

*This is a reflection from 1999 towards the end of the 15 years of Bromsgrove Conferences on Monetary Reform. They tried to face the fundamental challenges we face in the global economy as experienced in every locality in an attempt to map significant thrusts in monetary reform. The introduction and conclusion stand as a stimulus for action, Each of stanza 2 - 7 has a body of scholarship and evidence behind it. The 8th stanza not quite the word of God !!!*

## **LET ANCIENT WISDOM DETERMINE MONEY MAKING**

Justice would be, O, so simple  
though it may take eight more creative  
'days',  
if citizens would vote  
for transformation, step by step,  
of the monetary system;  
that steeps us all in exponential debt.

First, redeem :  
credit by renewing the requirement  
of investment collateral,  
that is, return to 100% money.

Second, create :  
a public service banking system,  
the crown in action for the people,  
issuing money free of debt into the  
economy,  
stemming compounding interest's  
strangulation of us all.

Third, invest :  
in everyone with citizens' basic income,  
the first call on a nation's wealth  
being the dignity of a freely contributing  
society, gifted not categorised,  
into space to work, every skill engaged  
in just wealth creation.

Fourth, multiply :  
currencies that generate economic activities  
at many levels, building in the process  
local trust, partnership  
and community.

Fifth, explore :  
the ancient wisdom of secular and religious  
traditions,  
-almost everywhere,  
that 'money making money' is prostitution  
of Aristotle's great economising notion,  
'money is the means of exchange  
not the mother of interest';  
usury must end.

Sixth, revisit:  
fiscal and monetary polices, applying  
eco- and uni-taxes, with land-value charges,  
as the keys to perpetual replenishment,  
of a vast population thriving on the earth  
within the intrinsic value  
of nature's eternal creativity itself.

Seventh, in the extant interim :  
apply a Tobin tax to the awesome  
immorality  
of currency speculation,  
which flourishes in the overweening vanity  
of those who prosper  
while, even in a new millennial era,  
millions die in want and desperate indignity,  
across the full face of a plentiful planet  
only abundant in a genuine economy.

Eighth, rest:  
looking on a just  
socio-, politico-, eco-nomy serving  
the Common Good, in genuine incarnation  
of cosmic origin,  
we may say, yes, that, that is good.

1999

## GONE MAD AND CRUCIFIED

Hidden horror grips the world  
when profit is the prime incentive  
in human progress,  
when competition becomes the  
supreme law of economics.  
Hubris, overweening vanity,  
endowing us with irrational rights  
of consumption and unfettered freedom,  
far out-reaching justice or sanity,  
a mounting disaster shattering  
the delicacy of planet earth,  
as we reach the point  
where it is hard  
to overstate the rancorous enmities  
of factions who have been happy  
to wreck each other  
simply for having products of their labours  
they are determined at all cost  
to sell, rather than to supply  
real human need.

Could it be already true to say, that  
needing justice,  
seeking peace,  
requiring sustainability,  
we cannot start from here ?

Starting somewhere else  
may be our only option,  
as gradualists are subject to prostitution  
and daily doses of institutional false truths  
seduce us to affirm the compromise  
in which we are already sunk  
denying real truth in its rich complexity,  
not subject to control or machination.

Madness, global madness, grip of death,  
the spell of manic money, enralls us all,  
in debt to economic tension that  
mounts into vertigo in the well  
of human spirit so monetarised,  
it is no longer nourished ;  
thus, humanity reaches  
breaking point and, fit to fall,  
our step is determined by convention  
not conviction.

Another walked the way,  
his step had the spring of divine  
determination,  
his humanity he possessed simply to the full,  
his message, love, effective in  
global, corporate and intimate  
exchanges, personal all ;  
his love, a political, economic and social  
force  
standing only through crucifixion  
against the way of greed.

What would kill another,  
made that man thrive :  
resurrected in force for new creation,  
brimming with sensitivity and pain,  
son of man, guest of the nations,  
he could not stay if evil still held sway,  
but died to remind us of the other way,  
and therein, therefrom, to breed disciples  
who can bring change.

**What if we dared !**

D; 0 Poetry: Let Ancestral wisdom