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# EXPLORING THE DEPTHS OF THE UNDERGROUND

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Reflective Essay on the Lyrics of  
Kekal's Deeper Underground

Jeff Arwadi

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This writing works as an accompaniment or reference  
to the lyrical subject matters of Kekal's 2018 album  
"Deeper Underground".

For more information about obtaining the album  
or reading the lyrics of the songs please visit:  
**[kekal.bandcamp.com/album/deeper-underground](http://kekal.bandcamp.com/album/deeper-underground)**

Find information about Kekal by visiting:  
**[www.kekal.org](http://www.kekal.org)**  
**[www.facebook.com/kekalofficial](https://www.facebook.com/kekalofficial)**

*“I cannot be an optimist but I am a prisoner of hope.”*

—Cornel West

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## CHAPTER I

### Introduction

Writing a book? “No way! It never crossed my mind and I don’t have an ability to do that!” I said, when asked by a friend. It was less than 5 years ago. In the current digital era, releasing music or literature has become less risky. In case of a book, you don’t need a publisher and a signed contract in order to put your writing into the market, or a certain amount of money up-front to print and then pay a distribution agency. You could do *everything* by yourself and upload it digitally to independent online bookstores.

I chose to stick with the music. Making music has been my common activity for more than two decades. Nowadays, whenever I have a spare time outside the day job that I cannot ignore just because it pays the bills, writing and recording music take a large chunk of it. Music is my passion.

Then comes “Deeper Underground”: the 11th full-length album from Kekal which I happened to start it by writing the lyrics back in 2016. The background was quite exhaustive. In May 2016, I wrote a blog or newsletter for Kekal, telling the band’s audience about making an album that focuses



on the brighter side. I explained in the newsletter: *“The title came after the lyrics I wrote earlier this year, with principal notion that even if we feel we hit ‘the rock bottom’ during our journey in life, it doesn’t mean the ultimate defeat, as it can be a blessing in disguise, that enables us to understand and to explore that ‘rock bottom’ and find some useful and even interesting lessons. A kind of experience we would never get if we always roam the surface or fly high all the time.”*

The lyrics of the song “Deeper Underground” eventually define the rest of the theme for the album, and many of its songs’ lyrics are based on my own reflections toward life in general. Here is an excerpt from another newsletter released in November 2016: *“The album’s atmosphere will not be dark and somber. There might be some angry tunes to some extent, but overall tone is positive and full of life. We live in a broken world layered by major problems, another after another. Our same world that sits on a heavily abused Earth as well. It’s so depressing just to think about these problems. Do we need to create another depressing energy with music? What we need is to create liberating energy instead, and that’s the aim of Deeper Underground. Most of the songs say about navigating life through obstacles. I believe there’s a light at the end of the tunnel, but we have to take the tunnel and go deeper and deeper underground, hit the rock bottom sometimes, and feel the pain without a doubt. There’s no escape, we must face and continue moving forward in our own dark tunnel and to suffer in the process, but it’s important to suffer well and to keep our hope intact, until we are able see the light.”*

Something actually happened during the lyric writing process. Never did I know, or became aware to the fact that writing lyrics could lead to a personal transformation. It

scares me, but on the other hand it also liberates me to the extent that I could not help myself but accepting the change, and let myself being transformed. During the process of dealing with the lyrical subject matters, I started to read more books, originally for references so that the lyrics would not become shallow and biased. But from there, I discovered more intellectual writers such as Dr. Cornel West and Chris Hedges, and consequently, more knowledge that was previously unknown to me was introduced. I don't believe in accidental awakening, everything arrives as part of *synchronicity* —or dare I say: a revelation. The album is very critical towards the current issues of religion, economic system and governmental policies that are abused to support social injustice and exploitation. Common problems in the society are brought up to the lyrics as well, like racism, fascism, materialism and the hierarchical pyramid of human privilege that creates systemic oppression by the top towards the bottom end.

In December 2016, I decided to take a chance to write my first book. Without a knowledge of writing techniques, let alone enough wordsmith skills, it might be better for me to start with a relatively shorter one, between 50 to 100 pages, and that means something like a reflective essay or more appropriately a collection of essays instead of a *full-blown* book. There are subject matters covered on the lyrics of “Deeper Underground” album that beg for further explanation and elaboration. An essay is a good way to address this.

After releasing the first song called “Root of All Evil” in January 2017, I asked someone to interview me, to discuss the lyrics and then posted everything as a note on Kekal's Facebook page. As it went relatively well, more discussions were followed afterwards to deal with some other songs. This

essay mostly covers the adaptation of those discussions plus some other songs that have not yet been discussed. From Chapter III to Chapter IX, we will explore the lyrical subject matters of the songs on the album as deep as possible —no pun intended— with one chapter represents one song.

Jeff Arwadi, January 2018



## CHAPTER II

### Deeper Reasons: How It All Started

Calgary, Alberta, Canada, March 2016. The city was hit hard from the economic downturn because of the fall of the oil price. Unemployment rate grew from below 5% to over 10%. As a graphic designer working in the automotive retail industry, I was not directly hit by the time majority of oil and energy companies laid-off thousands of their full-time employees about a year prior, but as the economy is always interdependent and the city is also known by term *the oil capital of Canada*, all businesses were affected. Stress level was high. People got angry and irritated much more often. Criminal activities were escalating. Houses were broken into. The storage rooms in the condo building which we lived were broken into, including ours. We did not have valuable items stored in there, but that's not the point here.

That night, I was discussing with my wife about the possibility of moving to another city and province in Canada. We had zero idea where to go, and if we decided to go, the next questions were: where, how, when, and why should? More questions appeared, and they lingered in weeks.

2016 marked as 10 years my wife and I have been living in Canada. We moved to Canada in 2006, sold almost everything we had back in Jakarta, Indonesia, including our small house, a car and other replaceable belongings. We went here with just four suitcases and some money. I only brought one guitar, my first electric guitar bought in 1992.

Compared with the harshness of life when we first arrived in a new country, that economic downturn was felt relatively *light*, but there is a difference in substance. During the first two years we live in Canada, the hardship of life was only limited to ours (and typically, most new immigrants feel this way as well). As newcomers, we knew and understood the risks, and all we had was to move forward and move up. We were literally at the rock bottom back then. On the contrary, this whole economic downturn in Calgary and Alberta province in general, emerged as an impact of the fall of oil price. Just one single variable, namely oil price, would crush the whole economy and affected everybody in all walks of life, except the wealthy top executives, as they would get bonuses by slashing the operational costs, including all these low to mid level staff who got laid-off instantly. Upon reflection to this whole state of affairs, as around the same time I started to write the lyrics for a few songs including “Root of All Evil”, the main conclusion was down to something at the very core of human condition: Greed.

Between writing lyrics for the new songs and contemplating our relocation, I began to realize how interconnected these two had become during that time. The lyrics motivated me to find solutions and answers to the questions in life, and at the same time, they were written because of the events that happen in real life including personal experiences. There was

some level of spirituality involved. All of the sudden, the lyrics became so real to me as we experienced them first hand!

In October 2016 my wife and I ended up moving to Ottawa, the Capital of Canada in the province of Ontario, about 3300 km east of Calgary. We became aware of some spiritual guidance in forms of signs and synchronicity that led us to this decision, including the destination city and the timing (even down to the more details like which part of the city we need to settle as the place to live). Crazy as it seems, but there must be a grand scheme of things beyond our limits of understanding as human being.

I consider myself as a Christian, although I prefer to stay away from the religious side of it. I no longer believe in religion. It is the philosophy and the spirituality of Christianity that I am into. This way, Socrates —the ancient Greek teacher and philosopher— was considered a philosophical Christian, even he lived long before Jesus was born. The Socratic method of questioning is comparable to a philosophical Christian questioning a grand scheme of things, as we ask ourselves all the tough questions regarding life in connection to the the will of the Divine or God. As for spirituality, it is how we feel and maintain the relation and connection between our individual self and the Divine every single moment in time, and the understanding that there is a bigger picture in life that we need to harmonize our free will, including all the decisions we make, to the will of the Divine that connects all beings together for the greater good. The consequences of this spiritual harmonization will be reflected in our social actions against evil and injustice in the world.

I was initially inclined towards the concept of *religionless*

*Christianity* from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whom I admire because of his bold stance against the Nazi regime during the World War II, and subsequently put in prison and hanged by the Nazi government. It was during the years where most of Christian churches and religious leaders in Germany became Nazi supporters. When he was in prison, Bonhoeffer came up with the whole understanding of religionless Christianity, which to me, made much more sense than religious Christianity. Later on, I then got introduced by the works of Søren Kierkegaard which became my pivot for personal transformation, which then brought me to the understanding of Christian Anarchism.

There is something unique about “Deeper Underground”. For about a decade, I had never done any album for Kekal that feels so vivid to my heart, in the sense of believing that *this is the right thing to do* and enough to become involved deeply in the psyche of the lyrical subject matters. I felt the urgency and importance working on the songs, with lyrics being put at the centre and then let the music wraps around them. This is the main reason why I decided to write the lyrics first before thinking about how the music will go. “Deeper Underground” is a very important album for me personally, and hopefully for Kekal’s listeners as well. As a whole, the album tells about an existential quest: how to navigate life through all of these pain and suffering so often being experienced by us common people, and also exposing the feelings of brokenness and helplessness. This is the time when spiritual factor would kick in. We cannot get into the spiritual level of what is brokenness and what is helplessness, without us feeling broken and helpless in the first place. The other message is also to take a bolder stance against evil as a spiritual force, even that means we may need to offend people

by that. The reason is simple, during the times of troubles, people tend to fall and being diverted into identity politics based on race, religion, gender, and so on, and “barking up the wrong tree” instead of fighting for justice and common good.

2017 was the year of historic significance, meaning that many things happened that year which would affect the future of our planet in all aspects: political, social, economic, climatic. They are all interconnected, and the scale is global. 2018 is becoming a much more difficult year with all the ongoing problems unresolved, plus future problems to cope with. There will be more natural disasters because of climate change, more socio-political unrest in many countries around the world, and even to a possible large-scale world war and economic collapse. There is an urge to address these issues in a more direct, blunt and straightforward manner.

Writing for “Deeper Underground” really pushed myself to the next level of inner pressure. It crushed me emotionally, but I had no choice. Many times I caught myself in tears from watching documentaries about human exploitation. It is important to learn more about history from many perspectives and obtain the knowledge on global issues of human suffering, so that the lyrics would not be just parroting popular opinions or a single source, and to avoid becoming a mere echo chamber without substance. Consequently, this also helps transforming myself personally; to step out from the life of comfort. I would need extra knowledge to explore the depths of the topics covered in the lyrics, even though that same knowledge actually hit me right in my face and told me how wrong I was before I started to dig into it, how I had been a victim of misinformation throughout the years.







## CHAPTER III

### Root of All Evil: The Mammon Within

#### 1. The Concept of Evil

Many of us possess the mindset of good versus evil in a polarized nature, and that we need to find a balance between the forces of good and evil. I don't believe in that concept at all, and I completely disagree with that. I don't see good and evil to be in the same continuum, that occupy polar opposites of the same line. Good is not a positive equal of evil. Those two forces are not equal at all. The characteristic of good is infinite, but evil is not because evil leads to destruction or annihilation. It is paradoxical by nature, and this paradox can be validated by common sense. Take this as an example: you may know about the so-called golden rule or law of reciprocity which says "treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself". Evil will not stand to that principle, because no one would wish to be treated in a negative way. In doing so, one would treat the other not the same way he/she would expect to be treated. Thus the relation between the source and receiver is never be infinite, never be eternal. There goes the paradox that would lead to total destruction.

To me, evil itself is a moral imbalance, and by engaging oneself in it will bring imbalances in life as a whole. The only way to find a balance is to embrace good, the element that is infinite. It can be maintained forever, eternally in harmony. Both good and evil forces are spiritual in nature. Good force enlightens and evil force distorts the human *soul* (or mind - depending on your belief system). The damaging effects of evil will manifest in all areas of life, not only physical. To establish the nature of eternity, to embrace the infinite, we have to really fight and resist the force of evil and to put good in practical terms.

## 2. The Love of Money and The Cult of Materialism

The basic concept regarding the love of money or material wealth is not only related to the behaviour of the wealthy people in our society. Wealth definitely amplifies the excesses, the effects of what has been created from the love of money: like greed, domination, and so on that eventually turn into evil. People are willing to kill each other because of money. But the love of money and the aim of material gains and fulfillment can be found within the average middle-class people as well. The gambling addiction and excessive consumerism are just two of the many manifestations of people being entangled with their love of money and material fulfillment.

In modern capitalist society, especially in the USA and some of the western societies, the money-worship belief-system among the middle-class can be traced back to Ayn Rand's *objectivism*, which in my opinion a very dangerous and twisted philosophy which roughly tells us that "the

more you love money, the more moral you are.”, and it goes further down to the equally dangerous view of *social-darwinism*, the elimination of the “weak”, vulnerable people in the society. Ayn Rand was not an intellectual *per-se*, she was more a novelist than a philosopher and she based her views in a reactionary matter. We cannot compare her with, let’s say Adam Smith, who brought the theory of Capitalism. What makes it dangerous, in my opinion, despite her non-intellectual credentials, is that her core philosophy has become a new “religion” on itself, and has influenced current ideologies that are somewhat broadly acceptable in modern capitalist and neo-fascist society, and became a “moral standard” or “dogma”, corrupting doctrines and ideologies of established religion from their original principles. One example is of the so-called *prosperity-gospel* doctrine spawned within the right-wing religious Christian branches that promote selfishness and material fulfillment, like putting wealth and health as a measurement of God’s blessing. Same thing with the *right-wing libertarianism* as a relatively new, adopted and modified ideology that has quite a broad number of believers in the USA and even bled to certain places in Canada as well, which is understandable as it values the virtue of private property. I don’t need to go into details, but this ideology is heavily influenced by Ayn Rand’s view of materialism and individualism. That would definitely create a cruel, selfish society.

What is *Mammon*? According to Cambridge Dictionary, Mammon is “*the force that makes people try to become as rich as possible and the belief that this is the most important thing in life*”. The word traces back to its origin from a New Testament Greek *mamōnas* which means wealth or material possessions. Living in a 21st century industrialized

corporate capitalist society, everyone agrees on one thing: money matters. You need money in order to survive, but the question is how *much* money do we need? This question is quickly followed by other questions: how much is enough in order for us to make a living instead of just surviving? What is the main goal in our life? How big is our need? and so on. In most cases, society dictates our needs, and it dictates our lives as well. If you live in the city, you will need some extra money for the lifestyles that you may not need if you live in a small village somewhere in the middle of nowhere. In the city, you need money to attend a yoga class, or to access fitness facilities, watching sports and music concerts, clubbing, go to bars or restaurants, etc. The more choices being offered, the more money you may need to keep up in order to live 'a decent life' according to the society which dictates you. Not to mention private possessions, such as house, car, and all the gadgets plus various things you wear so that you could impress others as you pass by or on the social media. There is a popular quote that says: *"we buy things we don't need, with the money we don't have, to impress people we don't like."* These needs eventually lead to a culture of consumerism and materialism. Most of us do not have enough money to obtain many items that are offered in the market, so the quick solution is to borrow money. All of the sudden, our debt grows bigger and bigger with no end in sight how to pay it off. Ever wonder who receives the most profits from the endless public consumption and the debts? The corporations and the bankers who lend you money and take interests out from the money you borrow to buy all the goods they sell to you!

### 3. Greed Enhanced, Evil Unleashed

I came across the 2012 article on Psychology Today

magazine entitled “Greed: The Ultimate Addiction” by Dr. Leon Seltzer. On that article, Dr. Seltzer says that *“...of all the things one might be addicted to, nothing tops the greed-laden pursuit of wealth in its audacity, manipulativenness, and gross insensitivity to the needs and feelings of others. Not to mention its extreme, short-sighted, irresponsible covetousness.”* Greed is a mental disorder, highly addictive, and oftentimes mentioned in religious literatures as a manifestation of sin. If not confronted and fought, greed will easily manifest into evil. Describing people that are addicted to greed, Dr. Seltzer further pointed out: *“Contrasted with spending addicts (a compulsion that drives such over-the-top consumers—or shopaholics—into unmanageable debt), greed or wealth addicts are hardly focused on depleting or disbursing their fortune but on acquiring and maintaining it. Unconsciously linking their fundamental human value to their financial worth, what drives their behavior is accumulating as much wealth as possible—and then using it to acquire still more wealth.”*

John D. Rockefeller, a billionaire oil magnate, was at one point the world’s richest man in the early 1900’s. A reporter asked him, “How much money is enough?” His response was, *“Just a little bit more.”*

According to the 2017 data from non-profit organization Oxfam, eight richest people in the world possess the same wealth as the bottom 3.6 billion people. There are estimated hundreds of thousands people die every single day from hunger and diseases, the condition which is often caused by the lack of usable resources (land to grow food, access to water), because these same resources were stolen from them, and were given to corporate powers.

When talking about greed, all the excesses of extreme global capitalism and putting our world into perspective, it is worth to mention that the U.S. imperialistic foreign policy for so many years have brought misery to human being in such a global scale, in many nations around the world. Between wars and resource-grabbings (which are always connected), all things can be traced back to the ultimate greed for money, power and domination. Militarism is used to maintain hegemony of the corporate elite that controls the government policies in order to control the world. At the same time, war brings immense profit to the military-industrial complex even though they did not win the war, because government would take money from the people to buy those various types of weapons. The change between administration to administration is very much done at the surface level. The *Deep State* remains the same. The goal remains the same. It is the same devil with different clothing. Right now they just switched clothes from *neoliberalism* to *neo-fascism*, but both share the same core which is defending the interests of corporate greed. And many of its citizens seem to care mostly on identity politics alone, maybe because they have already been fooled and divided by the same corporations and bankers who took their jobs and money in the first place.

I am not going to write too much about what has been said on the previous paragraph, but I would highly recommend the book from Noam Chomsky entitled "Understanding Power".



## CHAPTER IV

### Sanity Away From Sanity: The Age of Anthropocene

The lyrics of “Sanity Away from Sanity” deal with the so-called *abrupt climate change* as subject matter. Committee on Abrupt Climate Change of the National Research Council gives us two definitions regarding what is exactly abrupt climate change: *In terms of physics, it is a transition of the climate system into a different mode on a time scale that is faster than the responsible forcing. In terms of impacts, “an abrupt change is one that takes place so rapidly and unexpectedly that human or natural systems have difficulty adapting to it.”*

The keyword to the term is ‘abrupt’, the change that happens rapidly. It is difficult to predict the amount and the outcome of this change based on what is currently occurring, because the process itself is not linear. There is a feedback loop taking place. In music and sound system, we know a familiar term called ‘feedback loop’ or ‘feedback’ that usually occurs when we put the microphone or guitar pickups too close facing any of the speakers that transfer their audio signals. The cycle in which the signal would get picked-up, fed into the speakers, picked-up again and then re-added over



and over infinitely. This feedback would bring up the sonic loudness much higher than the normal amplification would do because it gets the non-linear signal strengthening.

The feedback loop is what makes climate change to become a near-term existential threat. Sooner or later these changes will affect the lives of many species on this planet, including us Homo Sapiens, and eventually lead us to extinction. This threat is significant enough that Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists put climate change as one of the great concerns for humanity alongside nuclear weapons. In January 2018, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Science and Security Board set their (in)famous Doomsday Clock to just 2 Minutes to Midnight. Midnight means we are finished, and two minutes into that don't seem to be a long and safe time frame. Of course, nuclear weapons may accelerate the process of human extinction and the destruction of this planet, but we cannot set aside the climate change factor as one of the variables.

During writing the lyrics of this song, I took some time reading and watching a quite amount of published articles, models and even some science reports regarding the abrupt climate change. They basically come up with projections based on the recorded data, from the more conservative models that say that human life may become threatened in the next few hundred years or so because the of sea level rise and drought that would possibly bring famine, to the much more dire and alarming models that predict the near-term extinction (NTE) of human species within the next 10 to 20 years. No one can predict exactly when will the quick process of destruction begin, but one thing that is certain, is that we are heading for a global catastrophe. Looking back the year 2014, 2015 and 2016 all broke records for the hottest

years, and we can already see the escalation of freak weather patterns, drought, storms and other things. Within the past 10 years or so, we have seen the same amount of change equals to maybe hundred thousand years if this cycle was completely natural, without human contribution.

Personally, I am still skeptical about the near-term extinction that is presented on some of the models, like those who put 10 to 20 years time frame. Well-known theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking said —as reported by many news outlets— that the human extinction may happen within a century, which means less than 100 years from now. An overwhelming number of scientists believe that we will see a rapid escalation of the extinction level by the Year 2050 — from a quarter to about half of the living species. Unless there is a nuclear apocalypse coming, many of us are technically still around in 2050. I will be only in the 70s by then. I do believe that we are heading to global mass deaths because of the effects of climate change. For how long we could survive as a species, we don't know. It depends on what will come next. We are entering the sixth mass extinction event (there were five mass extinctions happened in the distant past, including one that wiped out the dinosaurs). This coming extinction event is also called Holocene or Anthropocene extinction, which means it is mainly from the result of human activities that contribute to the destruction of the habitat. We know that polar ice is melting very fast, and the *permafrost*, the frozen “old ice” layer in the soil below the arctic surface, is thawing and there will be a time in the near future when all the permafrost is completely thawed and with that it would release the methane gas currently trapped beneath the arctic permafrost. Methane gas is said to generate more greenhouse gas than even carbon dioxide.

That methane release would create destructive feedback loop. Newest study from March 2018 suggests that there is the world's largest deposit of mercury, known as a toxic pollutant, stored frozen in the permafrost, that when it is thawed it will endanger human and animals and disrupt the global food chain. Also take the freak weather patterns into account because of the imbalances within the elements. We will see more cyclones, more extreme drought that leads to the lack of fresh water, more extreme hot summers that would generate more wildfires. With that, we would be seeing the failure of crops, and farmlands will not be able to produce food, and also the level of oxygen in the atmosphere will be reduced significantly. I am not even mentioning what will be happening in the ocean as the ocean temperature is steadily rising. This chain of events will lead to the total destruction of the habitat. It won't destroy the Earth itself, as the five past mass extinctions did not, but this will kill most of its inhabitants from plants to animals, including human species.

Regarding abrupt climate change, I would recommend the book "A Farewell to Ice" by Professor Peter Wadhams. There are many books that tell us about abrupt climate change and the melting of arctic ice, but I think "A Farewell to Ice" is a really good one to start with, if you haven't really paid attention to what is going on and what will happen to this once a paradise called Earth.

However, the lyrics don't stop with all the gloom and doom. I don't see death as something to be feared of, but instead we need to spend more time caring and loving others. Climate change is certainly an existential threat, that we need to see this issue from the existentialist point of view: give our life a meaning, knowing that death is near. That is the whole

message of the lyrics. This is the moment that we need to see ourselves in the mirror, and treat others what we wish others to treat us.

Taking a bold stance is a hope in itself. We can start with small actions, like recycling, use less a amount of plastic bags, drive more fuel-efficient vehicle or take public transportation, walk instead of depending on cars (including ride-hailing services) for shorter distance. Those little stuff that we often take for granted. Also, we need to confront those climate change deniers, and take a stance against those who chose to do whatever they wanted because of the ultimate greed. The global corporate elite, in this case mostly players in the energy industry (oil & gas, coal mining) and palm oil industry, use their 'marketing strategy' to create propaganda, or the so-called 'alternative view' in order to lead people to deny the climate change, or deny the human contribution to climate change. All these propaganda are just part of their public-relation to influence public perceptions so that the industry will not be seen negatively. Here's the interesting point: actually this whole climate *denialism* has shifted over time. It was once a complete denial, in the sense of they did not (want to) recognize any change to the climate at all. But in recent years, because they could not hide the effects that are starting to appear and the proof is overwhelming, it has been shifted towards the natural cause of the climate change itself, not the human cause. The shift is just a part of an excuse. A deliberate excuse. It is still a denial, because they would still deny the human contribution to the climate change.





## CHAPTER V

### Speed of God: Racing with The Spirit

#### 1. The Spirituality of Resistance

The song “Speed of God” has one of the most personal lyrics I wrote for Kekal. It is a spiritual statement to some extent. The title itself is based on a wordplay to the term *godspeed*, which is used —or was used in the past to wish someone a good luck. But the song tells more than just wishing myself a good luck. It is about a personal life’s journey through continuous soul-searching in the face of adversity. The speed of God refers to what is called the *Divine time*, in relation of our time as a human being. It is part of an existential quest for our own understanding to life.

I believe in sovereign God as the source of ever-evolving Universe (or even Multiverse), with Earth as a small tiny dot within our Universe of space-time. To me, God is the source of our existence, the creative entity with force that is behind the birth of *zillions* of stars and planets and their solar systems, including their respective dimensions such as space and time and also their demise. But that process takes the

*timing* that is way beyond our comprehension. If we postulate that the dimension of time is part of creation, alongside space and matter, then it is illogical to put God or Divine Power within the constraint of our time. Our existence as human is finite, and we can only measure time with our own Earth-based measurements: one year being the Earth to revolve around the Sun once, and one day being the Earth to rotate completely in 360 degree. Our lifespan as a species is very short, 80 years at most, 100 or so years for some, very few can live more than 120 years, and if any, that's one in some billions. The Earth itself has existed for more than 4 billion years. We cannot really put God's timing into our limited perception of time as the standard whether or not God will really do something for us in our own timeframe. It is quite selfish and also egocentric to think such way. But, as humans, we need to admit that we like to see things our own way in our own terms. That's our tendency. When we see something that bothers us, such as evil or injustice in life, we wanted to put an end to that as soon as possible. Most of the time, we wish those things to end soon, and to see justice be done in the end. But that's just because our conscience screams out, and we are becoming impatient in the sense that we want God, or Universe, to do something right here, right now. Rather than drowning ourselves into the sea of wishful thinking and use most of our energy waiting for justice, or karma, or God's wrath, apocalypse, end of the world, or whatever action or retribution that may be, it is better to take action even in the smallest scale. That is the moment we will see God's work in the *microcosm*: through our actions and interactions to defend what is good, no matter how small they are.

I see the importance in taking a stance against evil and injustice we see everyday, and to form resistance within our

own capabilities, by using our talents and skills for better use rather than just being apathetic and “I don’t want to know or care” kind of mentality.

## 2. On Anarchism vs Religion and Dogma

I consider myself as a Christian Anarchist. As explained earlier in Chapter II, I do not believe in religion and oppose the concept of religion including the so-called Christian religion. I am into the spiritual and philosophical sides of Christianity, by looking into the history and learning the lives of the early Christians during and shortly after the Apostolic Age, roughly around the first 150 years after the birth of Jesus. That was the era before the Roman empire’s takeover and officially transformed the movement into a cruel, imperialistic, monolithic religion.

Christianity started as a movement with a huge amount of diversity in obtaining and retaining the knowledge and spirituality taught and brought by Jesus. There was no hierarchical pyramid of authority among them. No standardized *dogma*. The followers came from different ethnic groups and traditions throughout the regions under the jurisdiction of Roman empire. Although it started as a small sect within the Jewish religion and tradition as where Jesus himself originally came from, it quickly grew outside of the Jewish population after the arrival of Paul the Apostle. Within the first two centuries, the movement spread to the West, North and East of the Roman empire, even further beyond the empire as far as Ethiopia and Persia. The Apostles were considered leaders, but they practiced the so-called servant leadership, serving the whole community. And these early Christians gathered as communes in modest places of



gathering, mostly homes. There are historical records about those practices. They were treated equally: men and women, merchants, slaves, people from various ethnic groups, all together as one group in each commune, called church. The church was not the building, nor the organization. Some of the followers with Jewish background still kept their religion and went to the synagogues (and the Temple in Jerusalem until the Roman authority destroyed it). But these communities had one thing in common: helping the poor and the weak in society by sharing wealth and eliminating social hierarchy (no class structure or caste). One of main reasons they were persecuted and many were killed by the Roman authority was, arguably, because of the fact they became a kind of “independent welfare agency”. These practices were considered radical at that time, and very much comparable to the present day social-anarchism, or socialism that is voluntary and without the control of the state or governmental authority. Those characteristics were taken away once the Roman empire under Emperor Constantine adopted it and made it into an official religion starting from the early 4th Century.

The year 313 CE —the *Edict of Milan*— was considered by many as the birth of Christian religion, and marked the end of the humble beginnings, anarchic nature, and the diversity of early Christianity. All we know from the history, that the Roman authority started to impose an authoritarian, top-down hierarchical power structure to the church. The church became an organized wing within the empire, and then they added standardized dogma and authoritarianism in order to contain the masses, with the goal to make people obey the human authority under one rule, all to benefit the empire. The rest, as history tells us, is corruption and deviation.

In the context of religion, the spiritual side and philosophical side of any belief system will tarnish or diminish, and replaced by dogma as moral standard and 'truth' that is prone to distortions, because dogma is always meant to be transmitted top-down, from the authority to the obedient masses. I think blind obedience to dogma is very dangerous, as any critical thought has always been discouraged or even be damned. As the results, many followers of Christian religion have reduced themselves into both utopian and nihilistic. When suffering arrives they want apocalypse to happen soon, and sermons about *rapture* and the end of the world suddenly appearing in various churches. When everything is fine, their views are overwhelmed with 'heavenly magic' of material blessings in the forms of wealth and health, and they begin to adopt Ayn Rand's philosophy of objectivism, while quoting the Bible's verses as a side dish.

There is no contradiction between my understanding of Anarchism and the belief of God's authority. We, as human, cannot fathom God's authority based on the perspective of our very limited constraints. I usually put the authority of God in the simple analogy of traffic lights at major intersections. Would you consider the traffic lights as authoritarian, and needed to be dismantled just because they make you stop for a minute or two against your will? Of course not. Traffic lights have a kind of authority or order that is justified, because it creates a better flow of traffic and also to reduce collisions, and that kind of order is considered equal for the greater good: to maintain the balanced flow of traffic on all roads, not one particular road at the expense of others. I use this traffic lights analogy to explain about God's authority, only that God is the creative and also active entity

behind the whole universal and natural order, from the order of planetary systems, to our biological cycles, to the process of creation and diversification of living beings through evolution. There is mechanism to those, not just random. We can only find the puzzles and discover little by little through science, like Quantum Mechanics, for example.

The main problem is not the concept of God *per-se* or the belief in the existence of God, but being blindly submissive to religion, because in religion there is always human authority creating and transporting the dogma. Dogma is where doctrines, laws and religious traditions, most of the times with the addition of various spices —from mild to bizarre— are being constituted as truth, and cannot be criticized or questioned. In the case of dogma, as I said before, truth is never being seek from the bottom as part of human's existential quest, but instead it is being pushed from the top-down, from religious authority to the followers at the bottom end, most of the time with the idea of punishments on the side if you failed to obey it, so people would accept it based on fear of damnation. What makes it dangerous, is that those in power, the human authority, would bash your head with their own version of truth as the only truth you need to get. That happens in many religious practices, in which religious leaders place themselves above the masses, and some even call themselves messengers of God. It is hard to justify the legitimacy of human authority if it's being imposed in such way, not only because human nature has limited or partial understanding of truth, human also has tendency to corrupt when it comes to power or authority. I see religion as a playground or tool of the elite establishment in order to brainwash people into submission. Religion is an easy door for propaganda to be delivered, also as the means of

*stupidification*, in which science is discouraged.

Søren Kierkegaard, a Danish philosopher and theologian, is a very huge influence to me personally, and that has reflected in my lyrics too for quite some time. My own interpretation on Anarchism has significant influence from Kierkegaard too, with a greater aspect of individual autonomy in order to seek the truth and the meaning of one's life. In my opinion Kierkegaard is not only the father of existentialism, but arguably he is also the so-called *proto* Christian anarchist of the 'modern times' (the term 'modern' here is referring to the era after French Revolution). Of course, Kierkegaard lived before Anarchism was recognized and broadly used in the philosophical and socio-political contexts. Back then, the term 'anarchy' was just referring to the absence of authority. It was before Leo Tolstoy brought pacifism in related to the mainstream understanding of Christian Anarchism. Kierkegaard is a big influence in shaping my understanding of what is faith, what does it mean to myself and to others, and at the same time also for the freedom of thought, autonomy, and so on. The fact that with his articles in the local newspaper before he died (compiled together under the book "Attack Upon Christendom") in which he harshly criticized the corrupt church and the religious establishment, Kierkegaard gave another meaning to Anarchism in both philosophical and political contexts. On that book, he opposes the authoritarian and unquestionable power of human authority, of whom is commonly practiced by religious leaders. He is also against the merge between religion and state. His works can be perceived as a liberation or enlightenment of thoughts in order to give life a meaning, including a liberation of *self* from the bondage of religion, in relation to the understanding of the existence of God and the purpose of life, both for

oneself and socially as collective individuals.

I define Anarchism as a non-hierarchical and anti-authoritarian approach to self governing or self-managing. So we are part of the community, and no one is considered above you and no one is considered below you. Everybody is equal in essence and in practice. In the context of spiritual and philosophical Anarchism, like Christian Anarchism, it is a non-hierarchical and anti-authoritarian approach to self-discovery and self-actualization.



## CHAPTER VI

### Rotten in The House: Corruption of The Mind

L yrically, “Rotten in The House” communicates to the audience about religious corruption as the main subject matter: how religion could easily distort or corrupt the mind and that it has become the ‘ideal’ platform in which evil intents would sneak in. There is a music video made for this song, posted on YouTube, that visually explains the same subject matter but more from the psychological standpoint. Many of the scenes illustrate about human perceptions that have been distorted to the point of confusion so that propaganda would easily be implemented, and also about mind control, mass hypnosis. On the first scene, I picked the footage of ‘dead dolls’ lay abandoned as the symbol on how humanity becomes dead, rotten from the inside out. With the doll as a symbol, it doesn’t really matter anymore whether you are dead or not because a doll is essentially not alive. If you willingly let outside forces to control you without questioning whether these forces are actually good or destructive, you would become the doll or puppet. These outside forces can manifest in the form of religious dogma, ideological propaganda, or product advertisement.

I don't see the song as anti-religion in terms of the context or the existence of religion on itself. But it is a criticism towards the application of religion that is very prone to corruption and distortion, and that alone, is capable enough to transform the dynamics in it and turn people into becoming cruel, evil monsters. I take this song as a sounding alarm about the dangers of religion. I am not a Marxist. I do not believe in his idea about Communism as a system that can deliver social and economic justice. However, I tend to agree with Marx's opinion about religion as the "*opiate of the masses*". There is nothing wrong with the intentions or the main motivations behind why do people embrace religion in the first place, as it could also become the introduction to spirituality. If that's the case, good. Also religion can be a part of one's ethnic tradition just like food and clothing. If taken as a tradition, it is harmless. But on the other hand, we need to first admit that religion is a product of our corrupt human condition, so that means it is very prone to abuse and distortion, like I said before. Oftentimes, people choose to involve deeply into religion not because they want spiritual growth, but just in order to get away from the life of misery that they experience everyday, an *escapism*, so that they can 'reverse' their experience to become somewhat 'positive' for them and even 'empower' them. It is almost the same as the use of drugs in order to make you relax, to 'help' you get a good sleep, get high and forget all the problems for a moment. But the danger is also present. Like in drugs, religion could become an addictive substance. Its application could gradually damage human sanity, common-sense and conscience. There is a proven, direct correlation between addiction to religion and mental illness. There are many cases in which people seek some form of (false) 'spiritual experience' from religion, and then get addicted to it.

## 1. The Whitening of Brown-skinned Jesus

Jesus of Nazareth, who was born more than two thousand years ago in the land of Palestine during Roman empire's rule, is the central figure in both Christianity and Christian religion. According to historians, this all-too-familiar image of Jesus —a tall, bearded white man with a brown long hair— actually comes from the Byzantine era from the 4th Century onwards, after the Roman empire adopted Christianity and made it into religion of the empire. These images or depictions of Jesus were not based on historical accuracy, but from the cultural appropriation by the Roman authority in order to make him look like 'their own kind'. As a Galilean Jew who lived in the first Century as an ethnic minority in the Roman empire, Jesus would have had a brown skin and curly black or dark coloured hair. The Ashkenazi Jews, the Jewish population with lighter skin and more European look we see today, simply did not exist by then, only until the centuries later after the diaspora and the settlements in the Eastern part of Europe.

There are paintings from the 2nd to 3rd Century, found in the early Christian catacombs and house-churches. The paintings clearly show a very modest Jesus with dark brown skin and shorter hair. Remember, these depictions were originally passed on by word of mouth among the early Christians in the regions not too far from Galilee. These depictions are, in common-sense, more accurate to the original look of Jesus in history because these people had no benefits of altering his image. They simply wanted to show the story of Jesus as part of their faith and way of life. Christianity itself began only about less than two centuries



before, passed roughly from three generations. We can easily search online about such paintings found in the Catacomb of Priscilla and Catacomb of Callixtus in Rome, and the house-church of Dura-Europos, Syria.

Then came Christian religion, formed and aided by the corrupt Roman authority. It grew in Middle-Age Europe as a powerful political force. The image of Jesus gradually became more and more European, and it continued to degrade in later centuries up to the point where paintings depict him as a tall, Nordic-looking man with blue eyes and even blond hair!

In religion, it is to be understood that historical accounts have a much less important place within its doctrines. But when it comes to matters that are actually important and central to shape people's attitudes, such as race, skin colour or ethnicity of Jesus, it cannot be taken lightly. When dealing with the current issues such as racism, white-supremacy and imperialism, any deviation and distortion of historical Jesus will lead to the wrong understanding of essential knowledge. If religion is merely defending the wrong understanding of essential knowledge within it, then religion has become the catalyst of corruption, not the beacon of truth as it wanted to be portrayed. The ethnicity of Jesus is important in shaping people's acceptance of others who do not happen to share the same physical traits, whether it's a skin colour, eye colour, hair colour, or shape of face, eyes and nose. The current universal acceptance of Jesus as a blue-eyed, blond white man—so often depicted in sunday-school picture books for kids, religious articles and movies—bears the ugly consequences and could produce intolerant and racist frame of thoughts. A former television host of U.S. right-wing media Fox News, Megyn Kelly, told viewers some years back that Jesus is a

white man. *“Just because it makes you feel uncomfortable doesn’t mean it has to change,”* Kelly said. Not only she did not —as a normal journalist should do— bother to do some online research regarding the historical accounts of Jesus, her belief that Jesus is a white man also shapes her attitude which was reflected on the broadcasted news.

## 2. On Religious Fascism

Growing up in Indonesia during the rule of Suharto’s U.S.-backed military dictatorship regime called *“Orde Baru”* (“The New Order” in English), I had been made aware of what it is like living with the so-called fascist principles imposed in the society. I did not know what exactly is Fascism at that time, and even oblivious to the term until I entered University, as access to knowledge, especially socio-political knowledge, was thoroughly suppressed and Internet was not yet arrived. But I remember clearly that the mass media was completely controlled, and the seeds of hatred towards communists and ethnic Chinese was massive. Normal citizens were afraid of the police force, let alone the military. Many stories told about people who just went missing and never came back. At one point there was only one TV Station, the state-run station, and newspapers or magazines simply did not have freedom to publish any news that criticizes the government, at all.

It is difficult to define exactly what is Fascism because there is no strong philosophical foundation. George Orwell, which is widely known as the author of *must-have* books such as “Nineteen Eighty-Four” and “Animal Farm”, wrote an article for Tribune newspaper entitled “What is Fascism?” in 1944 which simply explained that the word “fascist” has no meaning on itself. He pointed out that people can apply it to

everything across the political spectrum from the far-right to the far-left, and even casually applied to individuals who are bullies or simply authoritarian.

While the definition of Fascism itself is highly debated amongst scholars, and up until now people are still confused on its application of the term, it has common features that are easily recognizable and noticeable. Umberto Eco, an Italian scholar and novelist who grew up under Mussolini's fascist regime in Italy, wrote an essay in 1995 called "*Ur-Fascism*", or "Eternal Fascism". In his essay, he mentioned 14 common features of ur-fascism: the cult of tradition, rejection of modernism, the cult of action for action's sake, rejection of disagreement, fear of difference, rooted from individual or social frustration, obsession with a plot, driven by envy towards the outsiders, obsession with war and conflict, the belief in elitism and contempt for the weak, the cult of heroism that is linked to the cult of death, *machismo* and weaponry, selective populism, and discouragement of critical reasoning by systematically dumbing down the population. By identifying these features, we are able to determine whether any society, government, religious institution, or even corporate organization can be counted as fascist.

Umberto Eco simply calls fascism as 'eternal' fascism because it forms a vicious cycle of destruction where the strong ones would annihilate their first enemies, then continue on annihilating the next in line. There is no end goal in fascism because they simply have no mindset on living in a society where there is peace and harmony. For a fascist, every moment is war and there is no end to that! The reason why fascism never lasts in societies throughout history, because it becomes merely a showdown of who is the strongest of

all. Fascists would lose the war just because they will see themselves as the strongest, and this means undermining their enemies in the first place.

Political Fascism is originated from Benito Mussolini, an Italian dictator who came to power after World War I. The name was based on his political party, National Fascist Party (*Partito Nazionale Fascista*). Mussolini is also known for his quote “*Fascism is a religious concept.*” Since the dawn of civilization, religion has been used or abused by those in power to drive people into submission. By putting fear, hatred, envy, and any of the above 14 features of ur-fascism into the dogmatic package, religious fascism would appear in anything; from the fear of damnation, the rejection of secularism, elitist mentality, the hatred of those with different beliefs, the irrational sense of heroism, to machismo in the forms of patriarchy, sexism and homophobia.

In most cases, religious fascism appeals to the individuals who are in the position of privilege (religious majority) but yet have a great sense of fear that their privilege in the society may sooner or later be taken away from them, either by another religion, secularism, heretical forces or anything that they perceive as “the enemy”. It is a reactionary extremism. In the minds of religious fascists, same with the political fascists, they perceive themselves as the highest in hierarchical privilege. They see themselves as the truest, the holiest, or the “chosen ones”. Religious fascism is considered dangerous because their actions, by default, would lead to destruction. They have enough capabilities to bring the whole society into chaos as people would simply annihilate each other. The current cases of militant, violent religious extremism are starkly almost identical in their fascistic features, and can be

found in all major religion in countries around the world.

### 3. On Religious Atheism

There is a common perception to the notion that once you believe in the existence of God then you are automatically religious, or the other way around like if you don't believe in religion then you are somewhat an atheist. This perception is not true, and can be misleading in my opinion. There are people who believe in Atheism the same way as the belief in religion. My opposition to religion also includes this form of "religious atheism". A movement called *New Atheism* that regards atheism as the highest moralistic principle, hovers in the same level of fundamentalism, intolerance and blind faith commonly found in the context of traditional religion. This new atheism differs from traditional atheism commonly adopted by scientists, and is often considered as a 'militant' right-wing movement with the intellectual twist. They put themselves in the higher 'intellectual and moral class' against other individuals who simply do not agree with their understanding of life. This is the so-called religious atheism, and to me, it follows pretty much the same fascistic framework. The self is regarded as a practical god when it comes to the object of worship and reverence.

People can also accept atheistic belief as a dogma, for example: you grew up in the family of atheists and you just follow the belief of your parents based on parental authority, because your parents told you there's no God and you just accept it whatever it is without question. As atheism itself requires some form of faith in order to believe that there is no such thing as God, this faith itself can be received blindly without personal quest in finding the truth.



## CHAPTER VII

### Deeper Underground: A Journey of Discovery

*“Better to seek mercy from down below, than conquer the world from up above.”*

That lyric line at the end of the song “Deeper Underground” marked as the start of my work for the entire album, which aptly named after the song. When the lyrics were first written in the beginning of 2016, I felt the need to capture my own spiritual journey. So this song carries some personal tone as I was at the crossroads at that moment. Well, I had been at the crossroads for about a year prior to writing that song.

Early 2015 is the time where my wife and I received our naturalized Canadian citizenship after living in Canada as permanent residents for several years since we moved here in 2006. It was neither based on travel nor business convenience. It was not an easy decision. We still love Indonesia for its rich, unique culture and great food. We even took time in 2014 to proudly vote Joko Widodo for president: who is loved by common people across the country (and hated by both religious and political fascists alike). He became known internationally as the first president in the world who is a

fan of heavy rock and metal music and posed some pictures wearing a Napalm Death T-shirt. Becoming a Canadian citizen was some sort of milestone for my spiritual life: the moment I was able, legally, to free myself from something that haunted me for 40 years: religion.

Unlike Canada, in Indonesia religion is mandatory. People have to declare their religion in the ID card. This means religion is part of one's legal identity. When a 7-year old kid is enrolled in a school for the first time, parents need to state the kid's religion. Born and grew up in the country of Indonesia, I had no choice but to pick one from any of the few state-recognized religions. I was raised a Christian—in religious terms, and learning religion was part of the mandatory school curriculum. The problem was that most people, including myself at the time, tend to put spirituality under the confines of religion. Let's say when you are depressed, the way out is to be involved in religious activities so that you will be "closer to God by doing God's will". Religious affairs are being put on top of personal problems. The common frame of thought is that religion can explain everything, can fix everything, like God is literally hiding in there. People use it as an escapism, as a drug. This is when spirituality cannot grow further, cannot grow the way the soul has been longing for.

When I was in the 20s, angry and disappointed with my own religion and with all religion in general, I started questioning the merits of it. There was a period in my life that I secretly became an agnostic with an active contemplation on becoming an atheist. But I failed at deleting the concept of God in me, because I realized that being an atheist requires at least the same amount of faith as believing there is a God. Also my own conviction that human is a spiritual being

alongside material/physical being, as a result of what I had experienced related to spirituality, cannot be set aside easily. I decided to stick with my belief in God. Somehow, from the remnants of disappointment and anger toward religion, I happened to learn more about spirituality and existential philosophy, and was able to separate these aspects from religion. Consider this as God's mercy on me. Maybe writing lyrics for Kekal has helped me to rediscover myself, I don't know for sure. One thing I know, being involved in Kekal has compelled me to see life from a deeper and broader perspective than just a mere egocentricity.

The lyrics of "Deeper Underground" are explained in the existentialist expression, just like the majority of Kekal's lyrics. There is so much in life we can explore, even if we often feel that we are at the lowest point, hitting the rock bottom. No matter where we are at, life goes on. Nothing will appear if we are just standing still, grumpily waiting for destiny to give us a favour. What we do is to go ahead, move forward, look for signs and learn many lessons as we move, even if the process itself is painful and embarrassing. There is some sort of spiritual discovery happening during this process, and I have personally experienced this. Rarely any spiritual insight happens during the perceived apex of our life.

In our post-modern, 21st Century society of individualism, especially amid today's social media driven culture, we tend to see ourselves only in relation to what our 'friends' or connections are doing in the digital world. We want to see ourselves in the mirror of others, even though we never know whether everything is true or just artificial. We are bound to show on Facebook or Instagram our image in the ideal way possible: being happy, content, and materially facilitated, even



that the image might be created in order to impress others. There is nothing wrong in sharing the expression of happiness to our friends and family as long as the expression itself is sincere. It may inspire others to some degree. But if it is not sincere, we need to question the very reason: was it because of the need for acceptance, a need for attention and the number of likes, or just because of envy? Showing others false images of ourselves, knowingly or unknowingly, is actually feeding the denial of our true existence, or true *self*. Denying our true self, according to existentialist philosopher Søren Kierkegaard as stated in his book “The Sickness Unto Death”, is synonymous with being in despair. If we are in despair, our perception can be blocked by preoccupation to become someone that is not really us, or to achieve something that is not meant for us. Despair certainly hinders us to seek for a solution to our problems, because we may not recognize these problems in the first place. If we live in denial, all our core problems will be suppressed, and substituted by something else as part of defense mechanism. We would wear masks without realizing them as masks, and we could even proudly announce “hey, this is so me!” while wearing the mask.

Both religion and social media can drag us down into the state of denial, because they promote and value conformity to the certain norms. Conformity means that we see ourselves in the mirror of others rather than look in the mirror to see the reflection of our own true self.



## CHAPTER VIII

### The Many Faces of Your Face: Read Between The Lies

People lie all the times. There is no question about that. We all lie at some points, from simply hiding the fact to modifying the fact. The lyrical subject matter of “The Many Faces of Your Face” is not about us or the people who lie, and not about the study on why do people lie in the first place. On the lyrics, I talk about the systematic manipulation that contradicts action and impression in order to achieve certain goals. This systematic manipulation could be accomplished by any type and size of entity, whether it is individual, organization, corporate or even nation’s government. If it is individual, normally we hear the term “two-faced” or “backstabber” to describe such person. It is a person who pretends to be in agreement with you or seems to be nice to you, only to say or do anything negative about you behind your back. Sometimes, this type of behaviour is pathological, but there are certain cases that the behaviour is actually part of the systematic manipulation in order to achieve a certain goal, whatever the goal is.

Outside of the individual realm, many times we find some policies of organizations and governments that fall under this

manipulative behaviour. I give you one hypothetical example from what I have observed; let's say one powerful country, called A, officially 'praises' another country, called B, on maintaining its own democratic and economic stability, only to secretly fund the political opposition, local thugs, militias, or even terror organizations in order to destabilize Country B. These words of praises are covered in the mainstream news for the people to see and hear, so when things happen in the internal level of Country B, people would not blame Country A to be behind the acts of destabilization. Most people, even the citizens of Country B, would not even know or realize that Country A is behind these acts. Things like this happen in the political world, and for some countries it has become part of the foreign policies.

When any government, especially one that is supposedly democratically-elected, chose to lie to its own people, their motives become questionable: to whom they actually serve? And what is the purpose of their lies? We hear stories of actual events from the past. One about an ancient Roman emperor, Nero, who blamed early Christians as a scapegoat for burning the city of Rome in Year 64 CE, the act that, according to historians, he actually committed to benefit himself of rebuilding and gentrifying the city including his palace called the Golden House. Many of these early Christians were captured and executed shortly after, including Paul the Apostle whose many of his letters were compiled into part of the New Testament of Christian Holy Bible. Nero's acts to manipulate the residents of Rome, such as taking part of the relief efforts and personally searching for the victims of fire under the debris, were extremely slick and polished. He even went as far as opening his palaces for the homeless affected by the fire. This is just one cruel example of deliberate plot of lie

and manipulation a corrupt leader can do to achieve his goals. Money and power could be behind the will to manipulate.

In the case of Nero, many residents of Rome, as written by Roman writers such as Pliny the Elder, Suetonius and Cassius Dio, actually knew that Nero was behind the great fire. But Nero, as an emperor himself, showed that he could create such story in his own way and made it into the official narrative. The official narrative of history itself is written by the ones who are in power, even that it is filled by numerous lies. The residents of Rome who knew and believed that Nero initiated the fire, could not make their voice heard simply because their voice is not the official narrative of the Roman empire led by Nero himself, even though they speak the truth on such issue. Now we understand why the so-called *conspiracy theories* exist in the first place.

Conspiracy theory begins to circulate when people who smell the inconsistencies and discrepancies of the stories told by the official narrative, are unable to confront it because they will face the power against them. Although such theories circulate in forms of word of mouth and almost like a gossip in nature, not all conspiracy theories are just plain nonsense. Some may tell the truth. Some may tell the truth plus added extra spices. But, however, the nature of conspiracy theories is that when these have been reduced to 'theories', everything is hard to be proven. The whole basket can be filled and added by anything and everything. In the era of Internet and social media, those in power could also create some more conspiracy theories in order to suppress or further confuse people who desperately look to conspiracy theories as an insight in order to find the answers to the questions. There are conspiracy theorists and media personalities gaining profits from telling

such theories, telling many things, some even down to the level of out-of-mind ridiculousness.

But we can carefully filter any conspiracy theory based on its *street-level credibility*. This is our task, as a rational animal called human, to read between the lies. What does “read between the lies” mean? Human brain has a capability to detect whether something, including an event, is fabricated or based on truth. All we need to do is to question and question more, to get to the bottom of it by looking into the motives, the goals, the outcome and other factors. Any conspiracy theory can get a street-level credibility just because people are unable to dismiss it. This inquiry can be backed with the so-called Socratic method of questioning, to identify and eliminate hypotheses that lead to contradictions. If the more we question the more we get answers that make any sense as a whole, plus they never fade with time, then a conspiracy theory can have its own credibility.

Here, I directly quote from Wikipedia the way Socratic method works, as I could not formulate it better than this paragraph: *“The Socratic method searches for general, commonly held truths that shape beliefs and scrutinizes them to determine their consistency with other beliefs. The basic form is a series of questions formulated as tests of logic and fact intended to help a person or group discover their beliefs about some topic, exploring definitions or logoi (singular logos) and seeking to characterize general characteristics shared by various particular instances.”*

Let’s imagine that we live in the 1st Century of Roman empire when Nero is in power, any assertion that Nero was the one responsible in burning the city of Rome is

automatically become a conspiracy theory. We dissect that event by identifying the motive, the goal and the scapegoat whether they would come together and make any sense as a whole. Identifying Nero's motive is easy, as it was written elsewhere that he did not like how Rome had become. This means that it makes sense for him trying to destroy it, but it would be difficult because there were many residents and homes still present. Doing it by arson would be the less costly way. It is known until today, that the common practice of city gentrification done by the authoritarian government is by burning the slums. As the motive has been identified, we now move to identify the goal. After the fire, Nero rebuilt the city including his luxurious Golden House along with the statue of himself. Building Golden House had been his dream, so he could achieve this as the certain area of the city had already been destroyed by the fire. Third, Nero needed a scapegoat. Without a scapegoat, more people would think he did it, and things could backfire quickly. The one possible scapegoat is the early Christians. As I wrote in Chapter V about early Christians in the 1st Century before Christian religion was born, they were very much hated and persecuted by the Roman authority because the movement had a socialist-anarchist quality, incompatible with the authoritarian and hierarchical structure of the Roman government. The movement became very popular among the poor and within 30 years it had spread as far as to Rome. By blaming them for the fire, Nero could achieve his goal efficiently, as he could reduce the number of Christians.

If we applied the Socratic method to the official story from Nero that the early Christians initiated the fire, it would make no sense at all. Firstly, they were mostly pacifist because they followed Jesus' teaching, notably the Sermon of The

Mount, which became the foundation of pacifism in the early Christian movement. Secondly, what would they achieve by burning Rome, other than being captured and killed afterwards? They had no interest in playing the politics of the Roman empire because in the minds of early Christians, they believe in the promise that Jesus as the Messiah will return to free them from the oppression created by the Roman authority. They would rather wait for Jesus rather than being involved with such unprovoked action like burning the city of Rome. From these two elements alone, we already found inconsistency of Nero's claims about them initiating the fire.

Even until now, story about the great fire of Rome during the reign of Nero is still a subject of controversy. There are modern historians that claim Nero did not actually started the fire, although at the same time they don't believe those early Christians did that either. Because of the lack of hard proof or evidence supporting the non-official side of the story, the motive of such events could be easily disputed. On the other hand, by applying the Socratic method, the lack of hard evidence could also become a strong point of suspicion towards any official story being fabricated. It has become almost a 'rule-of-thumb' in conspiracy theories, that any fabricated official story about an event cannot produce its own perfect hard evidence that supports the story, just because the story itself is fabricated in the first place. In many cases, the evidence is said to be simply 'missing'.

Since the advent of photographic camera, film and video technology, those official stories could be backed by 'hard evidence' in forms of presentable photos and videos in order to strengthen their stories. Still, people would be able to detect any discrepancy because these presented 'evidence' were also

manufactured in order to support their stories. Conspiracy theorists often can explain the discrepancies of the photos or videos used as evidence in such details, to point out that those are also tailored or staged.

Now we go back to the modern world in which we live today. Roman empire no longer rules in Europe and Middle East, but the remnants of that empire are still present. We are ruled by the even bigger and more powerful empire: the so-called *Deep State*, the Corporate and Financial empire led by and through the U.S. government's policies. The same empire that controls certain nations' governments and their policies (including Indonesia during the military dictatorship of Suharto from 1966 to 1998), and wages wars by invading many countries with the covert goal to tap into their natural resources. They maintain the world hegemony and have the ultimate will to keep that hegemony. The powerful evil force, driven by ultimate greed and lust for domination is behind the will of the empires.

In order to achieve their goals, empires can easily lie to the public as much as they could even kill their own citizens. Manipulation is part of the scheme, and along with deliberate lies they also put the plot to their individual 'official stories' and create an even greater new (manufactured) story or narrative that mixes lies and some facts altogether, and then carefully crafted in order to deceive the general public into believing the narrative of those in power without questioning. This package of plotted stories is often written in the history books and being taught in the elementary school.

There are many modern conspiracy theories about political events that happened within 50 years back still circulating



around in the public right now. Some of these theories have maintained their street-level credibility for a decade or more. I give you some examples: moon landing hoax, 911 events as the 'inside-job', to other less popular issues like how narcotics and psychotropics are distributed as 'control agents' by global power to deter youth from taking political activism. We can test their credibility by applying the Socratic method, and put them into the logical framework then test them back-to-back along with the official stories.

I am not a conspiracy theory junkie. I have no interest in pursuing conspiracy theories with a mindset that *everything* happens in the world is a product of conspiracy. However, I cannot help but to agree that some of those conspiracy theories do not fail when the Socratic method of questioning is applied. On the other hand, the official stories of the same issues surprisingly fail the test because of the inconsistency between the background of the events, the process of how the events took place and to what degree they progressed, how the official stories were distributed in the media, the authenticity of evidence, and then the results from these events that led to the justification of another events following these main events.

Nevertheless, the good news is that we still can find a number of fearless and dedicated journalists today that continue to speak truth to power by doing honest and factual reporting on many critical issues, confronting the official stories and even go further in exposing the lies of those in power. By doing just that, they risk their jobs and sometimes they may risk their own lives too. Why? Other than following their conscience, they also have integrity.



## CHAPTER IX

### Revelment: The Path to Transformation

Being an introvert, I rarely talk about myself in many of the conversations. When something happened in the personal level either good, neutral or bad, I would choose not to tell anyone other than my wife. Now that some of the lyrics on “Deeper Underground” album are relevant to me and to some degree even tell the story about my transformation, I guess I need to share a little bit here. This is the last chapter of “Exploring The Depths of The Underground”.

In 2010, four years after we started our lives in Canada, both my wife and I finally got relatively good permanent full-time jobs in the office environment, with standard working hours and in the same fields as we had back in Jakarta, Indonesia. For most working-class immigrants like us (there are so-called business-class immigrants as well, mind you!), getting this kind of job is considered part of our dream. Our jobs paid us quite well combined, although not as much as what doctors or lawyers get, but they were enough to take us to the next level in the socioeconomic terminology: a *middle-class*. Along with benefits and annual bonus, my employer gave me some allowance to buy a new

car. We were able to take vacation trips, and qualified to apply mortgage for purchasing a 2-bedroom condo apartment that was more than enough for just the two of us. I remember, people from the bank would call us and told us because we were financially in good standings, they could give us more loans, like bumping our credit card borrowing limits, and they offered us a personal line of credit in the similar amount that we spent for the home down payment. "You can use the money for anything", they said. Yes, you'd be chased for taking loans, and once you take it, before you know it you'd become the slave to debt. This seems like a trap to me, but this is the actual normality. In the immigrant community, sometimes people would casually ask "do you own a home?" then they would further ask about what type of home, how many bedrooms, and sometimes down the last question which made me feel uncomfortable: "how much did you purchase your home?"

According to a recent survey by Canadian Payroll Association, 48% of responders confirmed that they would not be able to pay their bills if their paycheque were late by just one week. The 2016 report from consumer credit reporting agency Equifax said that average Canadian owes \$22,081 in consumer debt. That number does not include mortgage and student loans. This whole middle-class classification is calculated based on the household income alone, not from the *net-worth*. Without considering to the fact, that majority of people in the working middle-class also have debt burdens that are really high, relative to their income. A big number of middle-class families live paycheque-to-paycheque. Some may owe money as high as three times of their annual income, just from credit card debts and personal lines of credit. They are the ones that will be crushed financially once an economic

crisis arrives. This so-called middle-class has become a mere illusion, like the whole palace built on sand.

What drives people toward debt is status, or prestige. Status seems to matter more for middle-class households or families, because most of the times their *self-esteem* is attached to this whole image of being successful. That's why luxury cars and luxury items are also targeted for the middle-class. People don't know how much you owe and how severe your debt really is, but they will see what you drive, what you wear and where you live. I happened to work for a large automobile dealership group who owns dealerships for luxury brands such as BMW, Infiniti, to the even higher-end brands like Aston Martin and Bentley. I heard an inside story about a young man who wanted to lease a \$80,000 BMW car, when his annual income was much less than the car's price tag. There is a type of loan called *subprime*, which could give you the amount of money to purchase a car or get house down-payment without considering the borrower's financial capability. It comes with a catch: the interest rate is very high. For some people they are only able to pay the interest and think about the principal amount they owe later. But why are people so willing to be overwhelmed with debt just because of status? That young man could buy something more modest, I thought. But no, status also talks in the society where money talks! It needs some form of hard discipline to keep the spending from being inflated into a mountain of debt.

I still remember a quite funny but true story. As an employee of the dealership group mentioned above, I was able to borrow a demo car for a 'weekend test drive'. That was part of the perks we got. One weekend, I decided to try a new BMW SUV. As I drove that thing through the city roads

and main highway, both my wife and I noticed, very clearly, no one dared to cut you off. They normally would give you a way as you are the king of the road. The only car that actually managed to cut us off was the bigger and more expensive BMW SUV! It makes me smile just to think about that. Normally, when driving my own car, a little Honda Fit (called Jazz in many parts of the world), it seems everybody would easily cut in front of you as they don't respect you at all. This phenomenon made me to think that status, in the form of the way people would treat you from seeing you, matters more than what I originally thought.

In 2013 I wrote a song called "Token Discontentment". Released in 2015 as part of Kekal album "Multilateral", the song talks about my weird feelings of being 'discontent'. The lyrics are dark and rather depressing, but I sincerely wrote them as a reflection to what I had experienced during that period. Sadness started to appear during the time both me and my wife seemed to have everything we needed financially. We did not go further and jump into the whole new *faux luxury* lifestyle because we came from modest upbringing, and we started working in Canada from the very bottom: at fast-food restaurant with a minimum wage income. We basically stopped at being comfortable. When you have reached the level of comfort and stability but without aiming for a certain higher goal in life, you may feel that everything ends at that point. Boredom would literally haunt you. You start to feel sorry for yourself without understanding why you have such feeling. You believe that you have reached that scary stage of "happily ever after" where days would pass flat and boring. I did not want to spend the rest of my life that way, but I had no clue what else to pursue in life. I thought because I've reached my 'Canadian dream', so now

it's time to stop dreaming and just live the life like driving through a straight road on a flat land. Or maybe I did not set my dream high enough? I became anxious, wanted to get out of the situation, but I was too afraid to take the risk. I already felt too old and settled to take a chance for a change like those young couples who sold everything they had and travel the world. Hey, we once sold everything and moved here, so we've been there already, I thought! People called us lucky to finally achieved that level of being settled-down comfortably, knowing that we started out with a rough life in the beginning. They thought that what we had is ideal and we had to be grateful. This made me feel depressed. My soul cried-out in silence. I sang and recorded songs about being painful and miserable.

Fast forward to 2015. That was the year the oil price went downhill from more than \$100 USD per barrel to less than \$50 USD. Calgary, the city where we lived, was hit really hard, harder than most other cities in Canada, because it is *THE oil capital of Canada*: the Canadian equivalent to Dubai, although not as flamboyant and hot. Both the city and the province quickly hit by economic recession. Thousands of people lost their jobs, many lost their homes because their mortgage got default, some then lost their spouses due to separation or divorce, then some managed to take their own lives as well because all hopes were gone. News about one-car accidents or cars ramming tractor trailers happened more often. It was bleak. As I explained with more graphic details in Chapter II, that moment worked as a wake-up call to me. Almost like a slap-in-the-face kind of wake-up call, or more like kick-in-the-butt kind of wake-up call. I felt that my soul had been pinched awake from years of hibernation.

I realized that for some years my whole life was floating aimlessly. The idea of achieving one goal and then settling down was wrong on so many levels. It has no foundation at all. Everything we have can be taken away in a split-second. Blessing should become an ever flowing stream, never stops at oneself as the end recipient. When a concept of blessing is perceived only as a direct one-to-one gift, either from God to one individual or from one individual to another, at one point we would feel like getting stuck with nowhere to go. Blessing should flow continuously between all beings. It is a constant giving (and consequently, receiving too). Blessing should be observed like blood streams throughout our body, or the river with water that keeps running. It is the same idea for everything we see in nature, and we are part of the nature. Spirituality is an exercise to connect ourselves together with the Divine and the rest of nature by seeing life as a whole one big system. Each element needs the others to keep the whole system running. That way, life itself becomes living. My path to transformation begins with this understanding.

As my wife and I were contemplating on moving to another city, we saw weird signs and coincidences —I don't believe that coincidence is as a random occurrence, I consider them as *synchronicity* (a term coined by psychologist C.G. Jung, who brought the concept of 'meaningful coincidences'). My understanding of synchronicity in connection to spirituality is simple: there is a communication line being opened by God to us through the variety of events (sometimes through dreams and 'visions'), and that when we see them together, they can tell something meaningful. I give you an example that I wanted to share from what I experienced: first of all, as my wife and I were dealing with the possibility on moving to another city, we meditated this important question:

“To which city should we move?” One morning as I was preparing my lunch to go, my wife streams a YouTube video on TV showing a flash-mob dance in front of Parliament Hill complex in Ottawa, Canada. I thought “oh, cool, that’s Ottawa”. I did not tell my wife about anything because we didn’t quite notice anything strange. It was just a flash-mob and could be done in any public space anywhere in the world. Then about a week later, when I was at the Central Library in downtown Calgary checking out some design magazines, a homeless man walked toward a library staff near me and asking about where to get a current hardcopy issue of MoneySense magazine. As I was standing near the shelf, automatically I just pointed to where the magazine is located, “there, MoneySense” I said. The man left shortly after taking the magazine, but it gave me enough curiosity on why a homeless person got interested to read a kind of magazine that normally covers about financial investments? I picked up the magazine and found about Ottawa being listed on top of the most desirable cities to live in Canada for 2016. The result was made by their internal surveys and that magazine is well-known to be reliable in doing these for years. From there, I felt that I might have gotten the answer. There were a couple more strange independent moments following these two, all pointing to Ottawa as the destination.

Even though we had not secured any job beforehand, we decided to sell our home in Calgary and move to Ottawa. We took this risk together. This is the next step of our journey. There is risk in every journey, but we surrendered everything that was not yet known and just followed the signs and be faithful. We learned about the ancient story of Ruth who decided to move out of town with her mother-in-law after her husband died. She depends on her faith and faith alone (not



from emotion, not from rational calculations, and certainly not from fear) that moving out is the right thing to do.

Neither our decision to move was rational in the first place, even if we did calculate all the possible risks. I felt that we've passed one stage in life and we're stepping into another one, and that includes some form of 'resetting' in a whole new different scene. We did not know the reason, because moving to Ottawa was not based on our first 'initiative'. We just followed the signs and proceed with *gut feeling*. We can rationalize afterwards: maybe the city has more conducive environments for supporting the change in our lifestyles. It actually does. People walk and bike more often. They don't depend too much on cars for daily commute. They spend less on luxury items. It has more number of restaurants and take-outs that serve vegetarian and vegan food.

As human being, we possess our own free will that we always use to make various decisions, small and big. This means if my wife and I decided to stick in Calgary or maybe move elsewhere (not to Ottawa) we also could, but the end result would be different. By making a decision from following all the signs and synchronicity, we also exercise our own free will but our will is being aligned or harmonized together with God's will.

Upon our relocation to the new environment, the pace of my transformation began to speed-up almost to the point of mental and physical 'exhaustion', but at the same time it brings joy and peace. Before we moved here, I did not pursue any attempt for improving my knowledge and wisdom for common good. No wonder I became like a lazy and grumpy man at the same time: still valued his dreams but too afraid

to make those dreams manifest. For five years, I kept clinging to the idea of being settled-down then 'sleepwalked'. But now I feel that I've entered the phase or stage of reorganizing my thoughts and beliefs, almost to their entirety, and put them into a whole new perspective. I started to buy and read books again especially on philosophy and around sociopolitical issues. I began to watch more public seminars and lectures on YouTube and watch more documentary films. The first trigger might be simple; it was from the need to obtain more reference for the lyrics on "Deeper Underground" album, but then the lyrics were written in parallel to what I had experienced in life, creating a synergy.

Simply put, I believe this new knowledge has starting to be revealed, one by one, and with that, it brings hope even though I don't know what's going to happen in the future. All I have to do is to accept this hope to enter my existence, my self. I am beginning to understand how certain people throughout history had been transformed into becoming their whole new self even within their own limitations as human being. One of the steps in embracing the process of change wholeheartedly is to take a stance against evil and injustice in the world. This is not an easy task. It requires diligent measures in identifying what is evil and what constitutes as injustice. Firstly, I need to obtain the knowledge by learning from history: I mean world history from multiple perspectives, as history itself can be easily distorted by those in power. Secondly, I need to know my position: "am I standing on the proper moral ground, enough for fighting evil and injustice?" My decision to align myself with philosophical Anarchism came from those two measures. Even though the overall practices and work ethic of Kekal have been considered as anarchic since the beginning, I did not adopt it for myself personally, until very recently. I have to admit that Kekal

has gradually influenced me in taking Anarchism across my attitude to life, through more than two decades being involved in the work for the band. I can proudly claim that the band's ethical integrity comes from its adoption of Anarchism. I've learned integrity from Kekal. I used to live a 'double-life': one within the framework of Kekal where there is almost zero compromise on how the band works in the music industry, and the other one is my own self which had way too many compromises in the name of being 'realistic'. But now I've come to the realization that the world itself doesn't work within realism. All I achieved was only a façade, a mask covering the rotten elements beneath.

With this whole process of transformation, I feel like a clay in the potter's hand: I don't know into what shape I'm going to end. Although the pace is fast enough for me to barely keep up, I also believe this will be a long-term and continuing process. Accepting it with complete surrender is necessary to keep the transformation process going. Within one year after moving to Ottawa, some significant changes in my life have been taken, and some have been planned as well.

Now I'm living a more modest and simple life, almost to the point of living a minimalist lifestyle. I'm feeling much happier this way. I got a permanent job again not far from where I live —about 5 Km both ways, in which I now walk to work everyday. Walking through the actual streets is not only good for physical health, but for mental health as well. Treadmills won't achieve the same effect on the mental side. Now I only have one credit card, and use it more as 'a replacement of hard cash' and not quite for 'borrowing' purposes. It is important to be in control of monthly expenses on the credit card, and making sure I would be able to pay-off all expenses

every month and avoiding the interest to kick in. I feel better to keep it just that and be content with it. It can be seen as crazy or even 'stupid' to act like this in the era of high personal debts and hyper-consumerism in today's society, but I have a very good reason for that. I realized that I need to take action one step at a time, and to go against the mentality of consumerism, against excessive and impulsive buying of stuff and luxury we don't need. To live well means that we need to confront all this 'dreams of good living' façade, so often wrongly portrayed by the product advertisements and reality TV, and so often connected only with money. To live well actually means to achieve contentment and joy that no money can buy, and even if we suffer, we would suffer well.

I consider this lifestyle change as my first action in accepting and responding to the process of transformation. Resisting evil and stand for justice can start from small, inward actions as an exercise in building integrity. For some, including myself, it requires some baby steps. It doesn't need to jump right away and being involved in direct political activism, unless you are mentally ready and have emotional support from the ones you love. Our bold actions against exploitations done by multinational corporations can be made simply by not buying their products or not eating in their restaurants. There are many local owner-operated restaurants who buy their ingredients direct from local farmers, and we can choose to dine in there as opposed to multinational restaurant chains. We can buy food from local grocery stores or farmer markets as opposed to multinational brands with GMO products. But we also need to be aware not to berate our friends simply because, for example, they still eat at McDonald's or shop at Walmart. As Dr. Cornel West said in his October 2016 public lecture at Harvard University:

*“...it’s so easy to become self-righteous in your struggle against evil... Everybody wakes up at different times. Nobody arrives in advanced consciousness.”*

After inward changes, the next step is more outward, by sharing the light of hope to the community and society. I feel that I am called to utilize Kekal, with its lyrics and music (this essay is also included), as an artistic instrument of sharing the message of hope and to stand against evil and injustice. And I will keep doing this as long as I am able to, and as long as God is willing to let me.

We are currently living in dangerous times. Compared to even 10 years ago, we can already feel right now that our world is heading towards the wrong direction in almost all aspects: politically, economically, ecologically, socially and spiritually. The threats of climate change and nuclear war are bigger than ever. The coming generation, those who are growing up now, will face tougher living environments when they finish their schools. We cannot rely only on our wishful positive thinking that everything is going to be alright. Everything will not be alright if we keep ourselves in the passive and apathetic mode and don’t take actions against evil and injustice. Even if we take actions right now, the world will not be the same anymore. But at least we have hope. Hope is here for us to keep standing strong and show resistance when the winds of the wicked blow from every direction.

Many people are waking up from their slumber, in every part of the world. This is a global phenomena. I believe that each and every day, more and more people will be awakened and transformed, although in different ways and at different paces depending on their background and tradition that

triggered it. Together, we will form the growing light of the world globally.

I am closing this chapter with the quote from well-known civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr.: *“There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.”*

The journey continues... This is not the end.

## REFERENCE LINKS

Due to the digital format of the book, I am able to present direct links to the Internet (URLs are clickable on the PDF), related to the references cited on the essay, directly or indirectly. The list is divided by chapter and then by author for more convenience in navigating different subject matters.

### Chapter I (connected to Chapter IX as well):

#### Cornel West

- Discussion at University of Denver, January 2018  
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- Public Lecture at Askwith Forums, Harvard, 2017  
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### Chapter II:

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### Chapter IV:

Peter Wadhams

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