

Opinion Article

Open Access

A Perilous Prompt from Nature

With Eternal Thanks to William Shakespeare

John Owen Roberts

Independent Researcher, Former Open University Tutor, UK

***Corresponding author**

John Roberts, Independent Researcher, Former Open University Tutor, UK.

Received: June 20, 2023; **Accepted:** June 22, 2023; **Published:** June 30, 2023

There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and miseries.
On such an empty sea are we now afloat
Ravaged by a merciless insidious plague
That knows no bounds.
It is a message to human-kind
Their time on Earth may be confined
By the tsunami unleashed by raging evolution and mutation.
Fuelled by an insatiable appetite to consume the bounties of
Mother Earth
Warming the seas on which we float,
Melting Antarctica silently, secretly, stealthily from beneath,
Transforming the ocean currents that provide our very nourishment,
Polluting the atmosphere – the very air we breathe,
Altering the land without respect for plants and wildlife
Fellow companions in the journey of life.
Nature responds with lightning strikes, engulfing flames and
viral plague.
Yet with science's knowledge, human ingenuity and respect for
Nature herself
Collaboration, isolation, immunisation and improvisation,
We may become as powerful as the Moon
Enlisting the aid of that all-pervasive mysterious force – gravity
And turn the tide to flood once more.
And yet just as with the slightest of disturbance the butterfly
flaps its wings.
Minute plumes of moist air arise above the Atlantic near the Sahara
With Nature's will, ever swirling, powered by Earth's rotation
and Man's extraneous heat
They grow, moving westward ever changing to storms then to
hurricanes in corridors,
Elsewhere to Africa, India, Asia and beyond.
How little will science ever control such forces?
Compelling man to bow to such enigmatic might
Such as the release of methane – that most powerful of greenhouse
gases
From the vast permafrost of Arctic tundra, Canada and surrounding
Siberia.

Triggered initially by global warming with
Ever circling pressure in the atmosphere
Yet dramatically accelerated by lightning strikes
Creating possible future continuous conflagration
As methane gas erupts from beneath the land
To be burned instantly
By the already smouldering all- consuming vegetation of the
steppes.
Already observed from arctic ocean depths
Accentuated as the ocean ebbs
Then abated as it flows in rhythm with the Moon
Inexorably raising the temperature of Earth's cloak
And challenging Man's very existence – his hold on life.
Can he remain calm
Through the earthquake, wind, fire and plagues
To another norm or will he succumb?

Copyright: ©2023 John Roberts. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.