

the ONE when the World went wrong

by Guru Mani H

“God’s got the whole world in his hands”: A vague memory of a song from childhood.

“God’s got the whole world in his hands”: I’d like to have the faith to believe that, really, I would, but the facts seem to say the exact opposite.

“God’s got the whole world in his hands”: Maybe once, but not any more.

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It’s the **day after tomorrow**, and **the whole world** has gone wrong...

Rich as vulnerable as poor. Famous and unknown treated as equals. International arguments that seemed big, now seem so small. Things put into perspective. Sworn enemies making a temporary peace to fight a larger common enemy. Storm clouds over the entire planet. No-one safe. War against each other, now a war against the enemy of humanity itself. A desperate race for survival [scares the hell out of me]. Armageddon out there, fighting to keep my peace in here. A world event that was always going to happen tomorrow, but tomorrow is now here; today. Your battle is also mine; my war is also yours; we’re all in this together. Ordinary people becoming heroes; heroes becoming superheroes. Goals and dreams simplified to just one: survive. Panic and fear reign. The world trying to put its collective finger into the dam to stop the water of destruction, but the dam just sticks a finger back up at the world. Humanity against inhumanity, mortal against immortal, the human world against the natural world. Everything was normal until suddenly, one day, it all very quickly went wrong. No escape, because this isn’t just my bit of the world, it’s the whole world. No idea when it will all be over [*if it will all be over*]. No clue what the new ‘normal’ might look like. No certainties. No stability. No knowing the future.

It's the **day after tomorrow**, and **the whole world** has gone wrong.

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It's **today**, and **my world** is going wrong...

I feel like *a storm at sea* is pushing and pulling me back and forth, first one way then the other, my 'yes' becoming 'no' and then my 'no' becoming 'yes'; **or like** *quicksand* has caught me by surprise in its deadly trap, and with no solid ground beneath me, the more I struggle to get out the deeper I sink, all the time the life being squeezed out of me, one painful moment at a time; **or like** *a tsunami* is washing away and completely flattening and destroying everything precious to me, and as it's come without warning, I'm left with no chance to do anything about it; **or like** *a famine* is leaving my soul on the point of total starvation, with the feasts of past years now only a distant and much longed after memory; **or like** *a gale force wind* is blowing me wherever it feels like, making it impossible for me to choose the direction I'm going in, leaving me in a whirlwind of conflicting emotions that can't be controlled; **or like** *cancer* is eating my soul from the inside out, spreading and infecting every fibre of my being, with me just an observer; **or like** *a tornado* has picked me up and has spun me around relentlessly, dropping me somewhere completely different, leaving me sat there, dizzy and totally lost; **or like** *an earthquake* has destroyed in seconds the beautiful building of my life which took years to design and construct, and I'm now nothing more than a pile of dirty and twisted rubble lying on the ground; **or like** *deadly insects* have eaten me away as they do a ripe and healthy field of corn, leaving me fit only to be burned on the rubbish heap; **or like** *an avalanche* has ripped the stability from under my feet, and I'm crashing down the mountain at high speed, being bruised, beaten and bounced around as I fall to my almost certain death; **or like** *a forest fire* that started with only a small spark [that I felt was harmless enough], but is now burning intensely and without control, where all of my life's blessing is turning into a blackened mess of a curse; **or like** *an ice age* has descended, not upon everyone, just me, and has frozen out my emotions, leaving my heart and soul in a state of total numbness. Now I'll STOP and take a breath!

It's **today**, and *my* **world** is going wrong.

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It's the **day before yesterday**, and **the whole world** *had already* gone wrong...

Mankind as a whole was more *connected* than ever before in the *virtual* world, but more *disconnected* than at any point in history in the *real* one. There were so many things on offer to *take away* our worry and stress, many of which only *added* to it. We had *more* 'friends' than we knew what to do with, but when really needing one, there were *less* to be found. Technology had moved *forwards* at a speed that was quite simply incredible, but the quality of family relationships had moved *backwards* by about the same amount. The human *right* of an individual had become more and more valued, but values in society as a whole seemed to be moving in the *wrong* direction. Computerisation of organisations and businesses had *increased* the profit, but often *decreased* the customer satisfaction. People were 'liked' by *so many*, but *so few* felt really liked at all. It had become the in thing to focus on my *own* mental well-being, but without much thought as to how my words and actions affected the mental well-being of *others*. Industry revolutions had made many things to *build up* the human world, but had done it by *destroying* the natural one. Through their combined intelligence the human race *could* do what before seemed impossible, but didn't have the wisdom to ask if it *should*.

It's the **day before yesterday**, and **the whole world** *had already* gone wrong.

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"God's got the whole world in his hands": Maybe others' worlds, but certainly not mine.

"God's got the whole world in his hands": That's just about the only thought that keeps me sane right now, and I cling hold of it for dear life!

"God's got the whole world in his hands": Total bollocks.