



Jamais Cascio: Finding a Little Comfort Fifteen Minutes into the Future

Posted by [Prof. Goose](#) on May 22, 2008 - 1:15am

Topic: [Environment/Sustainability](#)

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After a day like today--I feel like I have been on a herky-jerky roller coaster for ten hours straight--I think we need some comforting thoughts. Jamais Cascio, someone I respect greatly, obliges:

http://www.openthefuture.com/2008/05/fifteen_minutes_into_the_futur.html

My thoughts under the fold.

One of the hardest things to grapple with as a futurist is the sheer banality of tomorrow.

We live our lives, dealing with everyday issues and minor problems. Changes rarely shock; more often, they startle or titillate, and very quickly get folded into the existing cultural momentum. Even when big events happen, even in the worst of moments, we cope, and adapt. This is, in many ways, a quiet strength of the human mind, and a reason for hope when facing the dismal prospects ahead of us.

But futurism, at least as it's currently presented, is rarely about the everyday. More often, futurists tell stories about how some new technology (or political event, or environmental/resource crisis, etc.) will Change Your Life Forever. From the telescopic perspective of looking at the future in the distance, they're right. There's no doubt that if you were to jump from 2008 to 2028, your experience of the future would be jarring and disruptive.

But we don't jump into the future -- what we think of now as the Future is just an incipient present, very soon to become the past. We have the time to cope and adapt. If you go from 2008 to 2028 by living every minute, the changes around you would not be jarring; instead, they'd largely be incremental, and the occasional surprises would quickly blend into the flow of inevitability.

There is some comfort in that the frog shall boil ever so slowly until it is cooked, I suppose. The [rest of his piece](#) is very much worth reading... Discuss it here, discuss it there, I don't care.

Whatever you do, take some solace in your resiliency and your wisdom--and remember, you have a chance to adapt and do good in this world if you want to. We all have much to learn.



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