

# **THE GREEN DRAWINGS**

# THE GREEN DRAWINGS

## - Script for performance -

1st performed in a lush, albeit a bit sun-burnt garden in a lovely and wealthy coastal village in the south of Sweden, Beddingstrand, on July 14, 2019.

1.

*Conny drinks a Red Bull and throws can over shoulder.*

Red Bull gives you wings. Or, wiiings, nowadays. But no worries if not, there are these great companies that can help you with the flying, and if you pay extra they might even add a few drops of bio fuel to the fossil fuel mix.

Swedes fly approximately 5 times more than people in general. *“If we fly more, the airlines will have more money to develop more sustainable ways of flying”*, say the right wing politicians. Big business has done a marvelous job with the climate so far, of course we should keep putting the planet's faith in its nurturing hands. We just have to travel more in order to help the Earth, it's not our fault that this notion happens to be rather comfortable and easy on the conscience. *“We should hurry and visit the coral reefs while there's any left”*, a scientist at the climate research station in Abisko once told us. We should all go, we should all travel half the globe for it. While there's still time. *Book the cheapest flight and hotel deals - Travellink.com. Your travel agency: Book cheap flights - eDreams International. Cheap Holidays deals, flight + hotel - Opodo. Flight deals, package deals. Deals deals deals! Book your journey, book already today online! Apollo. Flygresor.se. MrJet. Expedia. Hotelspecials.se. Flight + hotel equals simplicity, equals convenience, equals flexibility, equals saving. travellink.com.* So easy and comfy and cheap, flight, hotel, car, algorithms guide us through it all, a couple of clicks and we're off.

Coincidentally, the search engine that helps us coordinate all parts of the journey was developed by the American air defense to track enemy aircrafts, but since it proved too unreliable for such tasks it was repurposed for commercial use. Anything bad is good for something, as my wife's mum says. Poor American Air Force, but at least we can now travel so easy. Booking trips on-line saves time and it is both practical and pleasant - and we don't have to drive to town and visit an agency, no CO<sub>2</sub> emission there at least, like in the stone-ages 15 years ago. Or? Not quite so. Flying is not the only harm we do to nature when travelling. Having booked our trip on-line, we have contributed to the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions considerably before even taking off. Remember when e-mails used to have those disclaimers not to print them out to save the nature? Actually our online time is directly effecting the climate more than one might imagine. The cooling of all the

server farms that are keeping the Internet running are producing as much CO<sub>2</sub> globally as the whole air transport business. And it is not the server farms themselves that are the problem, it is our usage of the Internet that makes the servers work and heat up. Especially when we use Internet pages with lots of images we are generating server heat, so when watching movies on Netflix, or cute kittens on YouTube, browsing online shops, selecting hotels for our journeys or gambling at online casinos, we are participating in pollution in levels equivalent to flying. And as the world keeps getting warmer, the server farms need more cooling... Incidentally, Swedes are among the most avid internet users in the world.

To add insult to injury: living in a hotel makes for a considerably large CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. For example, a week in a hotel for two people, with visits to restaurants, cafes etc. contributes to the emissions approximately as much as 2 people flying from Copenhagen to Venice and back.

Fun Fact 1: 36 percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Sweden comes from road transport and in 2018 the emissions from truck transports were still rising.

Fun Fact 2: High CO<sub>2</sub> levels make us stupid. Just like in a poorly ventilated classroom, the learning capacity decreases when the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> rises. This could maybe explain our inability to act upon the climate crisis.

*For all of you flying somewhere warmer this summer (or, perhaps, colder, depending on your tastes) there's Nina with her stash of drawings, go buy some to compensate for your flights and hotels and Internet, etc. We'll plant trees and clean the air with the money.*

(track 1 plays, *“Dumb Dumb”*)

2.

The climate change crisis is not something that will happen in the future. It is happening now. Only, it is happening elsewhere, in the poorest parts of the world where people who have done little to cause it live.

While producing the smallest amount of greenhouse gases, Africa is one of the continents most vulnerable to climate change and with the greatest lack of adaptive capacity, sub-Saharan countries like South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Burundi are considered among the most

~~trillionsandtrillionsofdollars-economicgrowth-freemarkettrade-deregulation-individualisation-privatisation~~

vulnerable countries in the world. Livestock and agriculture, the main livelihoods and components of the economies, directly depend on the weather and environment. According to researchers, international humanitarian agency staff, local NGOs and local people, the drought cycles have changed over the last decades - major droughts used to hit cyclically every tenth year and each drought was given a name, but now drought is a nameless constant. But hey, don't let them rain on our parade - as long as we find better ways to stop refugee ships trying to cross the Mediterranean this is not our problem is it? (Salvini's already onto that.)

Leading up to the uprising in 2011, Syria had suffered a record-breaking freak drought since 2006, five years during which 85 percent of rural livestock died and crops withered. Nearly 800.000 people lost their livelihood according to the UN, and the population received little relief from the Government. Instead the al-Assad regime redistributed the traditional rights to the dwindling water supplies to political allies and forcefully suppressed all protests, thus igniting the fire that would result in the uprising and the devastating war that followed.

Bangladesh is not only one of the poorest and most densely populated countries in the world. It is also one of the countries suffering most due to climate change. With the melting glaciers of the Himalayas flooding rivers from the north and rising sea levels threatening the delta country from the south, there is little need to speculate in the possible effects of climate change - they are on constant display. Bangladesh has suffered some of the fastest recorded sea level rises in the world and more and more frequent cyclones push walls of water 90 kilometers up the rivers. The intruding sea water contaminates groundwater supplies and destroys farmland, rendering it barren. In recent years, riverbank erosion has annually displaced between 50,000 and 200,000 people. Scientists project a five-to-six foot rise by 2100, and this will displace around 50 million people. And this is only in Bangladesh. If the current development continues big parts of the world will be uninhabitable by 2100 and billions of people will be looking for new homes.

No fun facts here.

*But there are more drawings. The more we sell, the more trees we'll plant. — And ...the fewer scary foreigners we'll have knocking on our doors.*  
(track 2 plays, "Cars")

3.

*Conny picks up the can.*

This was for theatrical purposes, I never throw garbage like that. ...but I'm not sure how much good my meticulous sorting does. We carry our bottles and glass jars - sorted by colour, plastic wrappings and paper, some 500m to our garbage sorting station, we carry it out on foot, about every 3rd day. We're very decent about it. Most of us are, up here in Sweden. We are doing our part. Maybe a couple of years of sorting makes up for one trip to Spain. But the thing is - we are sorting so well that Swedish trash-burning plants have to import garbage to have something to burn. Sweden yearly imports 5,6 million tons of garbage, mainly from Norway and UK. And it is a really good business. For example: more than 60 000 truckloads of garbage roll down our roads from Norway every year. First the power plants get paid to take care of the garbage, then they get paid for the energy they produce. Not surprising that they oppose more regular check-ups on their emissions - they prefer to be able to do the tests when they want to - the results are so much better that way. Since the mid 1990s the emissions of hexachlorobenzene have increased by 80 percent in Sweden. An increase entirely parallel with the boom of garbage burning plants. Hexachlorobenzene is a cancerogene chemical that disrupts hormones and can cause brain damage. By the way, did you know that once the garbage is burnt and poisons emitted, Sweden exports the equally poisonous ashes from the plants back to Norway? Yes, the ashes are getting a second ride along our highways back to Norway were they are buried in the ground, clean environment Norwegian style. Syns inte, finns inte. (Not visible, not there.)

Fun fact 3: Cars are the big polluters, our biggest sins (as long as we don't happen to own a petroleum refinery or a concrete plant or similar). As individuals, let's please keep on reusing our plastic bags and sort our garbage, but we are not making a very big difference as long as we choose to drive fossil-fueled cars.

However, here in Sweden we find it more important to support car and villa loans to the middle and upper class citizens than to invest in the people who live more climate sensibly in apartments and commute to work with public transport. The yearly tax subsidies on mortgage loans could finance free and expanded public transports for all in the whole of Sweden. And still it is well known that CO<sub>2</sub> impact rises exponentially with income.

Or, if we like the thought of sponsored private housing for the well-off, we could also secure free public transport with income based tax. For an average family, costs for commuting would

~~economic growth - free market - trade - deregulation - individualisation - privatisation - trillions and trillionsof dollars~~

be cut in half this way, compared to monthly public transport tickets at current rates. If you happened to earn more than 75 000 SEK per month the costs might get slightly higher, but you could make up for this by selling one of your Jaguars.

Fun fact 4: As it happens, Slovenes travel by car more than any other EU citizens - 85% of all their journeys are done by a private car. It's a good thing they're not that many.

Fun fact 5: Flying is subventioned in Sweden - the state yearly subventions the industry with more than 10 billion SEK.

Now batteries and electric vehicles are being presented like a super clean new option. Is it? Maybe for us in the rich west. We can keep consuming in the same pace, keep all our comforts and still have fine air around us. But how about the poisoned salt lakes left behind the lithium mining fields in Bolivia, and the 35 000 children breathing toxic dust in the cobalt mines of Congo?

*Let's take another brake, time to play our game of soul-redeeming commerce some more. Oh, and one thing we have not talked about yet - the clothing industry. It generates more greenhouse gases than air and sea transport together. We really have to start planting those trees. Please buy the drawings.*

(track 3 plays, "Planes")

4.

So, clean air here - on whose account? We supposedly have all clean power in Sweden, but we import slightly less clean one from Germany. That's ok isn't it? The air above Germany is abroad —theirs, not our concern. During dry hot summers, Sweden cannot produce the usual amounts of hydropower and instead fossil fuel energy is imported from Germany. The more the climate change effects the Swedish weather, the more coal power Sweden needs and the more CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted, producing a positive feedback loop.

In our marvelous neoliberal European Union everything is for sale and Guarantees-Of-Origin (GO's) are being sold independently of the actual energy produced. This is very handy in case you are producing dirty energy in a coal-fired power plant - you can simply buy green energy

GO's and sell your fossil fuel based energy as, for example, water or solar energy. This also makes any claim from your electricity provider dubious. If they are not actively selling you fossil fuel energy, they are still likely to be making good deals helping the fossil fuel industry greenwash their energy.

Or, to talk of Norway. So clean. They aim to be completely fossil free soon. Beautiful notion, remarkable. But how about the fossil fuel they keep pumping out of the ground? No worries, they are not going to burn it, they will only sell it abroad. If burnt elsewhere, it only affects those other planets.

What nobody talks about is scaling down. Moderation doesn't sell. Who would vote for a party promising to let us only drive cars every third day of the week, or ensuring that fish farming gets 100% sustainable, hence more expensive and selection scarcer? Not to talk about meat and dairy products, all reduced to exclusive goods to be properly appreciated and enjoyed only on special occasions. Would we give our votes to people claiming they will make sure we have less things to choose among, less chances to shop for pleasure? Imagine our political candidates at the next elections promising there will be absolutely no strawberries in the winter, no more fresh exotic fruits, and my absolute deal breaker - almost no avocados, ever, I'd never vote for that. And they would promise curfew, with lights, TV and Internet off after 9pm.

It's obviously much easier and sexier to scream for reopening of nuclear power plants. And keep on with business as usual.

*There's some more drawings left. Buy them so we can all still eat avocados.*  
(track 4 plays, "I'm Not Denying Climate Change (But it Could Very Well Go Back)")

~~trillionsandtrillionsofdollars-economicgrowth-freemarkettrade-deregulation-individualisation-privatisation~~



The climate change crisis is not something that will happen in the future, it is happening now. Only, it is happening elsewhere, in the poorest parts of the world where people who have done little to cause it live. Cyclical periods of drought that have turned into a devastating constant in Sub-Saharan Africa, the five-year record breaking freak drought in Syria, flooded Bangladesh, there is little need to speculate on the possible effects of climate change, they are on constant display. But hey, don't let them rain on our parade — as long as we find better ways to stop refugee ships trying to cross the Mediterranean it is not our problem, is it? (Salvini's already onto that.)

High CO2 levels make us stupid. Just like in a poorly ventilated classroom, the learning capacity decreases when the amount of CO2 rises. This could maybe explain our insistence on keeping on with business as usual, trusting that the market will save the day. Despite all the mind-boggling evidence, we keep being unable to see that constant economic growth and cleaner Earth are not part of the same equation.

What nobody talks about is scaling down.

Moderation doesn't sell. But Green Drawings do!

For all of you driving cars, browsing Internet, flying & shopping for pleasure etc., we have prepared a stash of drawings, please buy them to compensate for your environmental sins. At 300sek/drawing we will plant trees and clean the air with the money. The more we sell, the more trees we will plant. — And ...the fewer scary foreigners we'll have knocking on our doors.

Time to play our game of soul-redeeming commerce once more!