

## How It Started and How It May End

*by Mike Harris*

The word "think" is the key to this week's writing challenge. Thinking is the hardest work there is, as far as I am concerned. It leads only to more thinking, it is work without a conclusion. Physical jobs end either satisfactorily or otherwise, but they end! Thinking just keeps encouraging more thoughts.

With the above in mind I was sorely tempted to pass on this week's topic, but on looking in my mirror I decided to give it a try.

To start with I looked in the local newspaper and realized how little I really cared about world events as well as what was happening locally. How the different sporting events which were occupying the printed media and filling the conversations of most around me ended positively or negatively, did not raise my blood pressure at all.

My thinking took a different direction. I asked myself what major event started the progress of civilization. The thought of religion and one deity instead of a multiplicity of gods. But that was not the beginning, so go back further, developing societies, villages, clans, etc. No, finally I settled on man's ability to make and control fire, which led to his dominance of the planet. The only creature on the planet who over the millennium was able to change his environment and able to survive regardless of climatic conditions.

Pre-historic man survived with the help of his ability to adapt and his control of and the use of fire. The human in all different parts of the planet, all in their own time came to the same conclusion, fire and adaptability, the two in convergence led to his dominating the planet. Think about it!

No superior strength, really a puny creature but with one weapon, fire, and the ability to adapt survives the millions of years, and develops a civilization that, as far as anyone knows, is unique and so powerful that he can and probably in the end will destroy the glorious creation that he has produced. All because of a failing which was also his greatest advantage, the desire to be dominant.

He has never learned to live contentedly with the largess that he and his fellow man have produced. He has never stopped trying to dominate. War and strife! All through the ages the warrior was never debased but extolled and admired. This flaw in his make-up has time and again destroyed and laid waste great advances in different parts of the planet.

These happenings took place independently. The inhabitants of the North American continent were at war with each other long before the white man set foot on this land. The people of Europe, despite great advances, cannot seem to live in peace. The same is true of Asia, even the small subcontinent of Australia. The natives did not live in peace. Think about it!

We will in the end probably destroy all that we have created because we cannot learn to live in

peace. Yes, think about it!