Sir Jeremy the Reckless

Farrar embraces the mantle as a visionary risk-taker - but is that what the world wants from our leaders at the helm?
What risks are you taking on our behalf exactly? With whom?

- Sir Jeremy the Reckless
- The Visionary

Sir Jeremy the Reckless



The same way you don't want your accountant to be a reckless risk-taker with your money - you don't want your genomic futurists being reckless with your ethics regulations.

But that's what we got.

Below are quotes from Sir Jeremy's speeches. Interestingly, or not, if you've heard one, you've heard them all. Exactly the same themes, often the same anecdotes.

Farrar, TED Talk 2016: 0:25 *I think all of us - at some point in our lives - are faced with some decisions* ***- we don't really ever quite understand the implications*** *of the decisions we reach.*

So prescient! Like the decisions made in the Feb 1 Teleconference? Your point though is - *never let that stop you.*

Farrar 13:40: *At a time when societies and politics may be taking us in a direction of narrow nationalism and isolationism, where we look inward and not outward, i think it's ever* ***ever more critical*** *for .. those of us who* ***truly truly believe*** *the world is now a* ***very very small*** *place .. (we know that coz we've collected its data) (to) have the* ***courage*** *to* ***grasp the moment*** *- to realize if we bring the* ***full force*** *of all .. our expertise to bear, we can truly* ***change the world****.*

You changed the world alright Champ - no argument there. You also restate your sworn enemy - anti-globalist sentiment - rally your troops to crush it with the *full force* of your immensely powerful *One-Everything* machine.

Farrar: *And I* ***believe*** *if we have the* ***courage*** *to* ***dream*** *and if we have the* ***courage*** *to* ***commit*** *ourselves to investing .. in science .. I* ***believe*** *that we can make the world a* ***safer place.*** *That's the opportunity that we* ***must grasp*** *- it's there.*

Lot of *believing* in Jeremy's speeches - for a scientist. Sounds more like a religious gathering. The *Belief* to *carpe diem.*

Making us safer. By being risky.

In science, i've come to learn, *making us safe* is code for *increased surveillance/reduced freedoms*. To a scio-surveillant's way of thinking: the price of Freedom - *is* Freedom.

Not sure about the *courage* though. You *are* the goliath, Jeremy. How much courage do you need to step on ants protesting your disruption? You were *at the height* already. You've got *Big-Everything* on your side. Or do you mean *the courage to morally unmoor*? Like Hitler did. To set sail in a sea where you can kill 5 mil counting without thinking. *Not fearing the edge*. Sleeping well at night knowing you're doing it

- *for the common good* -

NIH Report: *Wellcome is **uniquely untethered**, Farrar admitted, describing the organization's "incredibly privileged" position of having its own endowment, an independent governing board and no shareholders to keep happy.*

Farrar: *It comes with a tremendous responsibility to be accountable for what we do and to be **as transparent as we can be** …*

Sure does. So how about handing over/redacting the Feb 1 Teleconference emails for a start? Not that transparent, right?

…in order to achieve the real change we seek.

Hmm, what are you up to, Jeremy, with your *disruptive real changes*?

Farrar, Nature, 2007: *The question, as in the words of Brutus to Cassius in **Shakespeare's** tragedy of almost 500 years ago, is whether we are **shrewd** enough, **bold** enough **and committed** enough to **take advantage** of the tide?*

We can safely say you were/are - *shrewd, bold, committed.* (We'll get back to Brutus later)

Farrar, Nature, 2007: *We must address the issue of bureaucracy and over-regulation .. before it stops all clinical research8. A **new global agreement** is needed on clinical research guidelines based on evidence and an appreciation of just **how dangerous over-regulation** can be to human health. .. This will come back to haunt us in the future*

Yeah - under-regulation of GoF-experimentation-gone-mad *likely caused Covid ..* that *can be harmful to human health* as well. Even *more hauntingly so* than *over-regulation*, right?

Either way, this anti-regulation crusade to enable your risk-taking approach to medicine is a key part of your manifesto. Criticized by fellow-scientists for conducting hasty experimental drug trials in Africa - *trading expediency for data that wouldn't be reliable* - you shrug that off saying: *if we wait for the data, it will be too late.* (slightly paraphrased)

That's radical. Very bold - very risky.

Farrar, Nature, 2007: *If we are to* ***fully realize the opportunities*** *of the present* ***scientific revolution****, we must .. not make patient-orientated research so difficult that we prevent critical research from being conducted.*

In fact, you're quite the *activist*, when it comes to diluting ethics guidelines - *to make clinical trials less daunting and cumbersome*.

At least that explains why so much of your Wellcome *patient-orientated researc*h *revolution* is conducted in the *ethics free-zones* of certain African dictatorships - and Xinjiang.

As for your revolution? Aren't revolutions supposed to be the oppressed rising up? Not *we at the height* becoming *more at the height?*

The Beatles had the right sentiment:

If you go carrying pictures of Chairman Mao - you ain't gonna make it with anyone anyhow

Except you did make it:

Carrying pictures of Chairman Xi - so we can organ harvest ethics-freeeee! Don't you know it's gonna beeeee - Allriiight

The Visionary

It's one thing to have a bunch of wild ideas but how on earth did you ever get them up? Well, you have a massive power-base and a bunch of sycophantic supporters within the science community - that helps. Your colleagues provide further insight:

He's a visionary. He is willing to take risks.

*an activist who.. at the same time is a **very big**-picture thinker*

(Not normal big-picture thinker - ***very** big*)

He's massively driven, and a great visionary.

Jeremy's very much a shrewd team player who has brokered funding from several sources in negotiations with .. China.

A shrewd 'visionary' - activist - risk-taker - good at *brokering funding* with the CCP.

Most of them i'd agree - but the ***very big**-picture visionary*? Depends how you define *visionary*.

For mine, it's *more than* someone having a *grandiose thought bubble* - equipped with the mega-power to enact it.

A visionary is someone who has the rare ability to:

- *think things through* -

All aspects. Not limited to one's power-accumulating self-interest. Be able to think like a Grand Master chess player. Envision how moves play out - as if *you are* your opponent - see not only the good that might come from a move - but the bad. Weigh that up.

But that's not how Sir Jeremy approaches life. It's more your *devil-may-care* style where ... *we are faced with some decisions **- we don't really ever quite understand the implications** of the decisions we reach.* (or care)

Farrar (2018): *This week we announced the creation of the Wellcome Leap Fund* (the Great Leap Forward?), *a new £250 million fund designed to **fast forward .. progress** (that sounds eerily like Covid) by taking **greater risks** and **funding ambitious research** programmes **at scale**. .. In the meantime, I am off for a walking cycling and sailing holiday in the Alps – I'll be in touch when I am back.*

Nice. Set the dial to *maximum risk* - then pop off for a holiday in the Alps - we'll see how it works out when I get back…

Now there's no turning back.

Farrar, Nature: *We are at a crucial juncture in international health; .. we must grasp the opportunity .. or we will lose our ventures.*

And grasp it you did. Congratulations - you won your ventures. *Freedom* lost.

Though let's call it the battle - not the war.