



# What's **Wrong** With Humans?

## Timely Questions from a 16-Year-Old Seeker

The thing that makes us the smartest of all species is the same thing that makes us the dumbest. The thing that lets us take dominance of this planet is the same thing that lets us destroy it. **BY LOTUS KAY**

**W**ITH EVERYTHING going on with the world, all the chaos and destruction that we are causing to our own planet, at risk of sounding cynical, I've been thinking:

"What is wrong with humans?"

I could dwell on this statement alone and just say the human race has gone completely mad. But if this question is hanging over my head so much, I might as well take a deeper look at it.

So what truly IS wrong with humans?

Well, what makes humans different than any other species on earth? We eat, sleep and breathe just like any other species, but I'm pretty certain we are the only species that makes pollution towers and Instagram pages.

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But are the same emotions that cause us to go to war connected to the same emotions that allow us to write poetry and music? Are the thoughts that cause us to leave the present moment and overthink about the future and past, the same part of our brain with the ability to start movements and create paintings from visions in our head?

So is it really true that the things that make us the dumbest species are not separate but the exact same things that make us the smartest species?

And if so, how do we get rid of the insanity that we cause ourselves and the earth without also getting rid of our art and



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the ability of common reasoning and understanding that far surpasses those of any other species?

We may be the only species asking ourselves what the meaning of life is, because we may be the only species really aware of existence at all. Other species just exist and don't have the same questioning process we do. With this sense of awareness we are able to have an understanding of the stars and the universe, and even land ourselves on the moon. But is this all a good idea? And should we really be sending our man-made satellites up into space? Is our human brain advanced enough to understand the effects for the universe of what we put into space? Do we even have a true understanding of the universe? Of course we don't. And the fact is that we never will.

Of course we will learn more about the universe scientifically. But maybe to upgrade into more advanced research we need to take into account a more spiritual perspective of it all. Let the things we don't know about the universe not frustrate us but leave us in awe, still curious to learn more, but open to the possibilities of mystical mysteries.

Because as hard as we try, will we ever truly know what existence is? Or how we got here? Or how we can

understand the strange synchronicities around us and label them all coincidences? It's just this hidden magic.

The same elements in our blood are the same elements in the stars (like iron, etc.), which proves that we are more than a part of the universe and the magic of it all. It may just prove we are living stardust, learning and researching and trying to understand ourselves.

But this same super intelligent and remarkable ability to understand the universe is the same part of our brain that somehow tears nature apart.

You see, we should be in awe over the fact we exist on this floating rock in space, the only planet in our solar system habitable for life. Just close enough to the sun that we don't freeze up. But far enough from the sun that we don't overheat. It's this beautiful miracle. We should be worshipping this planet and all of its beautiful life. But unfortunately, that's not the case.

We are such curious creatures that we just can't seem to stop creating and inventing. Sometimes we try to make our lives and things around us "easier," while making them a whole lot harder. Problem solving where there was never a problem.

There's a reason the famous catch phrase, "if it's not

broken don't fix it" exists. And maybe we'd be better off if we'd follow that advice.

We see the world around us with the perspective that we own it. We see things as valuable for only what they are worth, from what we can create with them. So even though the trees give us and the whole planet oxygen, and are home to many different creatures across the planet, from the viewpoints of a current day human mind a tree is only useful if cut down and turned to paper. Or something else it can be molded into to make human life "easier."

We give ourselves a pat on the back for being smart enough to be able to look out for asteroids (so we can be more alert about going extinct, like the dinosaurs). Yet we are proudly oblivious to the fact that down here on earth, we are the asteroid every day. We may not be gone in the instant of an asteroid, but each day we head more in that direction.

We get excited over liquid water on Mars, yet pollute our oceans and kill and eat the fish that live among those waters. We get so excited with the thought of alien life, yet leave the animals here imprisoned in factory farms, zoos, circuses, or any other way we can own them, even hunting them just for fun, and putting their faces on our walls with pride that we are our planet's asteroid.

But do we even make the connection that we are causing such destruction? We seem to want to close our eyes and ears to the truth. Maybe it is so we can remain more comfortable and not have to deal with the circumstances of our actions. But by avoiding it we make it worse and each day a larger mess for us to clean up. The amount of problems we have in the human race are enormous. Not just from all the ways we cause destruction to the planet, but the problems that lie in our civilization of people. It seems no one's completely content in our current day of living and there are systems that have outlived their usefulness. We are in urgent need for new systems and new beliefs to replace what has left us in the dysfunction we live in today.

If you believe in evolution you could believe we will evolve out of all this and move towards a better day

for us all. But we are limited on time. The answers aren't that hard. It just seems we have lost common sense. Well let me display some common sense to share.

There may only be time to change these things if the people on this planet realize that absolutely nothing is more important than us taking actions on solving our current day problems. Because what on earth could be more important on earth, than the destruction of the earth?

This is the most important thing: we must take immediate action on this all. And if you read this and choose to forget about it, then it'll be you representing humans' ignorance of what's truly important. And it'll be your fault for the planet's destruction. That may sound extreme, but humans are already extreme, and people need to realize the simple, un-debatable truth that nothing, absolutely nothing right now is more important than us coming together, accepting one another, and working to protect and save our planet.

So what's wrong with humans? The same thing that is right with humans. And my hope is that what's right with humans will overrule our flaws. Is there hope for a better humanity? I do know for sure there's hope, though I cannot be certain we will rise above the moment. But if we hold hope that we will, then maybe we can attain that goal. If we can rise above this moment, then we may all be able to see the brightest rainbow possible after the storm. And even though it's raining and thundering now, don't let it fool you. Hold hope that the more it pours now, the brighter the rainbow will be when the storm is over.

When it comes to making a difference, I realize it's easier to say, "screw it," than to say, "do it." But hope is the only thing that can give us the strength and charisma to reach our dreams. 🌸

© 2018 by Lotus Kay. Lotus has had her writings published in a variety of publications such as *Vegan Health and Lifestyle Magazine*, *Teens Speak Out*, *Voya* and *New Leaves*. She is a recipient of a grant from Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots program for her work creating a campaign called *Bears for Cares*, raising awareness for youth on the state of wildlife and endangered species worldwide.

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