

Awe or arrogance: Two different sides of human nature

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery each day." Albert Einstein

Awe and arrogance two different sides of human nature. The first often leads us to the precipice



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of discovery only to have the second make us miss the point entirely.

If we don't look carefully enough, we don't allow ourselves awe. But then if and when arrogance kicks in, we are too quick to make easy or obvious conclusions, assumptions that can

be based on partial, or completely wrong information.

Global warming is one issue that many of us make quick assumptions about, the first being that we need to reduce energy consumption just to slow down

an already alarming downward trend. But what if this is a quick and false assumption?

First of all, we all need to be open to new ideas and the possibility that our assumptions need to be revised. Optimism has its own energy. If you are in need of a little optimism, I would urge you to consider subscribing to Optimist Daily, an online magazine dedicated to sharing news of the positive things happening in the world, a welcome contrast to the news climate that surrounds us every day.

Last month, Optimist Editor-in-Chief Jurriaan Kamp interviewed Paul Hawken, author of the New York Times Bestselling book entitled Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to

Reverse Global Warming.

First of all, do you know the term drawdown? We not only need to know this term; we need to start using it with each other in daily conversation. According to Hawken, "drawdown is that point in time at which greenhouse gases peak and begin to decline on a year-to-year basis."

What are your assumptions? Did you know that we could actually not just reduce, but reverse global warming? Not only is it possible, it is already happening. Hawken's book chronicles 100 instances of people in all fields actively finding and pursuing global warming-reversal.