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# Who breaks a wheel upon a butterfly?

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It can come as no great shock when, after giving your credit card number and assorted personal details to a late-night television psychic, their subsequent prediction is that you will become a victim of bank fraud.

And what, pray tell, happens when public money is given to resuscitate myopic and amoral private enterprises that are proving to be shrewd and rather discriminating paupers in spite of their dismal records of commercial ineptitude? Heads they win, tails we lose. There is a renewed poignancy to the tragedy of the commons, which began sometime in the distant past with a much-ballyhooed cake-cutting ceremony and is still being played out as the slivers and crumbs are quickly and mostly needlessly being devoured. Some, though lacking any immediate requirement, take more than they could ever eat under the justification that they do not know if there will ever be any more; most, starve.

If consumer-confidence is said to be down, to what depths must citizenconfidence have plunged? Thus far, the governments of the world have been to use the most generous of words in order to match their profligacy likewise uninspiring in their bid to play white knight to our paradigm's damsel in distress. The G20's roundtable pledged one trillion dollars to slay the dragon. A large sum, granted a nice round number for all the headline writers, which if nothing else (and there is little else) will help push a little paper in a struggling industry. The only problem is, the paradigm is not the damsel it's the dragon. It needs to be put to the sword and a trillion dollars coupled with a mixed bag of national stimuli are as many acupunctural needles for the ailing beast.

The Canadian government provides

an excellent example of the ham-fisted responses that have been typical of our dear leaders in this time of crisis. The Canadian government is essentially forcing a Canadian government-funded entity (the Canadian Broadcast Corporation) to shed 800 Canadian jobs while simultaneously promoting a stimulus package designed to create Canadian jobs precisely because there are so many Canadian jobs being lost. Got that? Oh no, I seem to have caught fire how irksome. How shall I best fight the fire? Not to worry, it's for situations like this that I always keep my trusty bucket of fire handy.

A structurally maladjusted international economy comprised of structurally maladjusted national economies is in crisis it's about time. Although money undoubtedly has its uses, In Money We Trust has lost its lustre it's also about time. Like the cat who drowned in a tub of gold fishes, we are learning the hard way that not all that tempts our wandering eyes and heedless hearts is lawful prize.

Humans are not attuned to subtlety; we don't change until we must. Here's hoping our step backward comes with two swiftly forward. Where are we now? Well, we haven't yet hit rock bottom. At least we don't seem to have surely it is the sort of thing that would be remarkable enough to be known for sure. We are, therefore, embroiled in a rather delicate predicament: the best is yet to come but not before the worst is over and it's been due for quite some time.

Anything left? Time. Time is not money. Time is infinitely more precious than money. Whereas money can be accumulated indefinitely in an account, we are born with only a fixed amount of time and each moment is another withdrawal. Moreover, you can never know what your balance is maybe you are a billionaire, maybe you are already overdrawn and you will soon hit

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your credit limit: insufficient funds may  
you rest in peace.

I hope it was worth it; all that time,  
wasted again.