

Hello, everyone. Welcome to anoldguywhoknowsshit. Stluhdog here.

This is **Season 2: an old guy who knows shit explains it all for you**

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Episode 1: Introduction

Welcome back to those of you who have listened to the stories. If you're new, a special welcome. I hope you will catch up on the stories from season one some time, but you do not need to have heard the stories to stay with me today. If I seem like I'm moving kinda fast, it's because I got a lot of ground to cover and I don't want to take more than 30 minutes of your time, so please bear with me here. The fact that you are here at all suggests that you know I'm not here to entertain you or to make you laugh. So - thank you for caring, and thank you for listening. I promise not to waste your time.

So far, we have a podcast called an old guy who knows shit, but all he has done is tell stories. Those stories do add up to something, and we'll get to that next episode, but right now, this being a new season, and since many among you have yet to listen to season one, it seems I owe you something, you know? Like a reason to believe it's worth it to spend some time here. Something an old guy who knows shit might know that nobody **else** seems to know. So, spoiler alert, I'm going to jump straight to the heart of the matter. I'm going to tell you the important thing I know that nobody else is talking about right now, up front, so there's no question from the git-go where I'm going with this. After this episode, we'll talk about how it happened and what we might be able to do about it. Welcome to Season 2. anoldguywhoknowsshit explains it all for you.

You are probably thinking well it's got to have something to do with climate change, and of course you are right about that. Anyone paying any attention at all can see where that is going. We're experiencing it right now. I don't have to tell you, I'm sure, you already see the weather changes, the climate shifting, the storms - good god, the storms! - the rising sea level, the disappearing glaciers, the extinctions, the 6th Great Extinction, for god's sake, I mean, if you haven't already, please take a few moments to look at all that. The state of the ocean. The garbage patch in the pacific that is twice the size of texas. have you ever driven across texas? just try to imagine all that times two in garbage. You can't. It is unimaginable. But if

you do just a little research, the information is out there to make it utterly clear that this is a freight train, and it is picking up momentum fast, because ain't nobody doing anything about it.

Anybody out there watch Saturday Night Live? The cancelled christmas special on Dec. 18, 2021? Covid forced them to cancel their christmas special, so they did a historical retrospective, so to speak. And there was a bit from 1991 that was all about climate change, and that really kicked me in the ass, because we HAVE known where this was going for 30 years and this administration right NOW, 2022, well, starting in 2021, is the first to propose actual, serious climate change legislation. In 1991, 30 years ago, the idea of climate change had already so penetrated our society that it was part of pop culture. Can you imagine how history, struggling to survive at all on a hotter planet, will look at those 30 years between the knowing and the acting? Assuming, of course, we actually ACT....

But when you think of it, the sheer scope of how much we have to do to have a prayer of slowing the train is, like the scope of our garbage, unimaginable. Do you really think legislation is going to fix this? Is there a band aid we can put on this system that will challenge the juggernaut of climate change?

We all know the answer to that is no. So the question becomes what can we change, that might actually make a difference? and whatever that is, how do we change it? Are you ready for this? Here it is:

The freedom to make money is the primary driver of climate change. Before we can look at that closely, we have to consider that the freedom to make money is also the freedom our country will fight and protect to the death. Not the freedom to live. The freedom to make money. It is what defines what is in the best interest of this country, both domestically and globally - it is not human rights, it is the climate for the freedom to make money. The reason our government exists is to create an environment in which money can be made. Now I know nobody taught you that, but that's why we're here, isn't it? Nobody put it in the constitution, nobody put it in writing, but why were the framers there, framing a constitution? what need were they fulfilling? you were taught they wanted freedom, weren't you? but what triggered the whole thing in the first place? taxes. freedom from paying taxes to the king. freedom of commerce was the number one issue. freedom of the individual to live was incidental to that, sort of went along with it, but the freedom of commerce, the freedom to make money

unfettered, to make up their own rules about how money could be made, and who could do what with it, that was real reason most framers were there in first place. Certainly Jefferson and Washington, slave-owners both, were interested in commerce, not human rights, and that was the core urge that drove our country's creation. That and something else I'll get to in a minute. And, as I pointed out in the intro to Season 1, when the South said we gotta have slavery to make our money or you got no union, they said, well, ok, we'll let making money justify enslavement, just keep it to the blacks and us white landowners can all be the equal ones. That way we can have freedom and slavery both at the same time.

Making money is what justified enslavement. And, again, nobody wrote it down, but that became, over time, the foundational assumption that if making money justifies enslavement, well, it justifies anything, and, if **that's** true, well then it is in fact *the most important thing*. Throughout our history, government has always been on the side of the capitalists. The actual purpose of this country was never to take care of its citizens or to protect any human or ethical rights, those were tacked on later to keep the freedom talkers happy. The actual purpose of this government has always been to create an environment where money can be made. It started with simply the freedom to transact business, which is important to us trench-dwellers and which we need, but very quickly the freedom to transact business became the freedom to make money off of anyone or anything without any limitations. Which gives tremendous advantage to the already wealthy, and throughout our history, everywhere there has been a clash between the big guy making money or the little guy getting his rights who always always always wins?

So what has happened is: that freedom to make money, unregulated, has come first, across the board, but especially when it comes to Mother Earth. The freedom to make money allows anyone to take anything from the earth, sea or sky that they can convert into money. Converting it into money justifies its destruction and disposal. No strings attached. If you can find it and convert it into money, have a ball. So, yeah, some limits have been imposed on this over time, way too little way too late, but to think that it took a garbage patch twice the size of Texas for anyone to even ask the question should we hold companies responsible for the packaging they are introducing into the environment? is really pretty mind-boggling, isn't it? I first asked that question when I was in high school, trying to get a pill out of a plastic bubble on a plastic sheet glued to cardboard tab in a box fifty

times bigger than it needed to be, but that question has never been in the mainstream, and it took Ralph Nader's book *Unsafe at Any Speed* to sort of wake folks up to how much we were being manipulated by auto companies in their heyday. But that only lasted a minute. The corporations took control of the media after that and have manipulated both what we want and how badly we want it and they have kept us buying more shit, and more and more shit, and we have our shiny toys and media that keep us happy and distracted and the money has just rolled in, funneled right to the top, and nobody has paid any attention to the few grownups in the crowd saying, hey, uh, folks, wait a minute, here! there are a few things we need to pay attention to - ! Corporate control of the media, and what we think we want, has kept us consuming and consuming and consuming while completely ignoring what exactly it has been that we have been consuming, which is our own planet's livability.

You think it's not funneled right to the top? In the most recent two pandemic years, according to CBS News on January 23, 2022, the top 1% doubled their income, while the bottom 99% all experienced a reduction in income. The 99% expend their energy supporting the wealth of the 1%. That is how our economy is structured. Just by living our lives, we make the wealthy wealthier. That is the objective our government is actually fulfilling: to use the populace and the business of government as an income stream for the wealthy. The purpose is the income stream, not the well-being of the citizens. Except in the same way a cowboy takes care of his herd. Keep the 99% happy and believing the lie that they might actually become wealthy themselves and they happily live and die for the 1%, at the expense of Mother Earth, their only home. / And on top of that, convince them they are self-directed, that THIS is what freedom IS, and folks, here we are.

It is the purpose of government we have had for multiple generations, 50 years anyway, as government gave corporate media freedom to control more and more of our lives, well, we experience less and less of real life, and more and more of corporate manipulated "needs" all aimed at getting us to live to make money and then give it to them, the price of survival in our society is that somebody must make money not only from everything you buy, but also from everything you need and do. What you don't realize is that your desires and needs, what you want, what you believe you need, are a product of corporate and media manipulation every bit as much as if it was political inculcation a la George Orwell's 1984. We think of advertising as harmless, but it has defined what we want and has kept us participating

willingly and enthusiastically. It is one of the most destructive forms of propaganda, because it has blinded us to the destruction caused by fossil fuel, and keeps us to this day marching happily into our own extinction.

Here, it's ok, it's not political, it's just to make a buck, and so nobody notices that they have in the meantime completely taken over our lives, which we live from birth to death in order to make money for them, all the while we are decimating Mother Earth. Now that is an apocalyptic novel plot if ever there was one, only it is our reality. And we are the engine tricked into making it work.

Yes, folks, our economy is a doomsday machine. Don't scoff. Think about it. Our economy, what happened when the forefathers created the environment where those with money could keep it and grow it by using it to fulfill society's needs for a profit, the economy that emerged out of that, unregulated, does fulfill society's needs, but only after it makes colossal amounts of money for a very tiny percentage of the population, at great cost to Mother Earth. Fulfilling society's needs is number two on the list. Behind the freedom to make money. Which is the be-all and the end-all. What is considered in fulfilling society's needs is not society's needs, it is the size of the income stream it will generate. Income stream first, people/ society/ Mother Earth all distant seconds. Our economy does fulfill our needs, remarkably well for now, but only incidentally, always with the objective of making money for somebody else first, regardless of harm to Mother Earth.

On top of that, everything we manufacture to make all that money for so very few, everything we buy and use, all the trappings of civilization, from our silverware to our homes and cars and office buildings and subway trains, all of that, literally every single manufactured thing we come into contact with, made money for somebody first, is having its turn of usefulness right now, but will all be garbage in a very short time. Every. Single. Thing. And every piece of garbage that is made of plastic has some kind of poison as part of its composition. Up until recently, anyway. Most all that plastic in TexasTimesTwo. It's most all poison. It is actually breeding new species at the same time that it is slow-poisoning the entire ocean. Think what will happen when a tsunami hits Staten Island! All of that garbage is a direct result of the unregulated freedom to make money.

But. The freedom-to-make-money's garbage is insignificant compared to the damage done by the unregulated freedom to make money off of Mother

Earth. That is the heart of the doomsday machine that has caused, and continues to support, climate change. The freedom to convert any natural resource into money without regulation. Without any attention paid to what will happen to the environment you are removing this resource from? we eventually did get the epa, but look at how powerful it is not. And we certainly have not paid any attention at all, ever, to what will become of whatever you do with this resource, like, will it become garbage? will it become pollution? what happens to it when you're done with it? how will the balance you have disrupted be restored? No attention whatsoever. If anybody ever asked those questions, it certainly never got to the general public. Because the freedom to make money is what decides what gets made, not the freedom to live. That is the true meaning of deregulation. The freedom to live is always subordinate to the freedom to make money. Everywhere, always. Well, very, very few exceptions.

President Biden recently said, talking about the voting rights act, that all this voter suppression and gerrymandering was unamerican. "that's not us," he said. Really, I thought. And then: I don't think so. What is american is cheating. From the very first moment of our founding, as Thomas Jefferson wrote those magic words he was a cheating cheater: he wrote "all men are created equal" but he cheated and kept his slaves. Cheating was at the very heart of our creation! The first, core driver was the need for freedom of commerce, but at exactly the same time came cheating to get it. Cheating has been a core element of both politics and business throughout our history, to this very day. Cheating cheaters are everywhere, Wall street, in particular, where the freedom to make money is a religion, where making money does justify anything and cheating is a tool not an ethical choice. But politically Republicans are shameless cheaters, have been throughout my entire life, and now the liar has made cheating based on whatever you can make up acceptable, and the repubs are having an orgy of cheating. Of course, all that serious cheating started with the Powell Memo in 1971, which if you don't know it I encourage you to look up, just google Powell Memo because it laid out the fifty year plan of how to cheat the system for a conservative takeover of the government, the result of which we have today. Look at the top: on the supreme court the republicans have a supermajority (6/3). Two of those recent republican judge appointments, generously evaluated, were utter cheats. Mitch McConnell stood up in front of the country and the world and announced "I am a cheating cheater and nobody can stop me so I am cheating; I am undermining a system I have no respect for! In your face. I dare you to stop me." And the repubs jumped

on board. "We're not partisan hacks," said the judge whose appointment was then the second-most partisan in history. Really, judge? then how can it be ethical for you to accept such a clearly partisan appointment? And the other one, the "legitimate" one who likes beer? If you could not see that he is a cheating cheater from his confirmation hearing, then your truth meter definitely needs a tune-up. This is high level, sophisticated cheating here, folks, the only purpose of which is to undermine the system. To prevent democracy from succeeding.

They have cheated us for 50 years about the climate, convincing us no action needed to be taken just keep them dollars rollin' in. They knew. You think they didn't know? Of course they knew, but because cheating is in their DNA, they always assume they can cheat their way out of anything. But the thing is, they can't cheat Mother Earth. That is the simple fact. They can, and have, cheated both us and the system shamelessly, but they can't cheat Mother Earth.

Our participation in this is insidious, because we are just innocently trying to live our lives out here, trying to CONstruct some positive energy streams, get a little compassion love and beauty spread around. But almost everything we do and have in our fossil-fuel world, regardless of our intent or knowledge, makes money for somebody and hurts the earth, somehow, before it even reaches us. And almost nothing is available to us that can counter that harm.

What we have learned, if nothing else, from our upbringing in modern society, as members of a modern western culture, is that money is the most important thing. Whether or not we personally believe that to be true does not matter, it is the foundation of everything we have and relate to, the underpinning of everything in our lives, from the sheets and bed we wake up in to how we expend our day's energy to what we teach our children - everything in our lives needs money to happen. It is the necessary underpinning of everything we do. Money IS the most important thing.

And climate change is telling us that, uh, money cannot stay the most important thing. Climate change is here to tell us that money is not even a real thing. Money is a made up thing. A made up thing that has nothing at all to do with Mother Earth. In fact, climate change is here to tell us that it is a made up thing of absolutely no real value whatsoever.

Convert Mother Earth into money, which is what our current system is doing, hellbent for leather, and what do you have left? Nothing. Convert Mother Earth into money and you will not even have a place to exist.

I would call that a perfect illustration of how profoundly money corrupts.

I am not saying we need to get rid of money, or stop using it. No. You can't just remove what underpins everything. But right now converting Mother Earth into money is more important than balancing with her. It is possible to find balance without throwing away money, but we must find a way to value balance, a thing of actual value, more than we value money, a thing of no actual value.

So the FIRST thing we have to do is we have to redefine the most important thing, don't you think? And make that the purpose of our government. But before we do that, we have to re-imagine our own value system, both as individuals and as a society, We have to look at what else might be more important, because making money can no longer be the most important thing. We have to decide, as a society, that something else is more important. Here's an idea: how about that freedom to live? If we are committed to our country's other roots, our roots that were cheated on, the freedom roots, then we must include freedom in our objective, and providing our citizens with the freedom to *live* starts with taking care of Mother Earth, because the FIRST thing we have to have for *any* freedom to exist at ALL is a stable PLACE to BE.

What if we make the purpose of our government "To provide the freedom to live for all of its citizens equally? " What would all men are created equal have created without cheating? Let's find out. We can make some really big changes. All fully legal, all within the system, without any violence. Changes not based on making money, or growing the economy. Changes based on restoring balance. What we have to do is stop the planet from getting any warmer, right? We have tipped the scales pretty far in one direction, and now we have to tip them back, into a new state of balance. To stop warming, we must achieve a new balance. The fact that our economy must keep growing to exist in and of itself makes it a doomsday machine.

Making money needs continuous growth.

Mother Earth needs balance.

If we cannot restore balance, folks, we are going to be just as extinct as the thousands of species we have allowed to go extinct on our watch, not one of which have we cared enough about to change our ways. Wherever our arrogance puts us in relation to other species doesn't matter, though; the fact is that our lives are no more precious to Mother Earth than the lives of any other species. No, folks, we have to be responsible for our own survival. And that means we have to choose: The freedom to make money? or the freedom to live? If our species is to survive, we must choose the freedom to live. And we must take action right now to start restoring balance. It's actually pretty urgent, here, folks.

Before we get to what we should do, there's a couple more things I'd like for you to consider. Now. On the face of it, I just laid out a buttload of bad news. I mean, if you haven't thought about it, the sheer fact that we are in an apocalyptic struggle is a lot to take. Somebody will surely describe this as "the world is ending and it's all our fault" and rabbit holes galore will turn up to fall into. First of all, I am saying the world MIGHT end, not that it will, because the point is that *We can still save the day*. Second, it was NEVER our fault, us folks out here in the trenches are a society, we are NOT pawns, we just happen to have been born into a system that uses us for our entire lives as if we were pawns to profit somebody else. We think we're happy and free with all our toys and media and it feels free in Fake Consumer World. After all, the only thing our society absolutely requires of us is that we make money and spend it. All ya gotta do is Consume, right? What happens to you if you don't have any money? But think about this: it is that consumption that is required of us that is the primary disruptor of balance in climate change. The central conflict of our apocalyptic novel: All ya gotta do to survive is make money and consume. Which decimates the earth.

The making money justifies enslavement team is still in charge, the purpose of our government is still to embrace and support the freedom to make money, and they are destroying *our* world while *they* roll in wealth. Now, *How many times throughout history have folks found themselves in exactly this same situation?* Way more than we can count, from every village that ever stood up to an oppressive prince to every major revolution ever. Every time normal folks are taken advantage of by a moneyed elite and break themselves free from that oppression. Some failed, yes, and simply changed the venue of oppression, but the successful ones turned out WAY better on the other side for the folks like you and me here in the

trenches. The great advantage we have here over our historical correlatives, is that we have a political structure in place that will allow us to make changes as fundamental as the reason our government exists without violence or even a new constitution!

We DO outnumber them by a LOT, and they know it. In 2021 there were hundreds and hundreds of laws introduced in our supposed democracy restricting voting rights. These are not the actions of patriots who want democracy to work. These are the actions of cheaters who don't care about the system they just want to be boss. They are working to prevent democracy from succeeding. So all we have to do is get enough of us to the ballot box to beat all the cheats. Between 30% & 40% of this country never votes. Those people who do not vote - those people are not on the making money justifies enslavement team, trust me, they have simply lost all faith in government. So the truth will get a lot of those folks' attention - and their vote; and there are tens of millions of patriots out there, sincere but hoodwinked, who still have a truth sensor we can reach. There are plenty of us to peacefully and lovingly change the course of our country from DEstructive to CONstructive.

So to me, yes, we are going to have to change how we live radically, simply losing fossil fuel and plastic alone is a gargantuan task, and we can't just do it, because now we can't live without them. For now, we must use them, but mindfully, and not punish ourselves for it, but at the same time, we must work to wake up our friends and family and associates. It is time to grow this movement, not from the ground up, from the trenches up. It is time to undermine the Making Money Justifies Enslavement Team, to get them all out of office and to replace them with members of the Compassion Love and Beauty team. It is a herculean task, but it is exciting, folks. This is a Big Historical Moment, and we are at its center. We are the leaders in the world and we have the political structure in place to do this peacefully and lovingly. We *can* do something to stop the juggernaut of climate change. We are waking up from a fake world, but we *are* waking up, and we *do* have the numbers to make real change and *we are present* right now at the beginning of the biggest peaceful and bloodless revolution in history.

Don't be discouraged. Get excited!

So: The first thing we have to do is to wake up the populace, which has been increasingly lost in a corporate media-induced stupor of consumer frenzy for three generations. And that starts by sending this link around. We

can use their media to spread a little actual intelligence and combat the flood of lies and conspiracy theories. But we have to do it. The only chance we have of making a difference is if we do it, because, folks, in spite of our obsession with super heroes saving the world, it ain't gonna happen. We have to do it ourselves. The world as we know it is ending. That is sad and may be disturbing, but it is a fact. No superheroes are going show up. There it is. But the thing is, we do not need superheroes, and you know why? because we have numbers.

One more thing I have to say here is that I do not see any villains in the big picture. We have to realize that all of us, wealthy as well as destitute, we were all born into this system. Into a place in this system, and the system taught us how to sustain it, and that was what we did. There are little-picture villains everywhere, but there is no evil think-tank planning climate change. The freedom-to-make-money-*system* is causing it. And we must not assume that the wealthy are bad guys; they may be, in their hearts, members of the Compassion Love and Beauty team but they're stuck in the system just like we are, and could come around to seeing that saving humanity is way smarter than saving their wealth. In which case, change could happen pretty dang quick. So I think that it is important that we not start off pointing fingers at anyone. We simply have to stop hating each other for whatever and instead see each other as all being members of the family *humanity* who need to work together so our descendants can SURVIVE. That is as elemental as it gets. Whatever problem anybody has with anyone else right NOW cannot possibly be more important than leaving a place for our children's children to *live*. After we succeed, THEN ya'll can fight over whatever you want to, and we can all be confident that it won't end the world as we know it. But right NOW, folks, right now we need compassion to reign supreme. We need to get together.

So if you're excited by the idea of replacing the freedom to make money with the freedom to live, and restoring balance to Mother Earth, then you are the one whose job it is to click the forward button on this link, to advance this wake-up call out to the next level of CONstructors. They are out there, more than you imagine, and we need all of us to get together here, somehow.

I'm going to revisit much of what I talk about here in future episodes, and will get much more specific about what we can do. For now, in your personal life, curbing fossil fuel use, recycling and not buying plastic will make a difference. Politically, our immediate objective must be to block this

long-planned conservative takeover of the government because those "conservatives" today are generational members of the making money justifies enslavement team. They are little-picture cheating cheaters who do not believe in democracy and if we give it to them they are not smart enough to see that dismantling democracy in favor of making money will kill them as well as us.

But remember please: we outnumber them by a *huge* percentage. All we gotta do is get together and get our asses to the polls.

And will you look at that 29 minutes. I'll try to keep future episodes closer to the 20 minute mark, but this episode had some really big ideas to wrap our brains around. This is an old guy who knows shit, signing off till next episode, Cosmology. Thanks for listening.