

Monday, 1st February 2016

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your postcard from Greece - I got it just as I was boarding my first Dreamliner to South Africa.

This aeroplane is magnificent. Its windows are 2.5x the size of a regular window and can be dimmed electronically, very 21st century. The sound of the engine is a growl and not the high pitch shriek hears on most planes.

The last memorable air experience was when my father, in 1980, took the family on the Concorde (I still have the dark blue leather notepad from the flight on my desk). But the Dreamliner lives up to its name. What is astounding is how dependent we are, still after nearly my four decades of flying, upon oil...our only 'mobility fuel'.

Oil provides us a high standard of living and an instant mobility that past monarchs waged many wars for; we have become jaded to its benefits and take it for granted. We can fly when we want, drive where we want, and purchase what we want. What trumps oil, the

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foundation of our lifestyle, is our access of credit, without which oil would be a much more expensive input in our lives. The current price of this modern miracle fuel reflects the abundance of credit with which we can deliver and use oil. This cornucopia of credit lulls us, myself included, into under appreciating its critical role in our humanity.

Yes - the price of oil's abundant use has been paid by the environment, but do not shoot the 'oil messenger', rather it is our continued reliance on credit, the ease of its access and application to every part of our lives that is responsible. Oil is modern living, it supercharges our desires, it is the modern elixir of life. We cannot move without it, we cannot eat abundantly without it, and for flying it is critical. Am looking forward to my return leg flight.

See you soon in London - Mustafa