

# A Species-level Taxonomic Treatment of the Phalse Prophets with Hypotheses on their Origin and Evolution

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## Abstract

During periods of crisis people often cling to stories as a way to alleviate their anxieties. This taxonomic treatment of twelve species of Phalse Prophets describes the ideologies of *faux* saviors, so those wanting to face reality instead of avoiding it have the tools to detect when high IQ excrement is being flung in their direction. Preliminary cladistic analysis identifies the trait ‘hubris’ as a shared and defining feature of the twelve species, tending to manifest in proclamations of certainty and cultivation of us-vs-them dynamics. It is suggested that more realistic ideologies may be found among humble humans who express nuance and recognize the uncertainty inherent in complexity, and that fatalism and scapegoating are to be avoided.

Keywords: *Homo*, hubris, modernism, denialism, decoupling, singularity, techno-optimist, rocket men, Progress Myth, accelerationism, ecofascism near-term human extinction, fatalism, survivalists, anarcho-primitives, Cassandra, humility, complexity, uncertainty, peasant

## 1. Introduction

As cascading, interlocking, and reinforcing poly-meta-perma-crises unfurl, confused people are looking for answers as to why things are unraveling. Stepping up with compelling narratives are various species of Phalse Prophets. These species fill a variety of socio-ecological niches by fitting into existing cultural biases and quenching basic human psychological needs, such as security, agency, purpose, and tribal affiliation.

Unfortunately, while providing some comfort, none of these species adequately address the issues they claim to care about. Several may be considered dangerous by generating a faux sense of security that distracts from potentially helpful collective thought and agency.

This paper will help identify twelve known Phalse Prophet species—an important skill for filtering misleading and harmful information and diminishing the influence of those spreading it. To do so, this paper includes a dichotomous key followed by a brief description of each species, including a diagnosis of their ideas, distribution, typical habitats, and other identifying

features. The evolution of Phalse Prophets will be further explored in future publications using phylogenetic analyses, but the discussion here focuses on initial hypotheses of their origins and character evolution based on a matrix of ideological and behavioral traits (table in appendix). Intended users of this taxonomic treatment include members of the media, educators, scientists, political leaders, and concerned citizens who want to deal with reality instead of avoiding it.

## 2. Methods

The author performed field work and a review of literature and media (YouTube mostly) throughout North America, Europe, and most English-speaking parts of Earth. Standard pattern recognition and recursive hypothesis testing of species concepts were performed, specifically seeking clusters of traits that bind individuals into groups of affiliation by habitat, morphology, behavior, and modes of thought. The Cohesion Species Concept (Templeton 1989) is the framework for taxonomic delineation. In addition to standard Latin binomials, this treatment proposes official English common

names (*nom familiar*) in accordance with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999). The dichotomous key uses the *noms familiar*. To generate evolutionary hypotheses, a character matrix was created and coded with simple presence/absence scores for eleven ideological traits.

### 3. Dichotomous Key to the Species of Phalse Prophets

- 1a. Trying to hold this shit together.....Go to number 2
- 1b. Wants to blow it all up, has given up, or knows it is going down.....Go to number 7
- 2a. Working hard to convince you everything is alright.....sp. *Man Shiller*
- 2b. Admits we do have problems, big ones even.....Go to number 3
- 3a. The solution is to become a new species fused with technology.....sp. *Cyborgian*
- 3b. We can keep our current biological form.....Go to number 4
- 4a. Problems we have created are solved by continuing to do what we have been doing, which is growth and innovation, but agnostic on details.....sp. *Double-downer*
- 4b. Proposes specific massive technology changes to cope with existential threats.....Go to number 5
- 5a. Knows we are running out of stuff here, but there shall be space colonization.....sp. *Rocket Man*
- 5b. Pretty much sticks to planet Earth.....Go to number 6
- 6a. Fetishizes material shrinkage, may even doubt matter is needed at all.....sp. *Industrial Breatharian*
- 6b. Focused on materials and infrastructure, especially a giant future electric grid.....sp. *Complexifixer*
- 7a. Fatalistic about near-term human extinction, so tries to have fun.....sp. *Hospice Hedonist*
- 7b. Not convinced we are all about to die.....Go to number 8
- 8a. Fixates on personal and family survival.....sp. *Bunker Builder*
- 8b. Aims to influence society in a big way....Go to number 9
- 9a. Expecting the apocalypse soon, may actively work to bring it on.....Go to number 10

9b. Seeking to head off the worst through raising awareness or changing minds.....Go to number 11

10a. Belief in alien overlords and other wackadoodlery.....sp. *Q-fluencer*

10b. Cozies up to authoritarians while fomenting rage in the masses.....sp. *Molotov Mixologist*

11a. Provides dates for disasters, while hoping to head them off with technocratic change.....sp. *Premature Casandralator*

11b. Not very clear on specific catastrophes, but the key to avoiding them is a shift in consciousness...sp. *Con-evolver*

### 4. Species Descriptions

#### 4.1 *Homo excusatio* J.C. Bradford. *Nom familiar Man Shiller*.

A high-status professional, well-paid to gaslight you into believing the shit-cakes you see everywhere are actually made of chocolate. Very much into the status quo and will mostly shrug off existential threats, e.g., the severity of climate change. May spend a lot of time debating other Phalse Prophet species, often arguing cogently against one technological fetish only to make the case for their own.

Widely distributed in all major urban areas around the world. May wear formal clothing to confer status.

Includes a number of recognized subspecies that are easily distinguished by their profession.

Diagnostic quote: “I am going to try to persuade you of something that might seem impossible: that one of the best things you can do to make the world a better place is to fight for more fossil fuel use—more use of oil, coal, and natural gas.” (Epstein 2023)

Type specimens: Bjorn Lomborg (subspecies pseudoscientist), Jack Welch (subspecies businessman), Alex Epstein (subspecies philosopher)

#### 4.2 *Homo machina-homo* J.C. Bradford. *Nom familiar Cyborgian*.

Any distinction between the biological and mechanical worlds will dissolve as we merge with nanobots, electronics, and “the cloud.” Immortality ensues. Really, really wants to stay alive in current poorly crafted meat suit long enough for upgrades to become available.

Breeds in Silicon Valley and broader *environs*. Has a greater-than-average likelihood of inhabiting loft condos with exposed brick and 7-figure price tags. Attire is casual yet expensive.

Diagnostic quote: “The law of accelerating returns will continue until nonbiological intelligence comes close to ‘saturating’ the matter and energy in our vicinity of the

universe with our human-machine intelligence.” (Kurzweil 2006)

Type specimens: Ray Kurzweil

#### 4.3 *Homo deorsum-duplici* J.C. Bradford. *Nom familiar* Double-downer.

A person who is keenly able to review all the evidence that we are on a completely unsustainable path, but doesn't see it that way and considers this the best of times, and so naturally decides the best and only action is to do more, much more, of the same (a double entendre as they bum you out with the diagnosis and then bum you out by having nothing useful to say about it). Essentially, reinforces existing norms by acknowledging existential threats, but downplays the role of current power structures and cultural belief systems in creating those threats, while calling on technology, industrial capitalism, aided by some form of good governance, to solve their own problems as they are created.

Habitat is widespread, including everywhere money lingers. Generally cleanly man-scaped.

Diagnostic quote: “It's not irrational to identify genuine threats to our well-being. It is irrational to interpret a number of crises occurring at the same time as signs that we're doomed. It's a statistical phenomenon that when events are randomly sprinkled in time they cluster. That sounds paradoxical, but unless you have a nonrandom process that spaced them apart — We're going to have a crisis every six months but we're never going to have two crises in a month — events cluster. That's what random events will always do.” (Marchese 2021)

Type specimen: Stephen Pinker

#### 4.4 *Homo phallus* J.C. Bradford. *Nom familiar* Rocket Man.

Not overly deterred by Earth's gravity well, wants to move the shipping industry upwards. A bizarre species that is both freaked out by the reality of limits to growth, but only because these limits exist on Earth. Hence the need to transcend our planetary realm. Astonishing combination of abilities to make oodles of dollars, run rocket companies, and willfully ignore the insanity of their plans.

Very rare, as not many have the hubris to pull this off. Must be a billionaire while still needing to compensate.

Diagnostic quote: “What happens when unlimited demand meets finite resources? The answer is incredibly simple: Rationing. The good news is that if we move out into the solar system, for all practical purposes, we'd have unlimited resources.” (Novak 2019)

Type specimen: Jeff Bezos

#### 4.5 *Homo spiritus-industriae* J.C. Bradford. *Nom familiar* Industrial Breatharian.

Worships the god of dematerialism through growth and innovation. Envisioning a richer, non-molecular American Airlines, Archer Daniel Midlands, Bed Bath and...Beyond! In a nutshell, this species has the talent of being able to put together spreadsheets and place bets on key technologies (e.g., nuclear fusion, vertical farming) to argue that if gains in efficiency are extrapolated far enough into the future, human needs can be decoupled from nature. The eventual outcome, which is the only way to maintain modernism, is that energy is abundant and nearly free, machines end up doing all the work, and nearly all people live in cities so the Earth can rewild for aesthetic reasons.

Widespread on college campuses in economics departments but could also be into engineering or design. Infects politicians and media with soothing banter. Owns many ties and is not averse to wearing them on regular days.

Diagnostic quote: “To the degree to which there are fixed physical boundaries to human consumption, they are so theoretical as to be functionally irrelevant. The amount of solar radiation that hits the Earth, for instance, is ultimately finite but represents no meaningful constraint upon human endeavors. Human civilization can flourish for centuries and millennia on energy delivered from a closed uranium or thorium fuel cycle, or from hydrogen-deuterium fusion. With proper management, humans are at no risk of lacking sufficient agricultural land for food. Given plentiful land and unlimited energy, substitutes for other material inputs to human well-being can easily be found if those inputs become scarce or expensive.” (Asafu-Adjaye et al. 2015)

Type specimen: Ted Nordhaus

#### 4.6 *Homo multiplicitate* J.C. Bradford. *Nom familiar* Complexifixer.

Usually an engineer who addresses global scale predicaments, most often climate change and the energy transition, with technologies that are fantastically difficult to manage and scale. Future taxonomists may want to delineate subspecies focused on energy sources (e.g., a globally connected all-electric energy system) or pollution sinks and geoenvironmental engineering (e.g., sucking carbon dioxide out of the air). Never heard of Joseph Tainter.

Common on college campuses in engineering departments, and among many left-leaning environmental orgs. May have found venture capital to put kooky ideas into praxis. Thinks he is the smartest guy in any room, and while that may be true, is also a total dork.

Diagnostic quote: “The Jacobson plan – which, while only one potential approach, is currently the most detailed and well-known – would be met with 30.9% onshore wind, 19.1% offshore wind, 30.7% utility-scale photovoltaics (PV), 7.2% rooftop PV, 7.3% concentrated solar power (CSP) with storage, 1.25% geothermal power, .37% wave power, 0.14% tidal power, and 3.01% hydroelectric power.” (Shepherd 2019)

Type specimen: Mark Jacobson

#### 4.7 *Homo hospitium-hedonistico* J.C. Bradford. Nom familiar Hospice Hedonist

The message of this species to all others in the genus *Homo* is not a happy one: The end is very near, and we are helpless to do anything about it. However, while telling everyone they and their children are about to die isn't fun, they are stoic about the final days. Finds joy in the moment and truly appreciates the little time we have left with our loved ones. May even party hard.

Sporadically located in rural areas with forays into town for supplies.

Diagnostic quote: "I am often asked for advice about how to live during these tenuous times. In response, I recommend living fully. I recommend living with intention. I recommend living urgently, with death in mind. I recommend the pursuit of excellence. I recommend the pursuit of love. In light of the short time remaining in your life, and my own, I recommend all of the above, louder than before. More fully than you can imagine. To the limits of this restrictive culture, and beyond. Live like you are dying. The day draws near." (McPherson 2019)

Type specimen: Guy McPherson

#### 4.8 *Homo caverno* J.C. Bradford. Nom familiar Bunker Builder.

This species not only sees existential threats all over the place, it also sees a corrupt and inept government unable to protect patriot citizens. So, it is up to families and private enterprise to find ways to survive. With enough upfront money and logistics, life underground might be palatable, with plenty of bourbon, bullets, and beans.

Fond of New Zealand and "fly over" states. Attracted to abandoned missile silos. Often observed in conjunction with screens that are displaying episodes of *Doomsday Preppers*.

Diagnostic quote: "We may well face a day of reckoning where a choice between buying "beans or bullets" is starkly set before us. Neither FEMA, nor the military, nor the police could be relied on in a true national crisis, leaving only the private sector to save you and your children from jihadists or germs. Compared to the hellacious suffering to come after the end of civilization, what self-respecting businessman could say any sum of money wasn't worth peace of mind?" (Biddle 2021)

Type specimen: Barrett Moore

#### 4.9 *Homo vandali* J.C. Bradford. Nom familiar Molotov Mixologist.

Diagnoses the existing power structures as locked-in, irredeemable, and likely to fail from their own defects. Hence may justify literally blowing things up sooner to get it over

with, or more modestly, stoking political chaos. Believes this will result in them coming out on top of the rubble.

A confusing and heterodox species (see discussion). Most populations are found predominantly in North America and Europe, particularly in peri-urban and rural regions. In North America, often spotted in jacked-up trucks with flagpoles. Communications are encrypted. May spend an inordinate amount of time in gun shops and lingering near electrical grid transformers. Then again, might be an urbane computer geek with poor posture and a hipster vibe. Or even a hunter/forager/wildcrafter living in the woods.

Diagnostic quote: "Why did you carry out the attack? ... To add momentum to the pendulum swings of history, further destabilizing and polarizing Western society in order to eventually destroy the current nihilistic, hedonistic, individualistic insanity that has taken control of Western thought." (Beauchamp 2019)

Type specimen: Ted Kaczynski

#### 4.10 *Homo insaniae-coniuratio* J.C. Bradford. Nom familiar Q-fluencer.

The moon was a base for an ancient alien civilization that has invaded Earth to control us and all the bankers are with them and JFK Jr. is still alive and he may be saving us right now but we have to watch out for the Illuminati (lizard people) and Khazarian Mafia (fake Jews) and the Rothschilds who are still powerful but Trump is our savior and is leading the White Hats to certain victory including recent wins in Antarctica but stay away from National Parks and Forests because that is where they capture and bring you into underground lairs and whisk you away on an ancient mag-lev train system coursing through thousands of miles of tunnels into the chambers beneath the cities, especially Washington, DC, where the Democrats, who are Satanic, sacrifice children to extract the adrenochrome that they use in ceremonies.

Known wherever there is internet service. Web browser will be Duck-Duck-Go. Likely to attend megachurch services or be into yoga and health food.

Diagnostic quote: "So everything is completely out of control. Not only do we have the D.C. jail which is the D.C. Gulag but now we have Nancy Pelosi's Gazpacho Police spying on members of Congress." (Bickerton 2022)

Type specimen: Marjorie Taylor Greene

#### 4.11 *Homo immatura-cassandra* J.C. Bradford. Nom familiar Premature Cassandralator.

This species is a tortured soul who is cursed to get the basic story of ecological overshoot and societal collapse right, just not in the correct decade. Defining error is to publish work with overly specific dates included. Even with pointed and accurate analyses of the untenable situation, logical descriptions of the awful consequences, and wise suggestions

for corrective actions, prematurity leads to dismissal of otherwise worthy contributions.

Globally vagrant, could be trapped and lonely in academia, or forming large flocks at permaculture gatherings and Grateful Dead reunions.

Diagnostic quote: (These people suffer enough).

Type specimen: Paul Ehrlich

#### 4.12 *Homo illustratus* J.C. Bradford. Nom familiar Con-evolver.

If you want to party with one of these species, pick this one. Premise is that after some years of meditation or an ayahuasca ingestion, we will see our connection to all of Creation, and, as newly enlightened beings, become aware of what is needed now, fulfilling our role as co-creators of the Cosmos. Universal peace ensues as we break free from rise-and-fall dynamics and cyclical patterns of past epochs and consciously ‘emerge’ the future.

Uncertain whether the center of origin is southeast Asia, east Asia, or Sedona, Arizona. Wears loosely fitting natural-fiber clothing. Likes gathering crystals and following obscure mycologists.

Diagnostic quote: “Where we are going is not predestined. The most exciting part of this realization is that we discover, if we look deeply into our own experience, that our own emerging desire for spiritual freedom is not separate from the impulse that is driving the entire process. I call this the Evolutionary Impulse. When we awaken to this impulse, we discover something miraculous: that that dynamic and ever-evolving creative principle is none other than our own Authentic Self.” (Cohen 2023)

Type specimen: Andrew Cohen

## 5. Discussion

Phylogenetic work is ongoing but incomplete as DNA samples are being sought through field work in academic centers, book tour stops, and survival lairs (Bradford, in prep). Preliminary cladistic analysis using ideological traits (see appendix), though simple and not well supported, provides a first look at potential evolutionary relationships (Bradford, unpublished). These will be briefly outlined here with the intention of publishing a robust phylogeny by combining characters from ideological and molecular data sets.

The ideological outgroup, Peasants, was chosen to root the cladogram and hypothesize philosophical character evolution (Peasant DNA is currently being sought from diverse habitats, including Louisiana Cajun country, the Italian island of Ustica, and among several isolated Romanian villages). Their premodern, though agrarian, ideologies likely derived from livelihoods based on direct interactions with natural processes. Hunter gatherers may also serve as a more distant outgroup, but lack certain agrarian ideologies probably derived from

permanent settlements and domestication of plants and animals. Peasant characteristics include at least a predisposition to accept social hierarchy, perhaps resulting from stored surplus and the security and management classes that resulted. Peasants only accept hierarchy reluctantly, and more often in the more peri-urbanized ecotypes where taxation is rampant, and a strong formal economy undermines their cultural independence. Peasants are expected to lack potential synapomorphies of Phalse Prophets or subclades, who are likewise agrarian but have employed machines for most labor, leaving their minds to wander and generate innumerable concepts that are both adrift from reality and dysfunctional (like an immune system that attacks its own body).

A uniting character for Phalse Prophets may be “hubris.” Indeed, many possess a marked “death anxiety” (an exception being Hospice Hedonists who curiously act as a pseudo death cult), and some go to great lengths to cheat death (Cyborgians), which is anathema to Peasants who see death regularly and accept it as part of a cycle. Nearly all specimens of Phalse Prophets, in whatever species, project an extraordinary and unwarranted sense of confidence, despite the obvious presence of fear as a motivating force. This may be expected given the prodigious use of exosomatic energy by the species, which is on the order of one or two magnitudes greater than the putative outgroups. These “Iron Man” levels of energy underpin Tony Stark-like technologies, and even though they can access nearly all accumulated knowledge, many Phalse Prophets are as clueless about the material basis of their world as cargo cultists (Catton, Jr. 1982). It is ironic that even those species expecting the ship to go down (e.g., Bunker Builders) prepare by expending massive sums of natural resources, when learning to live like a humble Peasant may be a better strategy once civilization has burned all it can.

There may be a well-supported core clade, which will be referred to as Ultra-Modernists, defined in part by the widespread notion that humans are “separate from nature” and thus exempt from the processes that constrain other biological creatures. This clade also possesses the belief that “someone is in charge,” which again is quite the opposite of Peasants. Outside of the Ultra-Modernist clade is a possible basal grade of species that doubts human supremacy over nature but is otherwise ideologically diverse (i.e., Premature Cassandras, Con-evolvers, Hospice Hedonists, and Bunker Builders). Perhaps unsurprisingly, the Ultra-Modernist lineage tends to be dismissive of the concept of “ecological overshoot” (aka breaching planetary boundaries), though this trait is reversed in some species, such as Rocket Man and certain populations of Molotov Mixologist. The former accepts biophysical limits on Earth so seeks more elsewhere, while the latter has a very mixed notion of what limits human potential.

As circumscribed in this treatment, Motoltov Mixologist is characterized by a willingness to foment collapse of the existing order, in many cases even using violence and destruction of vital infrastructure. However, it includes

populations with divergent philosophies on desired outcomes. The most common and widespread population seeks to create a Christian, heterosexual, and whites-only future that, while wanting to maintain modernity, has mixed views on technology. This population also harkens back to traditional themes of a hierarchical social order, projects an air of populism (see neo-fascist subpopulations), often believes in ecological limits, and wants to preserve nature by reducing the population of outgroups, the over-consumption of goods, and the corruptive influence of technology on culture (see eco-fascist subpopulations) (Beauchamp 2019). Other populations are much smaller and difficult to locate. On the authoritarian side are groups that, while non-religious and socially libertarian, are very pro-technology and aim to thrust the CEO-culture to the heights of power in a kind of neo-Monarchy (Siegel 2022). Then there are the anarcho-primitives, who detest modernism, are pained by ecological overshoot, and want a post-industrial tribalism to emerge after the fall (Kaczynski 1995; Richardson 2018). It is unclear if this population is extant, but not long ago, a small group advocated a Marxist approach, eschewing calls for violent revolution, but seeing the ecological crisis and capitalist over-production of gadgets as threats and wanting to capture the infrastructure to use for an enlightened high-tech society where people are freed from unnecessary labor (Williams 2013). Future treatments, with additional sampling and DNA evidence, may conclude these populations should be considered their own species.

Within the Ultra-Modernist clade, there does appear to be a clear group of closely related species with the very frustrating derived trait of “getting it/not getting it.” The widespread and generalist species of this group is Double-downer. Authors in this species can write beautifully about the history of human evolution, the rise of civilization, and the perils inherent in a high-tech, globalized, human-dominated world that is addicted to fossil hydrocarbons, rapidly altering the climate, and spewing forever chemicals with the fervor of a ferret on amphetamines. So, they do “get it” and won’t deny “existential risk” (unlike the Man Shillers), but in the last chapter or two they will deify the notion of “Progress” and dismiss any response to the human predicament that doesn’t align with their “more of the same and harder” philosophy (Harari 2017; Pinker 2018).

The Double-downer species appears to have given rise to various specialist species with narrow niches, i.e., Rocket Man, Industrial Breatharian, Cyborgian, and Complexifixer. These less eloquent species tend to have a weaker historical perspective and have fixated on a particular notion of progress, manifested in a savior technology of one sort or another (i.e., trait “technology fetish”). It is unclear if these daughter species represent their own clade or whether the “technology fetish” trait evolved multiple times independently. Either way, populations of Double-downers may comprise a paraphyletic assemblage, but this is considered normal with the Cohesion

Species Concept. Population genetics will be needed to elucidate the patterns of evolution in the Double-downer species complex. (Note, if readers don’t know what this paragraph is about, that is fine and you are normal. You are even more normal if you don’t care).

While “hubris” may be a synapomorphy of Phalse Prophets, one could argue that Premature Cassandralators aren’t as hubristic as other species, perhaps occupying a basal position in the clade. Their hubris may be less developed or simply redirected towards overconfidence in their predictions and hence their prematurity, especially during the vigor of their youth. During field work it was noticed that older individuals are softened in their stance and tend to cassandralate with less certainty and greater nuance. While this flaccidity may make them more valuable as potential sages, it ironically means they are even less likely to be heard.

It is likely the Phalse Prophet clade diversified and spread following the Industrial Revolution, with initial ideological origins in the preindustrial Enlightenment period. Their exploitation of fossil fuels, their ability to power machines and supplant human labor, and the resultant shift from rural subsistence to urbanized wage laboring populations turbo-charged notions of progress, human supremacy, and a sense of control over nature that began a century earlier (Heinberg 2021). If we apply the concepts of cultural materialism (M. Harris 1979) and doubt the notion of free will (S. Harris 2012), then this evolutionary path was perhaps inevitable once the magic of hydrocarbons was unleashed, and nobody is to blame for the proliferation of hubris that followed.

We shouldn’t get caught up in assigning blame about our past, but now that species of Phalse Prophets are clearly described, and identifying traits are available for anyone to distinguish among them, the species *Homo sapiens* may want to consider living up to its moniker and quit the foolery. How so?

Given that Phalse Prophets exist (and early observations suggest their populations are growing, and their ranges are expanding), one would be tempted to look for True Prophets. However, this may be like chasing unicorns, as nobody worth listening to believes they have all the answers. It could be that wisdom lessens certainty, and perhaps society might want to pay more attention to the gentle hens rather than the strutting cocks. The former seem to have plenty worthwhile to say while not being complete know-it-alls (e.g., Meadows, Randers and Meadows 2004; Macy and Molly Young Brown 2014; Raworth 2018; Friedemann 2021).

As a preliminary and tentative suggestion, future taxonomic treatments may decide to split the genus *Homo* into tribes, with species in the Phalse Prophet clade, diagnosed by hubris, given the name *Hubanae*. Remaining species of humans, those with a proper dose of humility, can be placed in the tribe *Humanae*.

This is the first taxonomic treatment of Phalse Prophets, and it was limited in scope. Researchers able to explore other

parts of the world and with expertise in other languages would likely yield additional species. Indeed, it is remarkable that the Earth is so rich in glorious biodiversity, in all its elegant and mystifying forms. After delving so deeply into Phalse Prophets, however, the author cautions those intrepid scientists who may follow. It is a tiresome and frustrating task to wade through so much high-IQ excrement (knee-high boots are suggested at a minimum to begin field work, but chest waders are preferred). Maybe in the future, with a modicum of progress in AI language translation (see: earthspecies.org), we may find comfort talking to a wise species on Earth, like one or more of the cetaceans. One does wonder what they would ask us to do with ourselves right now. In the meantime, let's hope Phalse Prophets stick it up their blowholes.

### Further Exploration

For an in-depth, but slightly less academic treatment of Phalse Prophets, see the Crazy Town podcast.



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## Appendix

Table of Ideological Characters by Species

	<i>Rusticus</i>	<i>Homo immatura-cassandra</i>	<i>Homo illustratus</i>	<i>Homo hospitium-hedonistico</i>	<i>Homo caverno</i>	<i>Homo insaniae-coniuratio</i>	<i>Homo vandali</i>	<i>Homo excusatio</i>	<i>Homo deorsum-duplici</i>	<i>Homo phallus</i>	<i>Homo spiritus-industriæ</i>	<i>Homo multiplicitate</i>	<i>Homo machina-homo</i>
Species/Trait	Peasant	Premature Casandralator	Con-evolver	Hospice Hedonist	Bunker Builder	Q-Fluencer	Mixologist	Man Shiller	Double-downer	Rocket Man	Industrial Breatharian	Complexifixer	Cyborgian
Hubris	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Nature Separation	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Present/Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Get It/Don't Get It	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Existential Risk Denial	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Technology Fetishism	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent/Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Dematerialism Faith	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present
Chronic Death Anxiety	Absent	Absent	Absent	?	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Overshoot Awareness	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent
Progress Adherence	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Present/Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Someone in Charge	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Present	Present/Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Enlightenment Thinking	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present/Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present