

Ketamine and Financial Depression

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While the Fed and its associates are doing all they can with their dovish proclamations to prevent a depression and systemic suicide, our pharmaceutical companies continue their relentless search for ways to profit from the psychic misery caused by the mind numbing banality of life under capitalism.

The American suicide rate has increased 30% from 1999-2016. A depressed psychological condition normally precedes suicidal thoughts and acts. It is an undeniable fact that people condemned to a meaningless life will experience a distorted psychological verification of that reality. But acknowledgment of the obvious would mean locating the problem in the social system, and that is not acceptable, especially when our rulers are struggling to control systemic financial madness.

So it's time once again to call in our trusty neuroscientists, like those who discovered the cause of murder by gunfire in our ability to move our fingers in just the right way. Back in the 80's they discovered in Prozac the perfect drug to treat depression and all mood disorders. Books were written advocating this 'harmless' wonder drug to the population in general. Don't even bother with a diagnosis. Of course, it was a disaster, mainly for those under 35. Dr. Healy estimated more than 250,000 suicide attempts and at least 25,000 that were a success.

Now they have discovered a new wonder drug from veterinary medicine, ketamine, a knockout drug used on horses. Our experimental youth long ago learned of its special features as a party drug. So here we have an obvious temporary cure for depression.

Here is a quotation from a Bloomberg article, Mr. Underwood is a neuroscientist.

"Most people inhibit suicide. They find a reason not to do it," Underwood says. Thanks to subtle changes in the part of the brain that might normally control inhibition and top-down control, people who kill themselves "don't find a reason not to do it," he says.

There it is; the neurological disorder that causes the itchy trigger finger. Why accept the obvious social cause when you can plaster a scientific veneer on a very focused stupidity?

Studies have been conducted and researchers are stunned that many subjects say they feel good within an hour or two; nothing like the lengthy time-delay with

other antidepressants. That's because they must have thought the party kids were taking Ketamine for future parties.

Apparently the enjoyable psychoactive features of Ketamine is its dissociative identity qualities, a sense of otherness, what was once called a split personality. One can understand how it might hinder suicidal tendencies in that a user would find it difficult to locate which one of themselves to kill.

But scientists don't understand how it works. All they know is that it releases a flood of the neurotransmitter glutamate. That may mean that a major contribution to the rise in the suicide rate is the crackpot fad of eliminating from the diet (and its substitution with fats and sugars) a perfectly good protein for everyone except those with celiac disease. Gluten contains an amino acid not usually found in plants. Concentrated forms of gluten have been administered to persons with high cholesterol as a way to consume complete proteins without eating meat. Perhaps the depressed should give it a try. Better yet, get rid of its social cause.

With the world economy showing signs of another intra-slump recession like that of 2015-2016 central bankers have been tossing doves into the system with increasing frequency. This week there was even another contribution from the Fed family. First we had Powell overnight drop his concerns about an overheating economy. Then we had the vice chair of the Fed saying there might be only one hike this year. Then Powell said the next one might be in 2020. This week Yellen said the next rate change is just as likely to be DOWN as up. All this good bad news has caused the most ambitious speculators to buy anything a failed state cares to offer for sale. The result so far is a golden investment of \$8.6 trillion in negative yield debt. As a head of a fixed-income investment company described it: "We've seen a huge psychological swing toward greed from fear in the space of a few weeks." An inspired greed wins the race to the top under capitalism. Since this junk has to rise in value as long as dovishness prevails, the plan is to possess it at its earliest stage of existence.

US banks received a 19% tax cut thanks to the generosity of their beloved president, Trump. That resulted in an extra \$21 billion cash grant last year. It was supposed to get them to loan more and stimulate the economy. But the loan rate increased only 2.3% last year, worse than the prior non-gift year's 3.6%. Their thinking is that: There is a big tax cut to stimulate the economy because the economy is failing; therefore, the last thing I want to do is shell out money to a new crop of losers. Thus a good chunk is safely dished out to share owners in dividends and stock buy-backs. But they refrained from permitting their

generosity to go unchecked. Twenty three of the top banks let go of more workers than they hired. Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Citibank 14,000 alone.

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