts to help him to understand the nonsensical mind-set of humanity which at many times seemed beyond all sensible animal understanding. Here is some of Lanang's early writing.

'It seems these special seeds were made by humans willing to try and be masterful over nature by growing crops that could not be hurt by chemicals used to kill crop-choking weeds. I have even read that a new cotton plant also had a chemical in it to kill any insect-

To stop to have a first thought as to why cotton was important to humanity.

'Cotton is used by humans to make clothes to cover their bare bodies.'

Yes, to think humanity's best hunting spear was not the one held in a human hand but any idea thrown out from the human mind which has been used to try take over the whole world for the human race.

'So although humans are bodily weak compared to so many animals they can always at least think up ways to still live in the natural world. For example: from making tools, weapons, clothes, homes through to using fire as well as learning to grow food-

Lanang then stopped writing for a moment to think about his own kind of which what he now thought maybe mentioned to humans at a later time: *'...us...orangutans do not need clothes or fire...heaven forbid I ever show my orangutan friends a laptop – powered by a solar battery of course – to sit high in a tree canopy to use for one's curiosity or amusement or to learn as I have been doing about human foolishness...of course, we can use instead other so called tools like twigs to dig out ants for a little change in our mostly vegetarian diet...as well as make sleeping nests. We didn't bother to farm the land as us orangutans already know how to live in balance with nature so we already make sure there is always a steady food supply from what is available in the rainforests we wonderfully live in...yet, which...because of human imbalances...so much rainforest has now been cut down...'*

To write some more.

In the past it had always been in response to the natural world that humans had found new ways to live in the world around them and by doing so by always having a healthy respect for nature. In recent years there has been a new theory that says how pieces of a comet hitting the earth had caused a sudden world wide ice age many thousands of years ago forcing humans – who had been used to living in a planet that had been warming up from an earlier ice age – to find new ways to live in a suddenly changed world. Thankfully, unlike the asteroid that killed off the dinosaurs this smaller cosmic event did not kill off humanity but humans did have to make changes to their lives to survive and as it turns out farming was one result. In an area of the Earth that humans would one day generally know as the Middle East there were people who having moved to more liveable local areas who had learnt to plant seeds from the plants they would gather to eat. It was a good chance whoever planted the first of these seeds was a woman. Although, from recent archaeological discoveries, it is looking more likely women would also go on hunts with men they were also involved in carrying out many other village duties such as collecting fruit so it was also likely they started the farming revolution by which humans could grow much food and even store it for those times when harvests were not as successful. As humans had some more control over their lives by having food stores they now had the spare

time to do even more thinking. From living off the land and in small villages humans would go onto living in cities inventing ever more things and thinking out ever more new ways to live so as to have what was known as civilization to come about. For many societies civilization would mean having big cities and often usually led by men who stayed physically strong with these one-time hunters now becoming soldiers while women would generally lost their physical strength over time now being left to mainly take care of the home. (Female orangutans would not put up with this and as it is many human women are making sure they are no longer seen as second class people!). Yet, as cities grew and although farming was still important many humans started to think that they could be lords over nature. Many indigenous people because they made more effort to stay in balance with nature and knew how to live plentifully from nature in a more direct way did not usually have big towns or cities so other humans in their 'modern' short-sightedness thought indigenous people were not 'civilized'. Yet, as it turns out by knowing how to live wisely with nature and still have every human need satisfied indigenous people now appear to be the much more civilized because it is modern civilization which has brought about so much damage to the planet that life on earth is now seriously threatened.

In any case, nature would always remind humanity in the cities and towns that it was only one big drought or big earthquake away from having much of what it had built up to all fall into ruin. Thus over thousands of years it can be seen that many great civilizations have come and gone with nature at times having played a role in bringing about their fall. So while humans remembered this while humans remembered the giant earthquakes or long droughts or great floods most humans were always aware that no matter how great a city was it was still important to take notice of nature so as to make the necessary changes if nature again chose to throw out yet another too big natural disaster upon humanity. However, a few hundred years ago it finally came to pass that humans started to feel that their ability to think was so great and that by now they had learnt to deal with nature so well as not only to still be on this earth in great numbers and to have so many city-states that nature could never again be too strong to destroy humanity although nature could still wipe out a city with a volcano explosion or big tidal wave. Yes, natural disasters could still happen but there would still be enough of humanity left to keep the human race going. It seemed humans were right to think this way for even in recent times humans had shown to be so smart in this new modern age of big industry as to be able to build skyscrapers that could sway side to side in an earthquake but not fall down and to even have warning systems in place so as to give many people enough time to escape from danger areas brought on by an earthquake, tidal wave, flood or hurricane. Although there were still droughts and people could starve there were always other parts of the world where much food could still be grown and so it was more of a matter of having humans helping each other so food could be shared to those who did not have it rather than having to worry about nature having a bad affect on the whole world's food system. A drought as big as the world was

unthinkable – until now – where in recent decades as humans keep destroying so much of the natural world such as its rainforests that nature has now chosen to show from the arctic to the tropic that there is now nowhere safe for humanity to go too to escape from her anger which has only been brought on from being treated so badly by human beings.

From melting ice caps to dried out farmlands and to new deadly viruses spreading throughout the world humanity is in deep shock. Humans will hopefully understand that if it does not quickly return to showing deep respect for nature then the world could really see nearly all of human civilisation fail on a global level. Perhaps humanity would not be wholly wiped out but so much damage would be done that it would still seem like a very big defeat after thinking it was no longer possible for nature to destroy much of the human world. Perhaps, also that the only way human civilization would survive into the future would be by way of indigenous peoples who would survive to show that for humanity to see itself as truly advanced it must always live with nature rather than trying to always try to be master over it.'

To see how trying to be better than nature would mean that humanity could really be no better.

'Chemicals whether for killing weeds or insects cannot work in harmony with nature. Human made poisons spoil the soil in which crops are grown. The human claim that soil erosion can be lessened if chemicals are properly used is dismissed by orangutans when it is seen that these chemicals are often overused due to a misguided human belief that if a little use works well then using much more will work even better. All that can be finally said is the nutrients and all other good organic things that are in the soil lose their life force lose over time as these chemicals keep on soaking into the ground-

So Lanang wrote in a forceful, direct way for after looking over many human points of view including reading company sponsored reports which said how they were wonderfully 'improving' on nature as well as nature friendly reports which said the natural world was being harmed by what humanity was doing with its crops and so forth this young orangutan could not help but be swayed by a belief that nature would always remain special when properly balancing out the benefits and risks on how the natural world can offer life through food and not only for humans but for all living things. Although not an expert and knowing it was important to always properly look at anything that humans did from many different points of view Lanang could not help but keep top of mind how humans had done so much damage to the natural world in which they lived. Thus Lanang naturally found that he would spend more time going over any report which matched up with the terrible things done by humans against the natural world which had been sadly seen and felt by his species.

It was clear that money-minded humans had a new spear which came only from their thoughts and that was the one which had at its word spear point to hunt down and kill off the common sense idea in which many other good humans would have and that is it was bad to make money at the cost of the natural world. In its place was to be put the idea that nature had to come second place because the many things of nature such as its animals, minerals and plants were only in the world for humanity to use otherwise the human world itself would not be good as it could be. In the human business mind nature had become prey like hunting for an animal to eat in order to stay alive and anybody who went against this necessary way to live in order to stay alive would lead humanity to a bad end. Yet what such businesspeople really worried about was that they could not live as well as they would like which included having much money for to live in balance with nature and only use what was needed rather than 'take all' until 'nothing was left' meant they could not be as rich as they would like even though it would be their overuse of the natural world that would not only lead nature to a bad end but also humanity as well as the climate emergency now developing in Lanang's lifetime was clearly showing.

THE WORLD A HOSTAGE TO HUMAN WRONGS

Many humans to Lanang seemed good but they were not fully aware of the real danger to the planet or to its plants and animals and these were kept hidden from them by powerful business forces. This pro-business situation against the natural world was made worse by governments which chose not to legally enforce big companies to be environmentally responsible. It was clear billions of humans were being kept as climate hostages – along with all animals and plants – as the move away from the use of fossil fuels for energy and transport are for too slow with a still too strong interest in human wealth rather than the planet's health still holding back the quick change to renewables that is desperately needed.

Although many people were rightly beginning to protest on behalf of the planet knowing that there had to be global system change to truly build upon the personal changes many people were trying to make to their lifestyle choices so as to save the planet. Yes, many people were trying to do the right thing by the planet and so did not have to feel guilty or ashamed that trying their best was not always proving to be good enough when powerful business forces were still working against their best efforts for instance in the way the whole global business model was designed in a way that still wanted to keep ripping apart the earth which also – by the way – was not for the gain of many humans but was really only for the gain of a few large businesses. Along with oil and gas there was also large timber logging, meat and food crop

companies tearing down trees and clearing land destroying the homes of billions of wild animals with billions of other animals imprisoned in factory farms to be killed and eaten with palm oil also so heavily involved in all this wrong doing against the planet and those – including other humans – who lived within its natural world. To keep destroying the planet also had to stop even when renewable energy was being taken up as Lanang had noted that a mineral such as cobalt that was used in modern human objects from mobile phones to electric cars was being dug up in central Africa in a terrible way that was not good for the local natural world and human villages as well as for the many still suffering local human workers thus the bad practices from the fossil fuel age had to also end as the human world made its overdue necessary shift to the renewables age.

A REAL FEAR HUMAN CHANGE FAR TOO SLOW TO SAVE THE PLANET

It was a human world in which still too many of its most powerful people in both government and business who still seemed far too more allied to human interests over the interests of the planet. Lanang still very much feared that the very big change in human history that was needed immediately to save the planet may come too late – if it came at all. As it is far too many less powerful humans who could help to pressure the more powerful to make a real difference only seemed to be realising – at the relatively ‘last minute’ in global terms – the many climate dangers coming their way. Thus making it harder to avoid the climate tragedy that would be falling down not only on them but on all living things.

‘These humans are so slow in thought and action! If only they took more notice of the animals around them – if they were not killing them – to see how they are always ready to run away from weather dangers ever so more quickly than them! We along with Gaia have tried to warn humans about the great harm being done to the planet but alas they do not listen to any of us well enough!’

A tear trickled from Lanang’s right eye down his sweating cheek for he also thought of the many animals – including his fellow orangutans – who had not been quick enough to escape from the many ways humanity had both spoiled and outright destroyed the natural world leading to many human-made disasters such as the big fires in which many animals had died for no animal could believe that another living being – which was *homo sapien* – could be so irresponsible in treating nature so badly so as to cause such ‘unnatural’ catastrophes to happen; it went against all normal instincts of life which every other living being was so sensibly in tune with.

A SICKENING HUMAN CHEMICAL ‘CURE’ FOR PALM OIL FIELDS

Reading only those reports that were against those human businesses which poorly treated the natural world it came as no surprise for Lanang to learn how water near crops that were covered with poisonous chemicals could also become horribly polluted when such chemicals spilled into streams and rivers. Fish and plants could also die along with also badly affecting the health of villagers who used any such water to wash, swim or drink. As if the natural world was not already badly affected enough by such human made problems towards it they were also especially common where palm oil fields near villages which also brought many health problems to humans along with any palm oil worker not well covered with protective clothes also becoming sick from using these chemicals.

PALM OIL CHEMICALS ESPECIALLY UNHEALTHY FOR WOMEN

Lanang had also learnt how on palm oil fields many women had become ill as they were often given the job to spray the palm oil trees while the men were given the harder physical task of stripping the trees of their palm oil fruit; however, male palm oil workers no matter what they were doing could also become sick. Nevertheless, Lanang could not help but think how terrible it was if a young woman became sick from such dangerous chemicals especially if she wanted to have children as she now had to worry if her baby would be born unhealthy. Much work in the palm oil fields was seasonal with low pay and for women it just seemed a far worse job situation with men more often than not given any better long-term work. Yet, for the first woman of the world which was Mother Earth it was certainly also bad for her whenever humanity harmed the land. It seemed like such a double attack when the land was hurt with humans saying at the same time that they were trying to make a ‘land of plenty’ rather than a wasteland.

TO QUOTE A ROMAN

For Lanang say to himself what Mr Aladdin often liked to quote - when talking about palm oil plantations - from the Roman historian and senator Tacitus: ‘They made it a wasteland and called it peace.’

NATURE ALREADY KNOWS WHAT HUMANS HAVE TO LEARN

Lanang points out how nature can often be much better than humanity in adapting to an ever changing world.

'...these modern day humans who are so willing to involve themselves with the natural world can actually be a good thing if the natural world is treated equally but so often these humans think they can do so much better than nature. However, nature already knows much better than humanity how to effortlessly have plants change so they can keep on living when the world around these life forms involves itself in change as so happens every year with the seasons or through whole planetary geological ages which can last thousands or millions of years. It has to be remembered that while humans have to work so hard to find a way to live through a sudden ice age it is the case that nature can simply carry on with the handiwork of life-giving change as for instance having a wildflower become equipped to live in a sudden ice age. Nature always does what seems straightforwardly possible to Mother Earth which to humans appears to be a miracle. (Yes, what nature can so often bring about has often be thought by narrow thinking humans - limited by their limited imaginations - to be impossible).

Nature also knows how everything is related to everything else and how everything has to be in balance so everything can live well together and adjust accordingly if the whole planet calls for change which in turn can also include those humans who choose to understand how to live closely with nature and so are able to open up their eyes - as well as their minds - to those secrets which nature is willing to show to such wise humans who are willing to learn so as to know how to properly work with nature to better their own lives and to do so without hurting the natural world. For nature to even have with humanity's help a new corn spring up to find a place in nature's world due to those humans working with nature who understand nature's moods to make sure there is no anger from the earth as there seems to be with some of the artificial ways being developed separately from nature in order to grow new crops...'

Yes, Lanang did not see any problem with humans putting their minds to work to bring about natural solutions that could help the planet. Human inventiveness was to be welcome with the problem being: not at the cost of having nature be only seen as a laboratory in which humans make new ingredients that pretend to be and act like life. *'Humans should know that nature is not a test site for life but is life itself.'*

IF ONLY HUMANS COULD STOP EATING UNHEALTHY FOODS!

Nevertheless, in the modern world too many people were eating too much fatty food and not enough fully natural food which could just be as simple as fresh fruit and vegetables along with water instead of soft drink. In the last few decades with also too much sugar in fatty foods too many people were

becoming overweight which brought on a whole lot of human sicknesses. If only people could eat only healthy food which would also be good for the planet and not foods with palm oil, sugar, salt and anything else that was unnaturally added and which also had too much of the wrong fats that could risk human heart diseases ever rising. It all seemed so simple to Lanang as it made sense humans would not want to be unhealthy but he had finally sadly understood that humans were not always very sensible with their food choices as it seemed too hard for them to stop eating junk food when it was so cheap to buy and very sweet or extra tasty even though it was known it was not good for their bodies.

'If only humans could use common sense so those bad foods and other things with palm oil in them would no longer be bought thus saving the orangutans and the rainforests!'

PALM OIL IS NOT REALLY NEEDED IN BIOFUEL

Along with foods and other items that can be bought in shops that had palm oil it could also be added to biofuel. Lanang learnt the first type of biofuel was a plant based petrol for cars and trucks that was meant to be better for the planet than fossil oil based petrol. It has been a mistake to use palm oil in biofuel because it was not only leading to even more rainforest loss but as a result of this deforestation it was also leading to the globe to still become warmer.

The planet was hurting in so many ways because of so much palm oil being grown.

Thankfully, there were countries willing to use better biofuels and even biogas that would not be plant based but would use food waste that otherwise would be thrown away. Yet sadly there were still palm oil friendly countries like those who had big palm oil companies who still wanted them to make big money by still using palm oil in biofuel. What was also bad was that for those palm oil companies that worried there may be stronger efforts to have palm oil made that did not involve clearing rainforests there was a move to make palm oil just for biofuel because it was hoped by such palm oil companies that it would not matter as much from where the palm oil came from. In Lanang's eyes it made matters even worse in any good human effort to stop cutting down rainforest to have land cleared for palm oil.

Yet Lanang hoped that - although there would be new environmental problems that would need to be solved - as the world started making many more electric powered cars, trucks and buses that at least biofuel with palm oil would anyway become useless with fuel engines finally becoming outdated and to be looked at as the 'horse and buggy' of the last hundred years. (To think though that the first electric cars had been invented a

hundred years ago and were well liked until petrol powered cars – being cheaper to buy – became more popular; while although greenhouse climate change had even been first predicted way back in the 1850s it was in the early 1900s still an unimaginable planetary problem for most humans to understand. As it was cars would become dangerous for both horse and carriages and walkers who started to be called ‘jaydrivers’ and ‘jaywalkers’ as if cars now had more of a right to be on roads even though it was cars that could kill them which did not make people happy while for Lanang reading about all this car history he was glad that being high in the trees that no orangutan could become a ‘jayclimber’. It was learnt ‘jay’ was a slang word for someone inexperienced which simply made Lanang nickname the human race: ‘jayhumans’ for seeming to still be so inexperienced in not being able to stop hurting the natural world). Human scientists were also looking at making biofuel with microalgae or even plant agave which is grown in desert areas as well as also trying to make green hydrogen which may if human inventiveness can one day make it technically possible perhaps be also used by jet airliners. (Green hydrogen being claimed by some humans to be really eco-friendly rather than other ‘coloured’ hydrogens which may use fossil fuels to be produced while it was hoped green hydrogen could rely on electricity that has come about by way of renewable energy. As it was very little hydrogen was presently made with the use of renewable energy so this has to be much improved if it is to help be a real green solution; it is just like using palm oil in biodiesel is also not a true green solution to replace fossil fuel petrol). Palm oil and other food crops really did not need to be used to make biofuel for human use when planet friendly recycled food waste could be used so as to help save rainforests. Never again should trees be lost for the human use of energy.

A HUMAN MADNESS: WHAT WAS LEARNT FROM A FEW HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS

Although Lanang wished it would happen more often at least there were at times some countries that would not buy palm oil from those palm oil companies that treated their workers badly as well as doing very little about stopping to wrongfully carry out deforestation. It was a heartening sign for those few good humans who worked at showing how there were palm oil companies that did the wrong thing not only against nature but also against humans. Yet Lanang also thought along with too many trees being cut down human rights problems were also very widespread especially where palm oil was grown in a big way and so he thought many more palm oil companies should not be allowed to sell palm oil. However, it seemed to Lanang unless

there was a big change in the way human power worked there could not be the widespread changes needed to improve the lives of those humans trapped in the circuit of palm oil. After all, Lanang had noticed how some governments very much liked to keep the support of big business to stay in power; thus it seemed governments were more often than not only really willing to deal with the worst cases of labour rights issues in palm oil companies when they became well known to the general public. Governments then knew they had to look like they were doing something about such palm oil company wrongdoings so they could keep people's trust and support by having them think their leaders were doing the right thing that was good for everybody.

Although as many an international gathering has shown whether it be about the climate or human rights what governments publicly said they would do was not always followed up with any real action. Nevertheless, it was noted by Lanang that if there was any official action it still only usually happened when some good humans went out of their way to find out about the bad treatment of human workers or some other equally bad thing like illegal logging; it was then the world would be told as a way to pressure palm oil companies and governments to make some right come about from any clear wrong. Yet if Lanang could have his way nearly all palm oil companies would not be allowed to sell what they grew!

'Animal rights. Tree rights. People rights. All mean nothing to many human businesses when there is money to be made.' Lanang sadly thought. *'The world must open its eyes and put a stop to this human madness!'* He angrily added.

When Lanang started to go over what many palm oil workers had to wrongly put up with he became aware it was no wonder that many orangutans had suffered at the hands of humans when they were able to also be so bad against their own kind. The disturbing information that Lanang found which was all too much to take in all at once because there was so much of it showed that human beings had been badly treated in so many different ways for so many years that he at least tried the best he could to show some of what he found in a clear way. *'Although I admit and to anybody who asks me: I am not always successful...the task before me is large...yet, I know the real world is not tidy and well-ordered...so unlike many humans who always want complicated issues presented very simply with equally neat headlines I will write more like someone walking slowly through a thick fog which means having to study the ground before me more carefully before I feel certain about taking the next step. It may mean that I might still mistakenly fall over...but slowly, ever so slowly I'll still head forward until I reach some clear mental space with a much clearer understanding of the mad strangeness of a human world that is allowing my*

world to be torn apart.' Yes, Lanang was surely trying to understand the many wrongs of the human world with the one horizon of any clear space opening up in his mind being that which lined up with viewing the farthest edges one could see on any clear day of the biggest palm oil plantations that had come about by clearing so much of his natural world. It was a horizon which Lanang wanted to disappear from his sight with his mind wanting a rainforest returning over all that humans had cut away; to hope for a real world that only had sunlight coming through a high tree canopy above him; to see only surrounding old growth trees and no more human made cleared spaces. To open one's eyes to look forward to nature's victory which could also be a win for those humans who have also lost out just as nature has lost out to those other humans who placed their own advancement ahead of their shared responsibility to help take care of the planet for all animal, plant and human life.

MIGRANT WORKERS

There was so many terrible things to look at but one of them which first took Lanang's shocked attention was how there were many palm oil workers who had come from other countries which was partly due to there not being enough local people willing to work in large palm oil fields. Lanang wondered if this is because palm oil work was not seen as a great job by many humans....? Anyhow, many of the so called migrant workers had been tricked into believing they would be going to well paid jobs to only then find themselves doing much hard work for little pay for big palm oil companies. These workers were like slaves as they had to pay back the money they had borrowed from those business people who had taken them to look for good work in another country even though they had been lied too. It would take such palm oil workers a long time to pay off their debts so they felt trapped; especially when, on top of becoming victims to such trickery they would often have their passports kept by palm oil companies; this was to make sure they could not easily escape back to the countries they came from in case they wished to leave the palm oil fields before they would be allowed too. Lanang wondered if for those migrant workers who also lived in company housing at palm oil plantations far away from any big towns and cities if they felt like prison camp prisoners...? To have gone to another country so as to try and improve one's life...so as to become truly free... and only end up living like a slave is a terrible thing...worse still, to be made voiceless...so no one can hear your cries for help...at least there were some good humans who went out of their way to find such lost human souls to tell the world about them and to find ways to have them freed...

TRANSMIGRANT WORKERS

As it was people could be kept like prisoners in many different ways...to learn how years ago in Indonesia the government had people who lived on its main island go live on other islands where they were handed land to earn a living from growing their own palm oil. Many people would also end up working for a palm oil company. Not only would people be more evenly spread out over this many islanded nation - as noted by the national government - but from its point of view it would also have on these other islands more people who it expected would be more trusting of it. For the national government was worried that the people who already lived on these other islands would perhaps prefer to govern themselves and the national government did not want this to ever happen as it would mean having less power. It seemed palm oil could also serve a favourable role for a government as well as a money role for the palm oil companies who surely liked what the government was doing and which helped them to grow a 'palm oil empire' as if it was the most 'natural' thing in the world that Mother Earth's rainforests on islands like Borneo and Sumatra were being replaced by human-made palm oil plantations.

As for land on which transmigrant small farmers were assigned on which to start growing palm oil trees it can be seen in some reports against transmigration that such land could also have been taken away from indigenous peoples who as far as the government was concerned really had no say when it came to land rights with land on which palm oil would be grown as seen as 'empty'. Thus in the years to come there would be in-fighting between local and transmigrant communities over land especially in parts of Indonesia where local people were more independent minded and did not like the national government trying to take over their lives as well as their way of life. Of course, it was in such resisting regions where transmigrants were sent so that part of Indonesia would finally have a population which was more friendly to the national government. There would also be many transmigrants who had no experience in farming so it became even harder for them to make a living so despite all the promises of a better life they would stay poor. For the rainforest though it was always a lose-lose situation for even if transmigrants had success it would only encourage other people to come meaning more land to be cleared thus more deforestation would happen. For those transmigrants for whom it all became too much due to the inability to properly grow palm oil trees or unable to handle the growing anger of remaining local people who felt their way of life was being lost as well as land been stolen from them these relatively 'new arrivals' would if they had the chance, being like refugees, leave, except to only go back to their homelands and do so by selling off what they had to other unsuspecting transmigrants or even to palm oil officials who could thus make larger the very land size of the palm oil fields from which more money could then be made even for themselves.

HUMAN BUSINESS WINS, MOTHER NATURE LOSES

Another 'normalcy' which was encouraged by the national government was to have people switch to palm oil as their main cooking oil so there would be an increase in local demand to buy it rather than other already-used cooking oils. It is like how after World War Two there was a rise in single use plastics which was one way big businesses could keep making money after there was less need to make many weapons with the arrival of peace. If only people went back to the less wasteful days of making and using better quality things that could last for a longer time instead of adopting a throw-away practice which in regards to cheap petro-chemical plastic has become a life threatening curse on the planet, which had killed many animals, polluted whole oceans and shorelines with plastic rubbish - which includes food packaging - even washing up in far away Antarctica along with much micro-plastic being in the fish that humans eat. At least there has been an ever growing human interest to re-use things but for now there was much still being thrown away or being placed in landfill. However, although there would be many good humans who would be willing to do what was right by the planet by avoiding throw away items it was difficult when so many things were being made that were still designed to last only a certain amount of time so as to have people buy a new 'updated' product of the same thing. Thankfully, shoppers were becoming accustomed to stop using plastic bags with many people taking up using reusable cloth ones. (Orangutans did not even mind if humans returned to using brown paper shopping bags as long as the paper did not come at the cost of cutting down old growth trees). The new material way of life that was encouraged by much 'corporate-speak' in richer countries like the United States after this big war tapped into a human desire - after so much national sacrifice - to spend on many household items as well as cars as city suburbs grew ever outwards so as to now enjoy a comfortable life. It was in this new modern world would also - at the loss of the corner store - be the rise of the supermarket which became an easier and cheaper way to shop with their big car parks and which palm oil would play its part with processed foods. Yet, the groundwork - literally with asphalt roads and car parks as fossil fuels - such as oil for cars and plastic as well as coal to help provide energy for new homes and factories - streaked ahead with an ever increasing human demand - was being unwittingly laid out for humanity to enter into its biggest war yet; not with each other but with Gaia herself for as those humans mainly in rich countries strove to make life even better for themselves - with a luxurious few having far beyond what they ever really needed - they were making life for the planet ever more terrible which of course included so much deforestation along with the carbon dirtying of the atmosphere until mother nature had to finally lash out against her most troublesome children. The climate emergency as humans call it need to take stock that they had brought this catastrophe upon themselves and it was they who needed to change their ways - of which so many of its political and business leaders seemed so slowly reluctant to do - to bring about some lasting peace between the human race and the planet. Especially when it looked like that humanity would lose badly if it did not do anything to calm an angry Gaia.

Nevertheless, in the present ever disastrous short-term along with an increased interest from high profit minded supermarkets as well as from greenwashing sectors of the biofuel industry there would be an ongoing growing market for palm oil. As for Indonesia, as the national government became better managers of its now growing palm oil agribusiness industry and with over time allowing it to fall evermore into private hands this fruit - which was first imported from Africa by the Dutch - had become an important part of the Indonesian economy. Yet, this human directed 'new normal' was also becoming ever worse for orangutans, other wildlife, the rainforests and indigenous communities. Humans had to understand that how much money they make from businesses which also harm the environment should be a measure of human success; especially when such human short-sightedness has only proven from the planet's point of view to have been a big human failure. Yet, when one thinks of the big war hundreds of millions of people had been willing to live in a different way for a greater good and it was up to leaders of the world to encourage people to do the same as well as to bring about a real change to the way things and energy are made and provided so as to make it so much easier for the human race as a whole to choose to do what was necessary to help save the planet and thus also for humans to save themselves.

SMALL FARMERS

Even though many small farmers had done much damage to the natural world especially with their slash and burn methods to clear and prepare land for palm oil trees which no orangutan or right minded human can ever excuse there are also some humans - who although they want all such hurtful practices to stop - have at times also felt sorry for such small farmers.

I. A Historical Reminder

In many cases they were humans who had been encouraged by a new government - led by a man who was once a general - to move to a new island such as Sumatra and Borneo to become palm oil farmers only then to find themselves in long-term debt to the government or a palm oil company who had lent them money so as to help them to start growing palm oil trees. Thus those high ranking people with much power who could have many people move to the other islands rather than such less powerful people themselves should be the first to be blamed for palm oil expanding across Borneo which along with such influential Indonesians can also include those influential Malaysians who also had palm oil become a main crop in the two big areas of Borneo which belonged to an also newly independent Malaysia which before had been governed by the British (who much like the Dutch in Indonesia were also the first to bring palm oil to South East Asia's tropics). Palm oil started to become a main crop for both of these neighbouring countries from the 1960s onwards for now beyond all

expectations to be the two countries in the world to be making most of this 'red liquid gold'.

For many of these small palm oil farmers their hopes of having a very good life were held back by the money they owed to the national government or later on to private palm oil companies – when the national government in the decades to come started to allow private businesses to have their own palm oil plantations – for providing for them the seeds, fertilizers but mostly not for free and thus costs had to be paid back and often with interest (which means money added on over time on the original loan) yet there were also other expenses such as insecticides to kill pests that can spoil the palm oil trees as well as the protective clothing and other tools needed in palm oil farming.

All in all whether the small farmer was a transmigrant or a local villager who had been won over by a palm oil company to have their land made available for palm oil it would still end up becoming – in relative terms for a person who was not rich in the first place – a big money outlay which meant that paying back any money that was owed was a real problem and perhaps an unexpected one. The mistake of many small palm oil farmers was to trust the palm oil companies which often made it look like – for the local villager palm oil farmer especially – that enough money could be made from palm oil to pay back all debts as well as to make a good living for one's self and family.

II. Legal Trickery.

Overall, outright land stealing would more usually give way to taking land in a different way especially when national power finally loosened so local authorities found they had even more power but although they did not want to share any power with local communities there were brave local and indigenous groups who felt it was now worth the risk to speak up for their own rights especially when palm oil companies seemed more like an occupying business force with their 'biological weapon' being the single crop palm oil trees overtaking the many varied plants of the natural world. (While for many transmigrants they simply felt more like outsiders). Palm oil companies wanted to 'silently steal' land so as to not draw unwanted public attention to themselves for it would not help their public image to look like they did not care about rainforests or indigenous peoples as they end up making less money if many people started to think with good reason that it would now be very wrong to buy things with palm oil. (For the orangutans, of course, it was their main hope that millions – if not billions – of humans as well as whole countries would stop buying anything with palm oil, whether it be junk food, biofuel, soap, toothpaste and everything else including beauty items bought mainly by women). Palm oil companies would 'invite' local villagers to 'join' with them by having their lands 'work with' the plantations for the 'common good' of 'all' yet are really about the palm oil companies gaining more land without looking like they are actually taking over other people's properties as if there is real co-operation going on instead of an outright land invasion by legal trickery. In the name of 'development' for the 'public good'

these palm oil companies can also gain public money from the banks – who seemed to always support big business without asking enough questions – saying they are working to help to help these small palm oil farmers when it is actually they and those who financially work with them who will still stand to gain most of the profits.

III. False Promises

The small farmer who was suspicious of what the palm oil company was promising would finally be won over by fantastically cheerful friendly promises of easy money which would make way for an easy life; of better health, school and bus services for the local community as well as not be told of everything they would be committing too such as the palm oil company taking away all decision making about the way the palm oil trees will be grown and that the palm oil fruit could only be sold to the palm oil company and at a price that they would set and that all the technical help they gave to the small palm oil farmer along with seeds, fertilisers, chemicals tools and other equipment would have to be paid for all for the ‘privilege’ of ‘allowing’ the palm oil company to grow palm oil trees on the small farmer’s land which in the end may even be taken away from them if they did not meet the demands of the palm oil company nor meet the repayments. A small palm oil farmer would often be hurried to sign a legal ‘agreement’ with the palm oil company while not fully understanding what they were committing too but sincerely hoping that a better life awaited when instead they were practically becoming slaves on their own land.

IV. To Become Living Ghosts.

It has even been said that some small palm oil farmers even felt like ghosts on ‘ghost lands’ with all their humanity stripped away working for someone else who had so much power over them, who did not care about them and faced with a real fear that they may not be able to get out of debt which would only go up with interest and would become harder to pay when the price of the palm oil fruit they were forced to sell to the palm oil company would not be as good as they hoped. Also the palm oil company which has ‘helped’ the small palm oil farmer with services such as technical advice as to how best grow the palm oil trees would not have done this for free and would charge the small palm oil farmer by way of giving the farmer much less money than expected when the palm oil fruit was sold.

IV. Freedom Lost.

With their land taken over by actually ‘freely’ signing it away they have not only lost their former independent freedom but they also lost the right to grow other crops on their land as the palm oil company only wanted palm oil trees grown so as to make as much money as possible. Thus, the food that was once grown by the small palm oil farmer now had to be bought from a store meaning even less money to be saved and maybe to even have to borrow some money so as to

go further into debt. Also the small palm oil would have to pay their own way to take the palm oil fruit to the palm company mill which would turn the fruit into oil. Thus, they would need a small truck as well as the petrol for it and there was also the increased pressure that the palm oil fruit had to taken to the palm oil mill within a very short amount of time after it was ripe otherwise it would not be good enough to get the best price which many not be so good in the first place that also depended on global market prices for palm oil – which gave the palm oil company another excuse to short-change the smallholder farmer. It would be the small palm oil farmer who would bear all the costs for little return while the palm oil company would be able to keep its own costs down and thus make for itself even higher profits. This is the terrible reality of the ‘promised sharing’ of the ‘easy money’ that finally awaits the had working small palm oil farmer who is now legally bound by a written agreement with the palm oil company which will know how to win with a good legal team if small palm oil farmers tried to find a way out of this ‘slave life’ which was like being a peasant with the palm oil company being a land lord over them like in European medieval times.’

So wrote Lanang about smallholder palm oil farmers presenting to the world the most nightmarish overview he possibly could after reading the worst case reports he had come across in his tireless research. Not all small farmers suffered in the way he had described and some small farmers were successful but there were enough cases of small farmers living nightmare lives to still make it a common problem. This ever increasingly learned young orangutan ‘scholar’ would also record the following:

‘Interestingly, as to any mixed, uneven results regarding palm oil on local communities it seemed to be – after looking at some human reports that were both for and against growing this imported African fruit – that those local villages which were now not solely dependent on the forest for their livelihood could deal a little better with palm oil in their lives as there were now other ways to make a living in a human world which placed so much importance on the marketplace; with the nearby forest from which everything that was once needed for in life had started already to lose its life force as the so called modern world started to take from it what it needed to sell which was usually the wood itself and which the arrival of palm oil would quicken the loss of trees that had already started with perhaps those humans who had been the guardians of the rainforest who were now slowly being overcome by the modern world whether by seduction or force were now also neglecting it or unable to spare the time to keep communing or relating their lives to it...to take note of a young indigenous woman sadly reflecting on how the orangutan and some of the birds were nowhere to be seen as the trees had been too much lessened and to regret their loss and to feel the sorrow of the spirits who felt they were being abandoned by the living...to fear that they even would be finally forgotten; while those villages which were less modernised (no better word –for the moment– can be thought

of...for how 'modern' is the so called 'advanced' world really...?) as is more often the case in Borneo (rather than in, say, Sumatra) and not so readily linked to the outside world - and thus still heavily relying more so on the forest for their livelihood - were more sorely affected by the arrival of palm oil with foods such as fruits and vegetables and natural medicines from plants that were gained from the rainforest now mostly lost. Yet there were still many social and environmental problems in the nominally better off villages due to the now usual negative issues associated with palm oil which, of course, (also include the typical social inequalities when some people already with power become much wealthier than those without power;) while it was a big worry that most palm oil growth was happening in areas that had mostly isolated villages. Anyhow, such different results with those villages which had been mostly relying on the forest for their sustenance going through the greatest shock of having palm oil interrupt their way of life seems to work against as well as undermine any more vocal pro-palm oil human argument that palm oil can help bring on a social and economic development miracle when it appears that those communities that can have other ways to make a livelihood can deal with the arrival of palm oil much better while those left only with palm oil do not really see such a marked increase in their material lives as to take on the big risk of having it incorporated into their already self-sufficient lives; worse it can be seen in other palm oil studies that traditional communities can be even much worse off with their spiritual and cultural links to their land severely disrupted e.g. when a palm oil field overruns important community sacred spaces - like ceremonial and burial grounds - that are centrally important to the villagers and which must be taken into account as no one must measure a village's happiness in purely economic terms but look also at non-material features of daily village life and rituals that many people also deeply value. (The small Himalayan country of Bhutan wisely knows this with their National Happy Index). Even when the money gained from any land sold outright to a palm oil company could not really replace the community and spiritual value that was attached to such 'homeland'. As for the palm oil companies: making as much money as possible was always the only 'moral' bottom line with them as 'human freedom' for much human business really only meant to be able to be free to do what it could to the land without worrying about the people or trees or animals already on it for in their own 'kingly minds' they were more 'deserving' to use the land for they could make much money from it which was of 'benefit' to the whole nation (even though in reality most riches would go to relatively few people in the nation) which was 'surely' a good thing and no one should 'complain' especially those who have shown they could not use the land in such a profitable way-

'Human madness'. Lanang could not help but fall back yet again on this negative opinion of such narrow business minded human thinking as he went to go onto think about the story of Midas which Mr Aladdin had told him which was about a king who had been given the gift by the gods that whatever he touched would turn to gold. Yet, what seemed like a blessing

to gain many riches would turnout to be a deadly curse when he could no longer eat when even the food he touched became gold. Midas could become the richest man in the world but he would also be a starving one. Thus Lanang could not help but think that those who kept digging up the planet's mineral riches as well as cutting down it's enriching plant life to also be left to be wealthy by way of their 'Midas touch' only to also be left starving with nothing left to eat with the earth now made a wasteland by them after passing by a tipping point when along with so many climate disasters the planet will no longer be able to properly replace all the natural goodness that was being so humanly quickly lost.

'Palm oil company interest in making money from the land even went down to the detail that level ground was always wanted more than land that sloped which would not be as cheap on which to grow palm oil trees. Thus palm oil companies would more readily deal with local peoples who lived on flat land as no matter whatever was promised to gain permission to use that land it was calculated that a good amount of money would be made anyway.'

So on and on went the way Lanang darkly saw things regarding the attitude of palm oil companies but taking on a 'half full' point of view he also thought: *'...at least the many steep slopes in the valleys in the rainforest area where I live have saved my habitat so far from being cut down. Hopefully, it can be ignored by human business forever.'*

It can be argued if a palm oil company planned better when it was going to a new area to genuinely take into account the interests of local villagers then there may be a more positive result for the people already living there yet it too often seemed to be the exception rather than the rule that a palm oil company would do so with its main interest always remaining the single goal of gaining the highest amount of profit which included keeping its own costs down as much as possible which meant only often paying lip service to local interests or involving itself in some clever publicity window dressing to look as if it was not being totally selfish. As things now often stood it was only the bigger plantation oil companies that may have the real ability to come good with any promises to a local community yet it was not always a good outcome because a big plantation still often brought about more negative issues especially in regards to the local environment which outweighed any possible good return for a village especially when it became clear that along with any unwelcome deforestation there could emerge other serious problems such as water pollution as well as other unintended outcomes such as flooding due to soil that becomes tightly packed together due to heavy trucks and top soil loss thus is no longer able to absorb high levels of rainwater.

Although palm oil companies knew they needed to improve their certification status so as to appear to be doing the right thing by local peoples and the environment in terms of human power it was still the palm oil company that had the upper hand especially when it could legally prove it had gained the approval

of the local community which may or may not really be true depending on how such approval was truly gained. After all, there are too many accounts of villagers feeling they were tricked or cheated by a palm oil company with false promises while in some of the worst stories reported villagers have even accused palm oil companies of forging the signatures of village elders on paper agreements. (Unfortunately, in a court of law that sympathised with a palm oil company it may prove difficult to prove such an accusation). Yet, a local community may actually agree to accept a palm oil company's offer simply out of frustration that it has felt abandoned by a government authority for not providing services so in the end it is hoped that the palm oil company - which has recognised such a problem and use it as a bargaining chip to get a signature - will in the end actually keep its promise to help out.

Lanang could not help but think that a palm oil company may also take credit for something such as a better bus service that the government was going to finally provide for the villager anyway especially as it would turn out that such a bus service would help to be used to bring palm oil workers to a palm oil plantation. Thus when there was a choice between giving palm oil companies some benefit of the doubt (half-full view) or to fully mistrust what they had to say (half-empty view) Lanang would always look at the 'half-empty' scenario:

'...it still had to be noted that there were still those villages - especially those who relied so much on their rainforests to live well - which thought they were taking on board a palm oil company which had ideally promised to work in an 'eco-friendly' way only to realise this was not really the case in any real world setting. Thus, there were still the usual environmental and health problems which it had been hoped would be avoided and as already mentioned could make matters worse...although this could be expected with palm oil it at least should not be the case with those plantations that claim they are growing palm oil in a better so called - 'sustainable' - way...

"There is no such thing!" Lanang suddenly yelled out into the darkness of the night which for him was akin to the nothingness of a false human claim that had only led to too much of the world to be fooled into allowing many tropical areas of the planet to be destroyed which not only had been devastating for much animal and tree life but also for the climate health of the planet.

'Not while the powerful still had their way over the powerless...' Lanang now thought more solemnly to himself. *'The powerful will also always come up with more false promises and more false excuses whenever it became clear that they had been lying along with saying all the good they say will be done will finally be completed decades into the future...yes there will be no more deforestation as they claim in twenty years time as there will be no more rainforest to cut down...so it goes on...'* The human world as it now was

not really giving the planet to live properly and a proper balance had to return which could only be done if most humans started to view the natural world from the point of view of the indigenous peoples who from what Lanang had observed seemed to best understand how to live well with nature while causing it the least hurt yet they themselves were a human group which was also suffering as badly as the planet itself and somehow this terrible human rights had to be reversed and fully stopped. As it was Lanang felt there needed to be a doubling of effort to help indigenous peoples from those good humans who lived in so called 'advanced' countries and which well beyond just talk and marches but in more actively standing side-by-side with indigenous peoples if not physically at least legally and money wise so indigenous peoples can have a full no-strings-attached support and trust from the many millions of good humans in the modern world who see and understand that indigenous peoples who still live by way of fully respecting the planet can lead the human race out of the dark depths of a climate underworld it was now in to the full light of a restored and thriving natural paradise which may still be possible to bring about in which the whole human race can still comfortably live within but not again threaten to destroy with many lessons to be both learnt and *not* forgotten. Could it be possible...? Lanang was not so sure but he was sure that the idea that the world was heading to a climate doomsday should never be accepted and always trying to do what was best for the planet and for everything within and on it was really the only choice to be made. Lanang would try to still do his little part to help the human race guide its way to a better future so he returned to the topic at hand...

'...in regards to big time palm oil it was set out in a way that the risks fell more so on the small farmer rather than on the big plantation owner so there was more chance for things to go wrong for someone who was powerless rather than on someone who if there was some business failure they could more easily recover while for someone who had so little money in the first place a whole life could be destroyed...'

Yes, as things now stood with the palm oil industry it was not equal in the way it was the powerless rather than the powerful who always faced becoming more defenceless. Lanang of what he had read about in Australia where government laws were in place whereby Aboriginal people had to prove why a mining company should not be allowed to work on traditional lands when the law should be asking why the mining company should be given the right to make money by dig out the minerals in the ground of such sacred land in the first place.

'...furthermore, what made matters worse for those local communities who had palm oil companies now working on their lands was that they were often not happy with the standard of the promised social services that were provided if they

were even provided in the first place and nothing much could be done to force a palm oil company to fully fulfil its supposedly agreed commitments...'

Also in a new human 'greenwash' world whereby palm oil companies would publicize themselves as being 'sustainable' – even though as Lanang noted that nearly all palm oil companies had their plantations on lands that were once rainforests so they could not truly call themselves sustainable unless they were deciding to finally give up on their plantations and then let the rainforest return – there were the approval of certificates to 'prove' such palm oil was sustainable but it came at a money cost which for many small palm oil farmers could not afford. Lanang had by now already seen enough negative reports which showed that in the supply chains of most palm oil companies there was still ongoing deforestation involved so there really was very little true sustainability when one also factored the general lack of labour rights for those who worked in the palm oil fields. Yet to have this certification may still work to give a palm oil company a slight marketing business edge which for the small palm oil farmer disadvantaged them if they were trying to truly compete fairly and equally with a big palm oil company. (As it was most small palm oil farmers had to rely on the palm oil mills of bigger palm oil companies to have the fruit they grew finally go to market and have to put up with whatever price the palm oil company set for them – which could also be lower than the market price –rather than they setting the price themselves which was another disadvantage. Yet, again it was the small farmer taking all the risks).

Lanang sighed. For now this freedom loving orangutan had enough of looking at this sad state of human affairs for many small farmers and focus instead on the hard lives of many palm oil workers of which while he kept reading mostly only those reports which looked at the many wrongs of palm oil working life would influence him in whatever he wrote which would even lead Lanang to even go on and report a palm oil worker's life in the most darkest, negative way.

PALM OIL WORKERS

In the heat to work hard all day carrying a heavy bag of palm fruit often weighing many kilos so as to try and meet a daily target by collecting as many pieces of fruit one possibly can to earn what will still be a very low wage or even less if the full target is not met or to even have wages further reduced for making even the simplest mistake of picking some unripe fruit. To think of the myth of Sisyphus who was a mortal punished by the Ancient Greek gods by having to roll a boulder up a steep hill in an underworld eternity to

only see it roll back down so as to have to start rolling it back up the hill all over again. Never stopping. Never succeeding.

A palm oil worker could be someone from another country through to someone who came from another part of the same country or a local villager who could also be a straight out palm oil worker or someone who had handed over one's land to a palm oil company but was waiting several years for the palm oil trees to grow big enough to produce palm fruits so was working in an already established palm oil field in the meantime (often this other land would be attached to this main plantation which was one way for the palm oil company to extend its territory in a whole area which on may argue could be seen as an official or unofficial expansion depending how it was all accounted) or someone from another country with no official papers or even an indigenous person who had lost their land and now had no choice but to be a palm oil worker as there was now no other way to make a living. There were also women who would work in a palm oil field often wanting to help bring in extra money for her family and while husbands may also be palm oil workers there could also be their children when it became necessary to help meet a daily target of palm fruits picked to make a good enough wage to meet the family's daily needs.

Yet one thing most of these palm oil workers would all have in common no matter where they came from or why they had come to work in a palm oil plantation and whether they were young or old, or male or female or working full time or as a day worker was that they were lowly paid. A typical palm oil worker could not expect to be given the minimum wage as set by law and it can be supposed if a worker complained they could easily be replaced by someone else who would be happy just to have a job. It was often hard for palm oil workers to get together in a big way as many palm oil workers were at plantations far away from each other or any big towns so their ability to have a mass strike to get better pay was not good. Also, many of the labourers in palm oil fields were day workers or casuals which meant they were only officially employed for the one day so the palm oil company could easily dismiss them if it they became 'troublemakers'. Palm oil unions were weak and there was also something that one report had found which was a 'yellow union' which was a type of union that had been first set up when Indonesia's leader was an ex-army general and ruled the country in a way that made sure no one could threaten his power but also in a way that still made it look like that the country was a democracy – a sort of theatrical 'sustainable' democracy when in reality democracy was not sustained at all with the very opposite of democracy actually being in place (much like rainforests were not really sustained by many of those who publicly claimed that they were growing sustainable palm oil) rather than doing what was best for the palm oil workers worked hand in hand with the palm oil company in a spirit of 'co-operation' which really meant it helped to make sure the palm oil workers did not do anything 'foolish' which would mean that the palm oil company's profits maybe less which in turn could also affect its ability to pay the palm oil workers. If a palm oil worker tried to join a better union (as it was: only a full-

time worker could really do so) which was independent – that is it actually had nothing to do with the palm company – then there was a very good chance that worker would no longer have a job. It was the same old story of human history: of those people who had least power who often only as individuals had less choices or even no choice to do anything to gain more power when those in power were so willing to deny any chance for such a person to improve one's life including the chance to get together with others so that as a group be able to bring about changes which would improve not only their work rights but also their human rights-

'What also of the rights of animals...? Yes, animal rights as well as rights of trees and in fact for the whole planet should also be a focus for humans as all are actually tied together.' mused Lanang who then went onto to write some more about human palm oil workers.

'What can make matters worse for workers who want to improve their lives is when governments weigh up their laws more to protect business interests which make it harder for workers to legally call for improvements even when they do not intend to take strike action. It is argued by those humans who see a strong need to much strengthen the labour rights of palm oil workers in that many have been casuals for years but are still denied the right of permanent employment which was only reserved for a core number of employees (which it may be negatively assumed the palm oil company felt it could not do without although if surely if it could it would have even fewer permanent staff as possible so as to keep the wage bill even lower). Also many palm oil workers had no set daily wage leaving them open to be paid well below any legally set award wage especially so when they had to meet daily amounts of fruit picked and to meet what can be high targets it can mean working more hours in a day than normally expected. A palm oil worker may also rely on the unpaid labour of family members which can include children to gather in enough fruit for an amount of money which is really often not just reward for the time and effort needed to accomplish this hard task which includes carrying heavy bags of fruit which is literally back breaking work. A daily company 'piece rate' target which was set without any input or advice from the workers themselves who had to actually do the work in the fields often bringing the fruit down high up in very tall trees using long poles which then had to be picked up and carried in bags which would become increasingly heavy...so it would seem like some mad god would set for the mortals under one's divine control punishing tasks that had to be achieved in order to escape any divine anger while at the same time they should feel grateful to earn a pittance to pay for their 'daily bread'. (Pity these palm oil workers the days it would rain and no work could be done). Furthermore, a casual palm oil worker may even earn half or even less what a permanent palm oil worker could earn which was already not a high wage.

As it was it was mostly men who had the chance to be permanent workers rather than women. A palm oil worker may not be covered for injuries or for any health care in general relating to one's work and there are reports that a palm oil worker may have to even pay for their own protective clothing which is especially needed when spraying deadly chemicals onto palm oil trees. If a palm oil worker becomes sick it is unlikely the palm oil company will feel responsible enough to do the right thing by this unfortunate person in terms of providing adequate health care or in securing any ongoing employment or even to provide proper sick leave. Pregnant female palm oil workers have even risked their unborn child due to long hours of hard work because they have feared losing their jobs if they told the palm oil company they were pregnant. It was women who more often than not also worked with covering the ground with fertilizers around the palm oil trees which could also poison their bodies. It is known that women may prefer to not wear gloves as they slowed up their fertilizer work and so much had to be used per day so as to be properly paid which in any case was often never enough money anyway but it all helped with improving the overall family budget. While men could have a tough time with palm oil plantation work it was clear that women could have a much worse time with the increased fear that whatever damage that occurred to their bodies could also badly affect health-wise their children or to even have children. Of course at some other plantations in another area the palm oil workers may with some good fortune – depending on the mood of the 'god' who overlorded them – they maybe better off but in general terms it was not a good work situation for far too many employees when it should be expected that everyone should be fairly treated and paid and to not feel 'lucky' that they had a permanent job were not as bad off as many other workers in many ways.

Alas Lanang had surely 'painted' with this report a sad word picture that was very dark indeed and with no real glimmer of light shining through and he knew there would be humans who would think this 'upstart' was being too negative. After all, there was glossy brochure after glossy brochure with all those smiling faces of happy palm oil workers which made it seem that to have a job in a palm oil plantation was like heaven on earth rather than to be in a living hell. As if the whole point of a palm oil company was to generously find work for the otherwise dispossessed of the human world who would be lost if it was not for the palm oil companies to find them and offer them a way to a better future. To even show the smiling faces of palm oil smallholders as if to almost suggest that palm oil was really a small business with humble people who were more like the local shopkeeper of a corner store rather than being run by rich big business people in big boardrooms of which many people would not like as much. Yet, from Lanang's point of view who by the way had seen the happy pictures of smiling human workers

and of pretty birds sitting on palm oil tree leaves and so on including even the palm oil company claim that the rows of palm oil trees can also be called forests as if they had something in common with the complicated rainforests that were destroyed to make way for this cash crop that the darkest scenarios that Lanang had of the palm oil industry still all seemed too real to him; especially when he thought of the charred bodies of dead orangutans who had been burnt to death in forest fires.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Although it has been stated many times there is no harm for it to be also said yet again that one of the main tragedies associated with the destruction of the rainforest for palm oil was not only much wildlife is made homeless but also the human inhabitants of the rainforest who know how to live in a balanced way with nature. With indigenous peoples what is tied to their loss of land has also been a loss of their human rights and to lose their link to the lands of their ancestors from which they could also live in a way of their choosing could never really be made right until the land was restored back to them. Yet, in a modern world whereby the rights of indigenous peoples are so often dismissed as of secondary importance when the lands they live on are highly valued for their mineral and agricultural wealth by too many powerful interests then that land is always threatened and so often taken away from first nations people and if it is kept it can usually come still come at a big human cost to those who indigenous peoples who had to fight hard to defend it. In many countries the price of defending one's lands can come not only in being mentally and emotionally broken down as well as by making many material sacrifices but by also having to face the real threat of losing one's life which has happened to so many and with those murderers doing the killing hardly ever being brought to justice. Also those who have come from other lands to help defend the land rights of indigenous peoples such as lawyers and environmentalists can also come in harm's way although it is mainly the indigenous peoples themselves who face the worst results of the injustices committed in the name of 'human progress' as it is seen by a far too often soulless modern, materially comfortable world. When it comes to saving the planet from the climate catastrophe befalling it due to wrongful human action then it has to be realised that it is by way of working alongside indigenous peoples as equals and with them also being the leaders that Gaia may still have a chance to be saved from the worst of the grievous harm being inflicted upon her. Thus the fight to have indigenous peoples keep their lands so it is not taken over by palm oil is also part of this bigger fight to make the natural world safe so earth can stay a liveable planet for all life that is on it no matter what form that life may take.

Finally, one may argue that if the powerful have built their kingdom on earth with the use of fossil fuels and single crop plantations which have all placed the

natural world as last then this modern-human-made city can only be defeated not by armies which circle around it and shout out for its downfall as so famously happened with the fall of Jericho in biblical times – for the walls of the modern city are not made with mud like the earth to which the vibrations of protest can have some just effect but with reinforced concrete and steel that can now be designed to stand against strong earthquakes which perhaps only a deep chasm emerging from underneath can cause harm by which the very foundations can disappear into thus some other non-violent way must be intelligently tried out – or by trying to slam open the front gate but rather by way of looking at where there can be weak points to bring it down in much the same way that David knew to bring down the giant Goliath with a single blow to his forehead or to look out for an ‘Achilles heel’ in the enemy’s defences in much the same way that the unbeatable Ancient Greek warrior Achilles could only be killed by having a poison arrow hit his back heel which was the only part of his body that was not divinely protected from any enemy weapon. To put indigenous land rights to the forefront and look out for successes that can be achieved to roll back the stealing of lands by those big businesses which are literally fuelling the fires that are warming the planet could be a way of forcing the human world to find a balanced, harmless way to live in peace with the natural world while still living humanly well. It would not only be a win for indigenous peoples, but for wildlife and of course for the planet itself.

‘EARTH KILL’ MUST END

Yes, Lanang could not help noting in his mind like some whirring never ending firework wheel that was brightly shedding light over any still lingering darkly doubt to thus make it a belief that any improvement for humans usually came at further cost to animals and the rainforest. There was never any guarantee that some rainforest saved today would not be cut down tomorrow if human demand for palm oil increased. Lanang had decided that deforestation would only end if a palm oil company did not think there was money to be made from palm oil today or in the future yet that was certainly not the case – for now.

Yes, how true it was for Lanang to believe that money was the measure of all things to business minded humans who did not care for the planet’s welfare. It was something that Lanang had to always remind himself of as he ploughed through different human reports on the state of the Earth – that anyway was still being slowly killed by a countless number of ever quickening little cuts to it...how money was made from digging up the earth’s minerals or using its ground to plant cash crops or to have ever more cattle graze on so much extra cleared land. *‘Earth kill must stop!’* A troubled look. *‘It must ALL end!’*

It interested Lanang to read how the Amazon was opened up in Brazil by building a highway cut through it whereby cattle ranchers then came to clear rainforest on either side of this new big road that went right across South America so as to develop the beef industry and over the years evermore rainforest would be cut down to make way for more cattle as well as to grow much soy which nearly 90% of it went to feed animals in factory farms which would be slaughtered for humans to eat. Palm oil had also come to the Amazon bringing with it more business cause to destroy rainforest and to have chemicals poison the waters as well as the local peoples who had to drink and use it. All this violence against the earth was seen as ‘development’ and the indigenous peoples who were simply protesting to protect the rainforest which was also their home would be wrongly portrayed as ‘enemies’ against so called development as if they were savages when in Lanang’s eyes it was those who were so keen to destroy the rainforests who were the savages and whose destruction of the planet was also an act of suicide for they would not only kill the planet but also themselves when they woke up one day and saw that the planet had become too hot and that there was no clean water to drink and that there was no good soil to grow things or no fish left in the sea or with the land destroyed there were also no more animals to eat...Lanang knew he could keep going on in this ‘list’ of planetary misery...but it was all just like the wise North American Indians predicted as they saw ‘modern’ humans ravage the natural world in their own time which was already over a hundred years ago. All such great loss was being experienced now by orangutans and many indigenous peoples alike where Lanang now lived with water and land all despoiled by palm oil with what no amount of money being able to satisfactorily replace so much natural good that was now gone forever. *‘However, these money-minded humans want to also keep building big roads and highways in Borneo which means what rainforest is left may also disappear. How good it was for us orangutans when Borneo had very few roads and all the island was rainforest!’* Lanang could oh so easily weep. Not only for what terrors could happen in the future if new roads were built but also for the terrors that already happen in the present: roadkill. So many innocent animals had died crossing roads being killed by motorcycles, cars, buses, vans and rucks and it was such a common problem not only in Borneo but throughout the world. To have seen orangutans fearfully trying to cross highway roads that had already cut through rainforest only to turn back and to wait when the traffic – mostly indifferent to the plight of such orangutans and other wildlife – had died down so as to not risk being hit. It was not good enough to say that a tunnel underneath could be built or an overhanging bridge would be the solution for although such built crossovers for animals would be very welcome – and Lanang would not argue against such safety measures – it was still the many

new roads themselves that were the biggest problem because all in the name of human development these roads will bring along the vehicles and the equipment that would be used by logging and palm oil companies to cut down ever more rainforest simply for their own human gains.

As it was Lanang had learnt only recently that at least in West Papua – where palm oil had also now become a growing threat – there were local villagers who deliberately chose to show respect for any animal killed by passing traffic whether that be by motorcycle, car or truck. A weeping song would be sung over the dead animal whether it be a snake, or bird or any other animal of which was also buried. The road had cut through nature like a knife cutting into a living being – which is what the rainforest is – and the living things inside it were those who now suffered. The spirit of the rainforest as well as the plant and animal lives of it also had to be respected by humans and it was the least that could be done by local West Papuans to ceremonially mourn for those living beings who had been killed due to heavy handed human interruptions of the land. Palm oil was an enemy to the land but it too was also a prisoner having been taken away from its own homeland in West Africa to serve also as an enslaved plant to the big money-makers which can be found in every land and who choose to enrich themselves for personal gain but claim that what they do is best for everyone for they provide jobs that otherwise would not exist. Yes, there is truth in what is said for such jobs would not exist but at the same time they are often lowly paid and designed to be as such so that most of the money made from the labour of such workers who work hard for long hours at the palm oil plantations and the palm oil mills go to the owners and even to the shareholders of palm oil companies which would not really be a problem if it was not so clearly unfair that they gained so much income while those who worked so hard gained so little. Lanang had been learning his human labour history and this unequal work situation reminded him of what he had learnt about the nineteenth century in which labour movements had arisen to make pay and work better for the many workers themselves with the rise of unions as well as political parties that were organised which stood for the best interests of workers including their wages and work hours yet here on the palm oil fields it is as if the labour movement had not left its mark at all or if it had it had now disappeared and by working in far away plantations it was learnt by Lanang it was much harder for palm oil workers to organise themselves well enough to demand better pay and a work life for themselves. A problem also made worse by the bitter fact that many workers were casuals which meant they could lose their jobs at any time and could be easily replaced by someone else who needed work.

CLEARING LAND FOR PALM OIL CAN ALSO MEAN BIG FIRES

Yet it seemed humans often only worried about something bad from afar when it became clear it may also be bad for them which sadly was often when it was too late. It was the case with deforestation when it became known that cutting down much rainforest was also causing climate change which was something that became a big problem on everyone's doorstep no matter where they lived in the world. Alas, when more humans finally took an interest in the loss of far away rainforests so many trees and animals had already been destroyed and killed with many indigenous peoples also having already lost their lands. *'Nevertheless,'* reasoned Lanang, *'it was still good when a country would blacklist any palm oil company when it became clear that their environmental or human rights crimes were so large trading with them had to stop. If only it had happened more often, better still – all the time!'*

Lanang also saw how many humans in South East Asia quickly became upset when big clouds of fire smoke covered their cities, towns and villages when land was cleared by burning and cutting down trees to make way for palm oil. Not only were more animals and trees needlessly dying but many humans even in Borneo were now also becoming sick with some people losing their lives from breathing in this horrible fire smoke.

BIG FIRES CAN ALSO MEAN MANY ORANGUTAN DEATHS

Big fires also cannot be hidden from the world even becoming big news. Yet in their publicity effort to not be blamed palm oil companies would try to put the blame on other people - like small farmers - for causing them. Although when this was so the palm oil fruit grown by such farmers on this cleared land would still eventually be sold to the big palm oil companies so in Lanang's mind these large palm oil businesses still had to take the main blame.

Lanang had no doubts that palm oil companies started many big land clearing fires which - along with choking many humans from the fire smoke - had also caused large numbers of his fellow orangutans to often be burnt to death while trapped in burning trees. They also starved to death after the fires had stopped as there was often nothing left to eat. Orangutans would then also be killed by humans who saw these hungry victims eating their food crops. Thus adding to the already high death toll of many thousands of orangutans.

ORANGUTAN REFUGEES

Yes, it was worrying to Lanang that when rainforests were lost there were these many homeless, starving orangutans trying to go somewhere else to live and to find food only to be easily seen and thus hunted, hurt or killed by those humans who only saw such animal refugees as thieves out to steal the food they grew. Lanang watched a video of a male orangutan who was blinded by palm oil farmers who had shot at him using air rifles. Yet Lanang knew it was only a last resort that an orangutan would try to eat only palm oil fruit as they were used to living in rainforests where they had the choice of hundreds of types of plants. It would be unhealthy for an orangutan to try and live only on one plant but what choice was there when everything else as far as the eye could see had been destroyed?

Some orangutans would be in forest patches in big palm oil fields where they could find fruits but they were not always big enough to help very large numbers of orangutan refugees even though some of them could be linked together with forest corridors which were like green laneways where upon wildlife like orangutans could move between forest patches. However, Lanang could not help but think that it was still the palm oil fields which took first place on these human changed landscapes of which he also could not help but notice also had the bad overall affect of making the large areas they were in much hotter as there was no longer the natural cooling effect of rainforests available to help the climate to keep planetary heat down. Lanang had even read a science report that a more than usual number of humans including plantation workers had died over the years because of increasing warmer temperatures having a troublesome outcome on their health. Yet palm oil companies with more favourable scientific studies in hand would nevertheless point to orangutans – because they were so smart – who could change their ways to live in big enough forest patches as well as move through big palm oil tree fields to go between rainforest patches as a ‘success story’ of how wildlife can live side by side with palm oil. From Lanang’s point of view it was like saying how people could still live in a city surrounded by an enemy while still having supplies and big enough food gardens come although they still did not have the freedom to move beyond the city walls to wherever they may please without facing the surrounding enemy who can still kill them. To Lanang it was all so second best compared to the big rainforest that they had once been living in and now destroyed so humans could make money from palm oil. It also worried Lanang as to how good the chances would really be for such such orangutans to reach those tall tropical trees – notable for their wide flanking roots embedded on the ground to strongly support them – which all together every few years like a ‘symphony of nature’ would especially drop to the rainforest floor large amounts of a two-winged brown fruit.

‘How...?’

This fruit feast was liked by many animals including sun-bears with some species willing to travel big distances overland to get to them. *'Such a wonderful, delicious joy to miss out on!'* sighed Lanang.

LANANG WORRIES MORE ABOUT HIS OWN BACKYARD

As for Borneo Lanang knew the cutting down of old growth trees for timber and palm oil had to stop right now as he feared that it would not be long before they were all gone and villagers like Mr. Aladdin would lose their way of life while Lanang and his orangutan friends would lose where they lived - if not their lives.

After all, despite so much rainforest having already been cut down there was always government talk in many tropical countries of new roads and highways to be built in the name of 'development'. Yet Mr Aladdin had explained to him that although it can be very good to improve ways for people in out of the way areas to be in better touch with other areas which had important services such as schools and hospitals what was a big worry that such roads were also built so palm oil and logging companies could more easily reach rainforests to cut down them down. Thus to have development wrongly used as a Trojan horse for the take over of ever more land. Mr Aladdin felt that too often roads had been built with the excuse to help people when the reality was they had been made mainly for business reasons. Trees, animals and villagers faced badly and unfairly losing out yet again in the name of so called 'human progress'.

A BRAVE ORANG UTAN'S LONE STAND

Lanang one day came across a sad video which showed a large orangutan pacing up and down a long rainforest tree trunk that had been cut down. Around this big tree trunk were many other fallen trees all smashed up and jumbled together like matchsticks littering the messy ground. Lanang watched the orangutan bravely head towards a big bulldozer blade at the end of a long metal arm that was trying to move the big tree trunk. Below on the ground are two men with sticks walking along keeping an eye on the orangutan as it moves along the tree trunk. They along with other workers seemed surprised to see this orangutan attack the teeth of this bulldozer blade as it swung down on the tree trunk one more time. In what to Lanang seemed like a cold-hearted act the bulldozer blade appears to push the orangutan off the tree trunk so as to fall to the ground several feet below. The video camera - which from what Lanang understood was operated by an international

orangutan rescue group – kept recording the orangutan’s actions as it now quickly went through the thick scrub on the ground. It looked as if this orangutan was heading towards the bulldozer operator to stop him from felling more trees. After failing to reach the bulldozer’s roofed driver box the orangutan goes back into the scrub as the video stops.

Lanang knew he had to be as brave as this one orangutan who was willing to battle such a big machine which had many humans with it so that some orangutan homeland could still be saved.

A still free orangutan like Lanang also wanted to fight back against the human animal thieves, timber loggers and big palm oil growers as he was sure they would also one day go after where he lived.

Lanang was thankful to find out that this fearless orangutan was saved by the humans who had did the filming – which was done so that many humans could see what was badly happening to the homelands of orangutans.

PRIMATES BEING HARMED IN THE HUMAN WORLD

Lanang now watched other short videos which underlined for him the mistreatment of primates by humans which can happen in so many ways from being kidnapped to being imprisoned as well as to being badly treated to being made homeless or motherless or being killed. Then as if to add even more insult to injury there was also being humanly seen in an undignified way: to view a gorilla family in a zoo looking in a puzzled way at a crowd of screaming human children and their parents; all with ice creams in their hands and pointing their messy fingers at a newly-born baby gorilla. Despite being captured these gorillas still looked very proud in front of this silly human crowd.

‘Why do such ill-mannered human beings think they are a more advanced species than the mountain gorillas and us?’

Lanang was truly at a loss.

‘These humans have no common sense!’

He learnt how in Africa there had been wars over minerals like coltan that are used in mobile phones and mountain gorillas had died in the crossfire. Humans seemed aware of ‘blood diamonds’ which were costing human lives but not so much about ‘blood phones’ which were costing gorilla lives.

It was also sad to find out how many poor humans including children were suffering and dying working like slaves due to bad labour practices so as to get these important minerals to an unthinking digital connected world. It was one of many deep shades of the ‘dark side’ of the still much needed renewables energy revolution which needed to be looked at by right thinking humans if this better way to bring about a friendly climate modern world was to be truly just and fair to all the peoples of the world as well to every animal,

plant and to every part of the natural world from the deepest ocean to the rivers and forests and to the highest mountains as well as to the highest skies. Other 'dark shades' involved how only a few companies were either starting to own most of the new minerals including 'rare earths' that would be used in renewables or would be able to make them and also safeguarding water sources so they don't dry up or be spoiled whether they be rivers, lakes or under ground. It was something that had to be looked at before the real chance to have energy use become something that could be more openly used by everyone on a community level was truly lost. People should be able to organise for themselves – such as having their own small-size solar mirror gardens placed somewhere that caused no harm to the natural world – to supply their own energy without relying on a big power company. To also look at developing public transport systems moving many people around seamlessly knowing one bus can use the same amount of a mineral such as lithium in a bus that can take over a hundred people versus that same lithium used in one electric car which can take only five people. An energy democracy was needed not a new energy empire which unlike wide community involvement by many people would only be ruled by a few big companies which in many bad ways would mirror the old fossil fuel energy that had to be replaced. Also the many local communities which were involved in now bringing to the world the minerals that would be used for renewable technology needed to have more of a say in how to be treated fairly and how to share in any new wealth. They need to be listened too and not told what to do by those who were more powerful and always thought that they knew best but only knew what was best for themselves and not for everyone. The rich countries of what was called the Global North had to give the poorer countries of the Global South a chance to really improve living standards for many people who had thus far missed out on having much better lives and this included making sure that what new national wealth would be made did not go to the few people in their countries who made themselves rich by letting the Global North do what it liked. There needed to be governments who were willing to make sure that all its people benefited from any new renewable world but foremost that also the natural world did not suffer as well. There had to be a balance between a new renewable energy world and the natural world so it too can also be renewed and not die out as it had been with the modern world was always taking, taking, taking from the earth and leaving it like a wasteland. A new paradise had to now arise along with keeping the few paradises that were thankfully still left around the globe – only being there because humanity had not yet destroyed them for its own uses. Communities ahead of big companies and for humanity overall to be in right balance with Mother Earth with proper governing and law

enforced guidelines for a better, ongoing liveable future for this tiny planet in a large universe.

In human terms fixing up the labour rights of all human workers as well as the land rights of every local village and indigenous group would at the very least be two good places to start. While working out ways to recycle materials used in recyclable technology would also be good so the modern world worked in a circular way to use again what had before only been used once both in technology and natural minerals so as to stop hurting the Earth by forever digging up or cutting down from the ground or from above it what had to be used for renewables when so much of what was needed to be re-used could be found in landfill. To in fact have a new ever flowing clean energy world where there was no more landfill. The planet's landscape has already been scarred enough.

Yet as to the human cost this ever curious young male orangutan would also find out that children also worked where palm oil was grown and then he found himself in another visual loop which had many other sad news stories of orangutans killed or kidnapped for the illegal pet trade to sadly remind yet again how the children of his own animal species was suffering. At least there were also videos and stories of good humans working to stop all this human cruelty towards their own kind and to orangutans and other wildlife as well as to try to stop palm oil, logging and other harmful human businesses such as mining. Lanang saw that good humans were also trying to stop both a dam and a gold mine from being built in Sumatra which threatened the rainforest where a newly discovered species of orangutans was living.

ORANGUTAN ESCAPE ARTISTS

Lanang then chose to cast his eyes over orangutans who had shown some fight by escaping from zoos.

An orangutan in an Australian zoo had cleverly escaped from his cage and many scared human visitors were running away screaming afraid they would be attacked. All the orangutan wanted to do was stretch his legs and have some fresh air. A zookeeper rolled his eyes when a journalist said the escapee had embarrassed the zoo. "Yes, he's always outsmarting us." The zookeeper then looked thoughtful. "At the end of the day he just wanted a taste of freedom...which is fair enough."

"He was pretty smart!" cheerfully said a boy. "He must have done a lot of planning to work out how to get over those fences. The way he used that stick! WOW!"

'If only you knew how smart we really can be!'

At an Indonesian zoo four orangutans worked together as a team to climb over a fence.

In a North American zoo an orangutan with a piece of wire secretly picked a lock every night to escape from his cage and with his family have a holiday around the zoo grounds.

NONJA THE ORANGUTAN PAINTER

Lanang turned his attention away from other orangutan escape artists to look at another example of orangutan smartness: an orangutan artist. At Vienna Zoo was Nonja a female orangutan who painted abstract paintings as good as any human modern art genius. It mystified Lanang to find out Nonja's masterpieces were seen by ignorant human art critics as 'child scribbles'. Nonja's art was shown to Mr Aladdin who surely would appreciate its true mastery.

"Yes, the colours are well composed," assured Mr Aladdin. "I see abstract art as classical music for the eyes and Nonja's paintings are certainly musical. Picasso liked primate art."

ORANGUTAN INTELLIGENCE: A SECRET WEAPON!

When Aladdin had first found on the internet an out-of-the-way translator which he played around with so as to change human speech into Lanang's language it was first tested out on an Australian late night radio show. Lanang heard how a female orangutan was unhappy with a photographer who had taken a bucket of bananas away from her while sitting on an orangutan help centre feeding platform. It was good to learn that there were humans helping injured orangutans as well as teaching orphan orangutans whose mothers had been killed how to live in the rainforest again once they were old enough to do so. With this older orangutan the photographer did not want her to eat all the bananas which would be used to invite a male orangutan to the platform. The female orangutan showed how she was upset by grabbing the photographer's costly camera equipment. It would not be given back until the bananas were returned to her – which is what happened. The photographer was surprised by this orangutan's cleverness while for Lanang it showed once again that the one 'secret weapon' orangutans had was how humans so underestimated orangutan brainpower.

'Humans should not think that other animals cannot outsmart them!'

ORANGUTAN INTELLIGENCE HIGHLIGHTED IN THE RAINFOREST

Lanang was always amused when humans called scientists who were supposed to know everything about how the world worked were surprised by how orangutans also knew much about the world around them. Humans seemed especially mystified by the intelligence of orangutans which of course would be highlighted most in their natural home which was the rainforest. Every orangutan was a 'scientist' as shown by orangutan mothers who could tell their children about things happening in the past as shown in how they could warn children of a nearby threat from maybe an animal or human a few minutes after this danger to them had passed by.

Scientists seemed surprised how orangutans would chew on plants to make an ointment that helped soothe aches in their limbs or to make one to keep away mosquitoes. Humans were also amazed that orangutans knew of medical treatments they did not yet know about. Along with finding such natural medicines there was a reminder in some articles that Lanang would look at of how orangutans also daily built sleeping nests in trees from small branches. As well as to also see how orangutans also knew how to find many different types of jungle food which to Lanang would show to humans how important the rainforest was to them as it was their 'supermarket'; their 'home' and even their 'hospital.'

Of course orangutan medical knowledge was already well known to indigenous peoples along with their use of using sticks as tools for instance to dig out termites from trees. (Eating some insects was probably the closest that orangutans came to eating meat so overall, in Lanang's mind, it was still alright to think of himself as mainly a vegetarian and especially a fruit eater which could be up to as much as 90% of all food he ate. It was interesting that Lanang like all orangutans can remember where they had found food so as to go back to gather more and would notice any changes in the seasons when food became plenty and to even notice how other animals had a way of finding fruits which orangutans would also eat. Like scientists of a human background it would be the case that orangutans would also watch what happened in the world around them and act on what was learnt).

Then again it seems that indigenous peoples had even learnt from orangutans as pointed out by a young Dayak woman who Lanang watched give a talk to humans who wanted to learn more about rainforests. Although this very smart woman had become well educated in the so called modern way of schooling by even going to university she saw this latest addition to her learning as adding too rather than as taking over what she had learnt from her indigenous upbringing. Lanang knew she was correct to say that female orangutans knew of a ginger plant that would help them to ease the pain

when giving birth. It pleased him to hear that Dayak women used the same treatment when their children too were being born. Indigenous peoples and 'marinds' (Orangutans along with being called '*marinds*' it has also been said they were also known as '*maias*' by Dayak, Iban and Bidayuh indigenous peoples; in the northern parts of Sumatra and those of a Malay background knew orangutans as '*mawas*' and other indigenous groups knew them by such names as '*kahui*': *kogiu*' and '*kisau*') which this woman said is what orangutans were commonly called before Europeans came to Borneo - had lived together side by side since a very long time ago. It was no surprise then to Lanang that humans had learnt something from his kind and peace rather than war is the way it should be between them; it was still possible just like when not long ago an orangutan was willing to help a man thought to be in trouble in a deep pond by stretching out a hand to help. As it was the man could get out by himself but still it was a good sign of how things should be between orangutans and humans. After all, Lanang had become good friends with Aladdin and his whole family.

KOKO & CHANTEK

Of course, to be able to exchange ideas with this human family had helped Lanang to develop this special friendship. As it flowered Lanang thought of Koko the Gorilla who had also learnt human sign language and so was an early primate ambassador in encouraging friendship and understanding between other primates and their human cousins who had certainly lost their way in regards to helping to take care of the planet. Lanang saw the videos about Koko were set in San Francisco while there were also videos of an orangutan named Chantek who had also learnt to use human sign language in Atlanta. Thus Lanang had this idea of one day to meet both Koko and Chantek in the United States. It would make for an interesting speaking tour to help humans learn how to get back on track to save Earth.

TOOL MAKING & HANDSHAKES

As it was Lanang found it interesting that humans were also find it amazing that capuchin monkeys were making sharp edged stone flints by smashing rocks together. However, there seemed to be something about the mineral dust that these monkeys liked to lick rather than the sharp stones themselves. However, it could no longer be assumed that such sharp edged tools that date back to maybe three million years ago were all human made and used for any human purpose. As for Lanang he would argue that maybe the first humans watched what their monkey cousins were doing and picked

up a sharp splintered stone and saw that it would be useful as a cutting tool. It probably would not have taken too much of a leap of the human imagination to then think of making a stone axe which is basically a stone flint with a handle and for any mental progress that is related to human invention to then go further and which goes onto the present. It had also been discovered that chimpanzees also shook hands as an act of common friendship which can be noted after two chimpanzees had been involved in fighting with each other and then choosing to be friends again. To Lanang it was possible that humans had also seen chimpanzees handshake and had so adopted it also as a cultural form of friendliness especially when humans may have not yet developed any proper languages. As it was humans would realise that if someone offered you an open hand and which clearly held no weapon then handshaking could become a welcome signal for peace.

LANANG SPEAKING TO HUMANS IS A BRAVE ACT

Mr Aladdin once told Lanang that it was brave that he was willing to speak to him and the rest of the family as it was thought that orangutans could speak to humans as they were so smart but had always wisely chosen not to because they feared that humans would use them as slaves. However, Lanang said it was because of his trust in Mr Aladdin's whole family that he was willing to have such an open friendship with him and the others. After all, Mr Aladdin and Aladdin had been so helpful when they first met as well as be so caring to let his ankle heal at their home before going out again into the wild. Orangutans were right to be very careful when it came to humans and to keep their distance as it had been proven that much harm had come to orangutans because of humans. Lanang now knew there were humans who were willing to help and rescue orangutans from the human-made disasters that had befallen them but they had not yet been able to stop all the deforestation that was threatening orangutans. There had been too many deaths of their kind for orangutans to put much trust in the human race. The kidnapping of baby orangutans which had led to many orangutan mothers also dying was yet to be fully stopped.

So much human cruelty upon the wildlife of this world. Lanang was thankful that there were good humans who were against all such human awfulness and it was his hope that they would finally put a stop to all the human activity that was causing so much suffering to orangutans and many other animal species. If trusting Mr Aladdin and his family would help to gain such a good result Lanang was more than happy to keep speaking to them. Anyhow, for Lanang on a purely technical level human languages were so simple to understand compared to the largely superior, complex sounds of orangutan speech so Lanang was also happy that the translation software now in use

could simplify orangutan grammar so well that Mr Aladdin's family could now so easily speak with him!

SO MUCH WONDER LOST SO FEW CAN GAIN MORE MONEY

On a more serious note Lanang also sensed that to have real trust and care between orangutans and humans was surely the way to go so all the bad things happening could come to an end. Lanang could not help but revisit a video which showed an orangutan on a television using sign language to let a girl know that much rainforest where orangutans lived and so was their home was being lost so as to make way for many palm oil trees. Lanang was also of the belief that most of the palm oil money did not go to the workers in such large fields but rather to those who owned the big palm oil companies that owned them. Thus Lanang was of the belief that orangutans were truly wise to normally keep their distance away from humans and to be fearful of them. Slavery was a real problem and let alone the deadly harm humans did to wildlife as Lanang had also seen proof of the bad ways human beings could treat their own kind which also led to many humans having much suffering so a few humans could have much riches to gain. Alas, along with such human unfairness so much death and destruction of the rainforest and of the wildlife that had lived within them and which would also result with many local peoples being thrown off their traditional lands. All for only a few people to gain from the quick 'easy-come-and-even-easy-go' wealth that was made in place of what was a natural wondrous world whose living riches offered so much more to so many more and which had been present since the dawn of time. Now gone. Forever.

TALE OF TWO CITIES

For Lanang there was also still those orangutans living in little rainforest paradises surrounded by large palm oil 'green hells' to worry about (no matter what those humans who saw such a wholly carved up natural world in a 'half full' sort of way had to say). Thus thinking of a city surrounded by enemies but still able to get supplies Lanang had remembered what Mr Aladdin had told him when ancient Athens had been under siege from Sparta. Two Ancient Greek city states which had helped each other when fighting the Persians but afterwards became enemies. Sparta and her allies finally pushed back against Athens who as a result of its leading role in the wars against the Persians now had built up its own empire with much power over many other of her smaller Greek allies. Sparta took over the fields outside Athens but the Athenians had two big walls with a road in between which went to its port from which its strong navy could make sure everything that Athens needed could still reach the city. Yes, it was true the Athenians could still get on with

their daily lives if one only looked at the city but they were also trapped within it while the Spartans stayed camped outside. However, the ships that brought food also ended up bringing something deadly which was a virus that swept through Athens. A plague that no one could escape from while the Spartans were still camped outside the city. Many Athenians died including their leader Pericles. Yet the Spartans would eventually leave fearing the virus may spread to them once they knew how bad it had gone for the Athenians. However, by then it was too late for up to a quarter of Athenians – anything from 75,000 to 100,000 – had already died from the plague over three years. Lanang found this story of great interest as he knew that as the rainforest was cut down for palm oil the climate was becoming warmer which was having a bad effect on the whole planet. Global warming would become a weather plague for the whole earth. It made Lanang wonder about those orangutans living in little rainforests surrounded by palm oil fields cut off from a much larger friendly landscape.

‘Would they still be able to live well if it became too warm...? Would they still have enough food to eat...? Would they be able to escape to a large rainforest while having to first cross over large palm oil tree fields...?’

It maybe possible for some orangutans as Lanang had at least learnt of one woman who had come from a far away place many years ago to study orangutans and now rescued them was encouraging some palm oil workers to not see orangutans as pests and kill them but rather to capture them so she could then take them away to her rescue centre where she could help them until they were ready to go back to a rainforest that was not under immediate threat from palm oil. Lanang was not always happy with outsiders as he thought the indigenous people knew the rainforest the best (after orangutans of course!) and some of these foreigners seemed to think they knew better but Lanang did not mind this woman as she was also wanted people to stop buying things with palm oil and for the whole world to learn about orangutans as well as the threats they faced from other humans. However, in the meanwhile until the palm oil companies could not threaten the rainforest anymore it was good she was trying to save orangutans who otherwise may die including those ones who found themselves inside palm oil fields.

It often bothered Lanang to read how those who lived outside the forest saw those who lived in the forest as troublemakers and who saw their attempts to protect the forest as getting in the way of ‘progress’. Yet, for Lanang he was always thankful to people who would help save the rainforest even putting their lives on the line to do so. To many of these outsiders the land was merely a landscape like a table top which could have things taken off and put on at will to suit whoever was using the table which in the case of outsiders was to destroy the rainforest so as to use the soil for palm oil trees or to turn it into grassland for cattle or to grow soy for them but for all of them to be

killed so their meat can be sold to make money from other humans. While for indigenous people the land was much more than just a table whose soil could be used for anything that humans saw fit as to them the land had to be seen as part of a wider world which included even the universe. For if one was to think of the land as a table then it had to be kept in mind that the house it was in was the whole world which kept it in good order. To destroy what nature saw as best to grow on the land was to also harm what surrounded the land which in the case of palm oil was not only the animal world that had lived in it but also the skies above it as climate change has shown to many short-sighted humans. The soil itself on which the land was formed could be even seen as the 'legs' that supported the 'table top' for the soil with all its many billions of different living microscopic organisms within it and which were also within every living thing whether it be animal or human were what were needed to keep healthy so that life itself can keep going and in the best possible way.

Lanang knew it was not the best way to describe the world he lived in as just a piece of furniture and for it within the whole world as being in a house but he thought it maybe one way for humans to understand its importance for humans seemed to always think of what they had gained from the world to use without thinking enough of what at cost it had come to the planet itself and the need to always replace what had been taken away so the earth could stay alive and to keep living well which in Lanang's mind he also thought it was something that one would think that humans would also think be good for them as well.

Indigenous people knew that the land could not be measured and used like the things that humans built with the materials they gained from nature but that it was part of nature itself and this had to be kept in mind especially by the outsiders who wanted to change nature not work with it as so often this idea that humans knew better than nature had so often worked out so hurtfully. As it was also so hurtful for Lanang that there were humans who expected orangutans to put up with living in small forest areas no matter how well they could intelligently change their ways to live in this 'second best' world to suit human business interests when what was truly correct was for these orangutans to live in the complete natural world in which they were born and which nature both expected and wanted them to be in so as in an untouched way to enjoy life to the full. Who along with living from the fruit they ate from a rainforest also helped to spread the seeds a rainforest to help it grow well for all creatures. Orangutans spreading fruit seeds for the rainforest is just a small example of how everything in the end relies on everything else in the web of life which was a planetary reality which humans seemed to often ignore. *'Humans must respect nature!'* Lanang truly wondered why so many humans could not understand this life giving

principle. *'They will always find stupid ways to lie to themselves and to other humans! As if to make it seem that nature could be treated badly without it all finally ending in tears for everybody and everything!'*

TRUTH IS DIFFERENT THROUGH DIFFERENT EYES

Lanang remembers speaking to Mr. Aladdin who he always found what this older learned human had to say was very wise.

'Mr Aladdin after picking up a set square had told Lanang how a famous Ancient Greek philosopher had once written that a way a carpenter looks at a right angle is much different than the way a person interested in geometry would look at it. "The carpenter is interested in how it is useful for his work while a geometrician is interested in the properties of the right angle itself to understand why it is true to call it so which of course can also increase the carpenter's trust in using a right angle set square to aid him in what he or she builds. Thus different people may see the same thing but think differently about it and for them all to believe the different way they see it as true even though each truth maybe different to each person. I say this for a carpenter from the city will most likely look at a tree in the forest much differently from the way you or I who both live in the forest would look at it. As for me...yes, like the carpenter I may use the tree to build something for human use...say for a longhouse...but unlike the city carpenter who may see a tree as simply an object to be used for some human purpose I see the tree as having its own purpose that goes far beyond what any human need maybe...in much the same way that you orangutans see a tree for you it not also a provider of food by way of fruits but it is also can be your home if you choose to make a sleeping nest in it...yes, as for me I would not like it so much to spend my time living high up in a tree as much as you do!'

Mr Aladdin had laughed.

"For human children as well as for young orangutans a tree can be a plaything to climb such is their imaginations which we adults of both species sometimes no longer seem to have as much."

Another laugh.

"While you too make your nest from twigs and branches from a tree unlike the carpenter you will not kill it and take it away for the tree as I have said also offers you fruit of which you eat and so the tree also gives you life. The rainforest offers life not only to you but to me as well so...speaking only for myself now...I will think long and hard before I think it necessary to ever bring a tree down if I have to use the timber for some much needed purpose as to help put a roof over my head as is clearly the case in the very longhouse that we now speak. After all, there is generally speaking the indigenous belief that one must leave the earth as healthy as when they first entered upon it. However, in my community it was decided long ago that no extra trees will be brought down that cannot be used. Also whenever as a family we have wanted to have a fire to cook outside on a

clear patch next to the house or sit around at night to tell stories like was the case in the old days before my children wanted to spend all their time on their computers only fallen or dead branches would be used and often collected from the rainforest floor. We may even do so tonight to tell you some more stories from times long gone for along with entertaining you and Aladdin and the rest of the family the spirits of the forest may also choose to listen in maybe to once more be amused by what us humans have to say especially when we even try to talk about them! Sadly, they so often have to spy on us to try to understand how they can better protect the forest seeing how there are some humans – mostly outsiders – who have become so keen to cut off or cut down the rainforests of our fair lands.”

INDIGENOUS WISDOM IS NEEDED TO SAVE NATURE

“First Nations North American Indians had said over a hundred years ago that humanity will know after the last tree was cut down and the last fish was eaten and the last stream was poisoned that human beings cannot eat money to stay alive.”

Lanang had this wise saying – said to him by Mr Aladdin – in mind when he had read how the cutting down of rainforests in South East Asia had led to delays in the yearly big rains as there was less wetness in the air. In Australia there were thus no big northern rains to cool this big dry island. So the much hotter summer heatwaves led to big bushfires in the south-east corner threatening the big cities. In Australia with big bushfires becoming so bad there was also interest in learning how Aboriginal people took care of the land.

To Lanang it was clear that throughout the world First Nations people did know how to live with the land and not hurt it. Indigenous land care was also best for animals; while with those so called ‘advanced humans’ who were still allowed to destroy nature just to gain money there were many animals being killed and whole species dying out. It was also interesting for Lanang to have come across humans who also believed that although orangutans were still endangered in the wild they did at least stand a better chance of still living safely in those indigenous tribal rainforest areas where they were very much respected as the wise, knowledgeable beings they really were and who could also show humans how to live well with nature.

Global warming was also showing humans that they needed to keep the planet healthy and Lanang felt indigenous peoples were surely best placed to show the rest of the human race how to do this. Outside people coming to the rainforest to say what to do and who would even tell what indigenous people what to do was to Lanang not a better way to help the planet. Indigenous people having the real power to make stronger their human rights

and their land rights was for Lanang the best way to save the Earth; ordinary people in the world including those outsiders who thought they knew best could listen too indigenous peoples to equally work with them to gain this long term good end which would also be a win for Earth's animals.

WITH LESS TREES WAS ALWAYS RISK OF MORE SICKNESS

With the loss of many trees there was also the risk of germs that could be dangerous to humans spreading to them by wildlife who would normally not be near humans. Yet with their rainforests gone these animals which also included bats and birds would – like orangutans – try to look for new homes. It also did not help that humans would catch and eat wild animals that may carry germs harmful to people. Once humans were sick they could then make other people near them sick. With so many humans in cities and flying to other countries many people throughout the whole world could then quickly become ill. As an example Lanang had learnt how some humans were saying that forests cut away for palm oil in Africa had led to bats looking for somewhere else to live. It was argued that these bats which had been harmless to humans while deep in the forest – where nature had checks and balances so not one thing or the other that was harmful to all would gain the upper hand – now came in touch with other humans leading to a pandemic with a deadly disease called ebola having killed many villagers to terribly show the strong link between deforestation and disease as well as with climate change. Now Lanang was learning of another killer virus spreading throughout the world which it was felt was most probably caused by humans again in touch with wildlife which had the disease. *'Leave nature alone!'* was Lanang's first thought.

HUMAN GOVERNMENT

However, diseases from animals to humans such as the influenza which killed many tens of millions of people throughout the whole world from the near end of the First World War and afterwards for a few years came from poorly kept sickly farm animals in the United States. Poor Kansas farmers who joined up to fight first spread this deadly flu throughout the United States as they had to go military training camps from where it went out to surrounding areas then they spread the influenza to Europe when they went to fight from where it spread everywhere. Only to be unfairly called the Spanish Flu because only in Spain it became more well known as it was not a country fighting in this 'Great War'. The warring nations did not let their people readily know about this spreading dangerous disease as they did not

want their people to become frightened by this 'unseen enemy'; which may turn their already war tired minds away from still trying to do their best to defeat their human enemies.

However, while looking a little more into this yet one more terrible moment of human history Lanang could not quite understand what all these millions of humans were exactly fighting for that was worth so many of them losing their lives. When this big war ended the humans would return to the lands from which they came with nothing to show for what they had done other than to have by some miracle to have stayed alive. He did not understand how these humans could say they were fighting to defend democracy when their own governments hid from them towards the end of the war the rise of a disease which in the end would kill many more than the already many that had died on the battlefields.

'These governments had become enemies to each of their own peoples!' unkindly thought a realistic-minded Lanang. *'Perhaps, also not just with this flu but also in other different, unequal ways...'*

Yes, there had been 'winners' and 'losers' in this war as there was in all human wars which whatever was won - on the most basic level - seemed to suit in this modern age more the interests of the leaders of nations and those with other power on the home front who supported them rather than those powerless who they led and who had faced losing their lives. For the ordinary people of all countries it looked to Lanang that any good for humanity could be gained by not fighting against each other but by helping each other. The human senselessness of war was clearly shown to Lanang when he learnt how in World War One some of enemy soldiers who were positioned in trenches only a short distance apart from one another chose to play football with each other on Christmas Day. A day of peace. Yet the next day would again be a day of killing. To be followed by many more days of horrific fighting that would kill off any human sense of friendship. Lanang understood how people had to go to war when someone else was coming to take over their world as they really had no choice but to defend themselves unless they thought they could take their chances to be taken over and then try in a peaceful way to regain their freedom from those who had taken it away from them. It is most famously what Indians under Mahatma Ghandi had done to gain their freedom from the English as well as black South Africans led by Nelson Mandela and Afro-Americans had also done led by Martin Luther King Jr. in the United States to gain their civil rights as well as Australian Aborigines who legally proved they had land rights and human rights by the noble likes of Eddie Mabo, Faith Bandler, William Cooper and Charles Perkins to name but only a few of so many notable Aboriginal campaigners sparking such events as the Freedom Bus Ride - which promisingly also had many young university students - and the youthful Aboriginal activists who bravely set up

the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra opposite Parliament House. Yes, Lanang could see how there was this better non-violent choice – which involved much human bravery as those with military and police power against them were often still very lethally violent – but he knew that in the case of Mara there was no choice but to forcefully take the kidnapped orphans from him. There was no way Mara would be willing to freely hand the orphan orangutans over no matter how well it was clearly pointed out to him that taking them was wrong. Yet so often in the human world so many wars were not fought over freedom but rather to take something from someone from what someone else had such as their land. Yet, most wars were made to appear by rulers as an ‘only way’ to take what was needed or to fight to ‘defend freedom’ which meant attacking someone else first before the enemy attacked first. Yes, sometimes there was a real need to fight but Lanang saw there was also much human trickery in having people go to war when it would be clearly wrong to do so especially when it was clear that many people would also die. After this first big war in Europe which was supposed to be ‘the war that ends all wars’ there was only so many more human troubles to follow including economic disaster which would only lead to ever more human nastiness to find a way into human hearts and so to an even bigger war to be fought by millions of humans over the whole world including also in Borneo. Orangutans would look down from their trees to see humans fight each other and would wonder what could be done to have these crazed primate relatives one day become as smart as them so as to live peacefully? A seemingly lost cause as even after this big war there would only be many other wars which have all mostly been fought for the same wrong reasons and along now with the new real fear of there being a superpower nuclear war that would end all life on earth – except possibly for the many trillions of microbes that were the basis of life. Despite such human hopelessness, a still hopeful Lanang still looked on the computer for proof of some good sense in the overriding ways humans madly lived – or otherwise the world was truly lost – as the human race presently seemed to have such a large say on the planet’s health. He found out that after this costlier big war in which so many more millions of human lives had been thrown away there was a small island in far away Europe where the people had at least voted out their single-minded war leader so as to build on the good idea of a more helpful society so as to really have something really good happen for all of them for being on the so called winning side. (Although it has to be said that a truly evil enemy government that had murdered many millions of innocent lives had been rightly defeated). There was a new government in England that put in place a health care system which was free for everybody so no one would die because they did not have enough money to go to hospital. This was certainly a small step forward after what happened in the first big war

when many people on this same island had not even been told about the spread of a deadly influenza while this first big war was still happening. It had interested Lanang how human governments even in democracies can be willing to keep information away from people but at least in a democracy people had the choice to change their government if they found out their leaders were no longer doing the right thing by them. In a democracy a government had to keep people's trust and so – in a wrong way – (1) it had to be good at hiding things from people if it did not want them to know because they would be against what was happening or (2) it had to make things look as if they would be bad if there was change to something that would be better for society but probably not good for big business which was giving money to the political parties of a government to help them stay in power – so would make decisions good for them rather than for everyone in society – or (3) in a good way: it would have to be good at explaining things to people when changes which involved some personal loss were needed but would be better for society overall. A simple example of the last case was that to have free healthcare the government would explain there would be have a little money taken by the government away from people who had good paying jobs to help pay for public hospitals so as to help out even the poorest people in society. As the health services were free for everybody and would help to make for a fair society then a good government would have people accept this idea which thankfully under good leadership can really happen. Good governments have also had people agree that free schooling for everyone is a wonderful idea including also having everything from pre-school childcare through to university for free as well as giving people enough money to pay for basic living costs when they could not find a good long-lasting job which paid a fair wage. Lanang did find it strange that there were people who would say that only people who went to university should pay when it would be out of the reach of the poorest to do so. When that poor person may be very smart and if was to be a doctor could even one day save the life of a person who did not want him ore her to have a higher education. Humans should look at the social benefits of any idea that promoted equality beyond the narrow limits of money costs because to have a well educated, well cared for society would also keep health costs down and perhaps also stop crime when people had their basic needs met which would keep them not only healthy but have money to spend that would help people to keep their jobs and also hopefully also improve their wages. A caring society helped for a better world thought Lanang and which also included for him the idea of social housing as he found it strange that humans had people trying to live on their city streets without often doing anything to really help them but instead being more ready to judge them. As far as Lanang knew the human race was the only animal species which had some its own homeless and so it

did make him wonder why humans kept thinking they were the smartest living beings on this Earth. It also occurred to Lanang that governments should also put enough money into the humanities and the arts to help people become better culturally educated which would help them to open their minds to become more understanding human beings along with good science which would help people to learn about the climate dangers now facing them and to come up with good, fruitful ideas to save the world. Humans had put in new warning systems to let them know when a tidal wave or hurricane or any other now too common climate change disaster was coming their way which had least saved lives but Lanang thought the best warning system would be the human mind to change from thinking it was the centre of the world and move to one side to allow nature to take its rightful place as the base of all life on Earth. Rather than standing over nature with a competitive outlook humanity if it so wished could stand alongside nature and all other animal and plant species with a sharing spirit.

Putting his little examples to one side Lanang did at least see that governing in the human world did seem to often be a balancing act in finding the mid-point between human self-interest and human generosity but both could go hand-in-hand for to be more caring about the planet so it would overcome its present sickness and blossom again it would also help the whole human race to not only survive but also live well which surely is also in its best interest.

Having learnt to use the computer so well Lanang had also gained the skill to have the computer put the words of any human language onto the screen of what he would say to it by way of the translation software that Aladdin had on the computer which already allowed for him and Mr Aladdin to speak to Lanang. As it was Lanang had learnt also to write seeing he had also learnt to read as well as to watch and understand videos which this primate-human translator had also proven to be so helpful. In short, by way of speaking and some typing Lanang amused himself by placing down onto a computer page some of his latest thoughts mainly around human governing so as to show to Mr Aladdin.

TO DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

This young orangutan did not like it when some humans said it was impossible to change the world. He truly hated it when humans known as 'experts' said that yes there were problems with palm oil but it was here to stay. The 'best' that could be done was to try and stop palm oil companies from destroying more rainforest. Those humans against palm oil who Lanang thought were very good would say palm oil would never stop destroying rainforests and that big palm oil fields did not have to stay. However, these

people against palm oil were simply seen by these same ‘experts’ as not willing to accept what was ‘real’. What Lanang thought was very strange about these people who said they knew what was ‘real’ was they would say palm oil has been bad for rainforests but were still willing to accept – what Lanang saw as second best – which was to let palm oil stay. From this young orangutan’s point of view what he saw as best was to have single crop palm oil plantations disappear so the rainforest could grow back on the land from which it had once been on. Lanang knew many orangutans would like to be living where palm oil fields now were. There would also be many local communities who would like to have their land back and willing to farm in a way whereby humans and nature could live together without one hurting the other.

Yes, Lanang would ‘like’ to see a human tell him how if his rainforest was destroyed he should still be happy to live in a small piece of rainforest surrounded by palm oil fields and Lanang in turn could ask if the human would like to live with him for a few years...? Perhaps, the human could also help Lanang when he would have to take the risk of moving between palm oil fields to other small forest areas to help deal with any annoyed palm oil worker who may try to wrongly hurt or kill him...?

‘Enough of such dark thoughts...as they can kill hope...’ suddenly mused Lanang who deep down still truly believed that much like slavery, tobacco and fossil fuels were no longer wanted by most humans that they could also have their minds opened up yet again to bring about a real end to all the palm oil that was destroying nature.

HEALTH WARNINGS FOR THE PLANET ALSO NEEDED!

‘Yes, it is important to keep bringing to the human world’s attention all the bad things that big palm oil companies keep doing and which they say they are doing in the name of human progress.’

Lanang knew from what Mr Aladdin had told him that for a long time it had looked as if tobacco, slavery and fossil fuels would be in the human world forever.

“Although these and many other things that are not good for the world are not yet totally gone,” explained Mr Aladdin, “but because many people have put pressure on governments they are at least no longer seen as normal. I know it was once fashionable to be a smoker but it is hard to imagine that now. Yes, when I was young everyone smoked and sadly there are still people who do yet the cigarette companies have had many setbacks in those parts of the world where education programs have been put in place for people to learn how smoking is bad for their health. Less people now buy cigarettes with smoking now seen by many countries as the ugly habit that it is. Nevertheless, the cigarette companies still hope to make much money in

countries where people may not fully know of the many health dangers but the day is surely coming when everyone will know about them very well so everywhere there will be less interest in cigarettes. From a world where many people smoked will come a world in which only a few people will smoke and this too must have been seen as an impossible thing in the not too distant past.”

Mr Aladdin would also speak about how along with banning all advertising with even some countries not wanting cigarettes in movies or television shows there was also in Australia the first move to bring in plain cigarette packets with health warnings to show how smoking was so horrible to the human body. Lanang wished the government of Australia also put on the packaging of anything with palm oil in it ‘health warnings’ for the planet which would include pictures of destroyed rainforests and dead animals. It really troubled him that publicly highlighting the deforestation caused for big single crops like palm oil and soy in supermarkets where shoppers all went too was not done throughout the human world.

SUPERMARKET DREAM WORLD

Of course, supermarkets would not like their customers reminded that the pretty packets on their shelves were keeping minds away from such a terrible truth as trees dying so supermarkets can make more money by having cheap palm oil still used in many of the items they sold. It made Lanang so angry when he would look up lists written by humans who were against big palm oil companies destroying rainforests which showed how there were many shop items which did not have palm oil. Yes, it was possible for humans to live without palm oil and still have a good standard of living. Lanang even saw that humans could buy palm oil free soap which interested him when historically using palm oil in soap had helped to make palm oil to finally become more commonly used in the modern world.

‘Was it really too much to ask to have humans stop using palm oil in all their things if it gave both trees and many animals along with many forest people as well some peace of mind...?’ Lanang asked himself. *‘I really don’t think so.’* which – of course – was his own sensible answer.

Lanang was also thankful for those people who would always try their best to let other people know about how hurtful big scale palm oil was to his world. After all, it seemed to Lanang that in the human world that most people just kept going the same way they had always done with not too many humans really knowing what was happening elsewhere unless they went out of their way to find out. As it was Lanang did often wonder if shoppers knew the food they bought in the supermarket did not appear by just adding water in a back storeroom. Yet maybe shoppers did not think much at all with their

minds clouded in many supermarkets by the upbeat 'feel good' music coming over loudspeakers along with bright white lights shining down onto the shiny clean white shelves and the sparkling polished plastic floors. How could shoppers think of the Earth and its soils when the food on sale was often decoratively wrapped under clear plastic lying neatly on a white plastic tray almost as if this is where it had sprung from...? Yes, of course people would know food like fruit and vegetables came from the earth's ground and trees with farmers working the land as if that was all to it and to think that everything was sold at a fair price. For the busy shoppers to absentmindedly overlook if everyone gained a fair reward for their labour: from the migrant farm worker on the land to the teenage shop assistant coming through those big plastic flapping doors with cardboard boxes of many items to put on the shelves through to those people working hard on the checkouts who practically had to work non-stop so tired shoppers would not have to wait any longer than they had too. With always never enough people to service the shoppers waiting in lines who would always be asked to go to the self-checkouts to save on time even though if the supermarket was willing to give more people jobs there would be no need of them. No, people had to hurry to get home to make dinner so there was no time to think of a world where so many supermarket workers or farm workers were not all paid enough. To not think that some of the workers on big crop fields may only be children. To not think of the mass deaths of animals in slaughterhouses when the meat too was wrapped ever so nicely as well all sliced up. To not even think the sausages and steaks had come from living creatures who also had feelings and hopes for a good life. To not even think that along with destroyed rainforests there were also the plastic filled beaches and rivers which included the thrown away rubbish of all this only-one-time used supermarket packaging.

SOME HEARTFELT QUESTIONS BY LANANG ABOUT HUMANS

'Maybe human shoppers as they went down those many narrow, supermarket laneways like ants in a canyon that maybe they really did not think of such troubling things that daily happened in the real world which were so harmful to so many other life forms on the planet and hurtful to them as well by way of climate change...? Did many humans keep their minds so blind as to not even think of such far away places which they must have seen on their screens or read of them as the source of some of the food they bought on food labels or maybe even had visited on their holidays...? Yet maybe they knew no more about these lands than the beach they swam at with the old temple behind it which they visited with the old rainforest around them without thinking that beyond such beauty which has been kept to help make their human playtime so lovely that trees were being cut down and animals were dying so the ice cream they were

having in their far too hot tropical setting could be a little smoother and taste a little sweeter and look a little creamier...?’

Such heart-felt, darkly, troubling questions as he wrote them down that Lanang asked himself which mirrored his upset spirit.

‘All that food in colourful, neat, nice looking packets so the human mind may not stop to think about some of the real harm that had been done to animals or to the land or even to people just so long enough to have a human hand take the object of sale off the shelf and put into a shopping trolley. For a human to only cheerfully look forward to a lovely dinner with family or to have in front of a favourite TV show which may even be about overseas travel.’

Lanang knew there were many humans who did care about what was badly happening to his world. It also seemed that there were still too many more humans who were not making enough effort to change their ways and not even choosing to do so in a personal small way; let alone call out for much needed social change in a big way. Thus, to Lanang, it would often still seem that too much of the human world was still going along like in a spell with humanity acting like a sleepwalker causing destruction wherever still taking wrong steps. To have Lanang and his friends to face losing their tree homes and even their lives in this bad dream that was only too real which was made by humans. It was if the human race did not understand what it was really doing or maybe did not care while those few humans with much real power and who could really help to change things for the better were too often preferring to happily keep making much money with so many other humans who kept working for them left with so little. For such much less powerful humans needing to get together far more often to force through what was needed to be done to have a much fairer world both for all humans as well as for the whole planet.

[unfinished]