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THE
VOYAGE
OF
RMS HUMAN
ENDEAVOUR

PHIL BROEK

Chapter One

Heading to the Promised Land

The magnificent ship left port in 1760 signalling the start of the Industrial Revolution, powered by the latest in steam engine technology. The cheap and plentiful coal in the bunkers proudly puffed out clouds of smoke from the funnels and the band struck up tunes of hope and glory for the awe-inspired passengers.

'Full steam-ahead' called the Captain and the leviathan gathered speed, carrying the hopes and dreams of all the passengers, the rich and the poor, for a better life ahead. A life not bound to the land and the vagaries of nature; a life of industry and commerce and human conquest; a life of potential and wealth on a scale never previously imagined. And the band played on.

The Radio Operator brought the first meteorological report up to the Bridge. 'Reports of possible icebergs ahead Sir', called the seaman. 'Thank you' replied the Captain, 'we are unsinkable remember, no need to worry'. More speed Number One, keep shovelling the coal'. And the band played on.

The reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and many other sources began to arrive with increasing frequency and with increasing urgency, but the ship ploughed on through ever rougher seas, avoiding small icebergs along the way and puffing out ever thicker clouds of smoke. She was unsinkable after all and the owners of the vessel were adamant the speed should be kept up come hell or high water; they had shareholders to answer to and time is money. Meanwhile the shareholders and Captains of industry drank their champagne and ate their caviar in the sumptuous luxury of the Last Chance Saloon in the First Class Lounge. The Petty Officers arranged and rearranged the deckchairs in neat rows. No need to panic, all was well. And the band played on.

And then it hit. Nature rudely announced its presence. The movers and shakers were moved and shaken as the iceberg tore a huge gash below the waterline and the magnificent vessel shuddered to a halt. Shareholder value plummeted faster than the jaws of the engine room workers as the water flooded in. The shareholders rushed to the Bridge and demanded answers from the Captain. The Captain had already received the damage report; he knew the bulkheads didn't span the full height of the vessel, a cost-saving measure imposed by the owners and that water could flow from one compartment to the other. Already 1.2 compartments had flooded and the water was still rushing in. If 3 compartments flooded, the fatal tipping point would be reached and the sea-floor would be the next destination.

With his fingers firmly crossed behind his back, the Captain reassured the shareholders that the bulkheads were closed and with a few repairs, the vessel would soon be underway again and all would be well. He had a job and pension to protect and delivering bad news was not in his interests.

Reassured by the Captain's words, most of the shareholders went back to their champagne and caviar and partied-on. A few of the brightest oligarchs knew better however. They selected the biggest, finest life-boats for themselves and began stocking them for a long journey ahead, putting fearsome armed guards on board to keep out the riff-raff and the rats. A few programmed their navigation systems for New Zealand or even Mars. They were seemingly untroubled by the fact that the ship did not carry enough life-boats for all the passengers. They needed to protect themselves after all, if they were to rebuild Earth 2.0 in their image.

END OF CHAPTER ONE

AFTERWORD

The Sixth Assessment Report from the IPCC was released in the summer of 2021. Their assessment is; *'It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred.'* Their prognosis is bleak if we don't act with all haste and as one.

It is not a case of when we hit the iceberg; we have already hit it and now it's about damage limitation. It's a race against time but if all the passengers on our magnificent vessel we call Earth can put their heads together, the richest and the poorest, we just might find a way to plug the leak, pump out some of the water, restart the engines with green fuel, set a new sustainable course and sail off to a better future.

Chapter Two of this tale is still unwritten and how we write it will determine life for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren in the years ahead. We all know the alternative scenario if we fail.

The Sixth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change can be accessed via this link: [IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)

Future Chapters of this blog will look at what we can do collectively and as individual passengers, to help stop our ship from sinking and chart a new sustainable course for the future.

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FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF RMS HUMAN ENDEAVOUR; A TITANIC STRUGGLE BETWEEN MANKIND AND NATURE. WHO WILL PREVAIL? CAN THE GREAT AND THE GOOD AND THE BAD AND THE WORSE FROM ALL DECKS, SET-ASIDE THEIR PETTY DIFFERENCES AND KEEP THE SHIP AFLOAT?

"A gripping roller-coaster of a story"

