

20191020 Apes Still

Viktor Nonong Medrano

In Olaf Stapledon's *Last and First Men*, essentially he describes humans as still just *apes*. The eccentric British author-historian expounds on two billion years of the future rollercoaster evolution of 18 consecutive human species. He wrote it in 1930, when there were not much pollution on the Earth and no nuclear weapons. Is there still time to evolve as an *ape*? In the Thai author Somtow Sucharitkul's *Starship & Haiku*, he expounds on a bleak future of the Earth, ravaged by war and pollution. He wrote it in 1981, after two world wars and with rising pollution levels. Is there still time to *evolve*? Many Japanese, who are true survivalists of war and natural disasters, opine that this world would survive great catastrophes. Historians know that history is spiralling, as there are ups and downs. The future is unpredictable. Scientists do not really know if the Earth's biosphere is *resilient* enough to withstand ongoing pollution.

As a cultural note, anthropologists know that societies *evolve* over time. South Korea did not always have the advanced technology that it has today. Who knows what could happen in the latter half of the 21st century? Would East Africa, just for *example*, have more advanced technology? People in the 1970's did not expect such advancement of South Korea nearing the 2020's. Cultures do not remain the same.

(Besides in English, *Last and First Men* I have copies in French, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, and even Swedish. Each translation has a different flavour.)