

## MY VIEW ON CURRENT EVENTS



## THE FIFTH ELEMENT OF THE ECONOMY

There are films that grow older—and yet become truer.

Luc Besson's The Fifth Element is one such film.

In 1997, it was colorful science fiction, exaggerated, loud, almost comical.

Today, it seems almost prophetic.

Back then, we laughed at Jean-Baptiste Emanuel Zorg—played by Gary Oldman—this slick businessman with his polished accent and grotesque arsenal of weapons.

A man who has everything: power, production, technology.

His company, Zorg Industries, is the backbone of the earth.

He sells weapons, energy, transportation, communication—everything from a single source.

A corporation that no longer competes, but simply exists.

And thus defines everything else.

Zorg is not a character.

He is a principle.

The promise that technology will solve every problem—and the hubris behind it.

He works for "Mr. Shadow,"

a force that thrives on destruction.

He believes chaos brings progress, destruction creates movement.

And that's exactly what makes him so real:

He destroys because he believes he is creating.





Almost thirty years later.

The names have changed, but the logic remains the same.

Today, the empires have different names—Tesla, SpaceX, Neuralink, X.

And at their helm is someone who seems to have stepped out of this movie world: Elon Musk.

A man who builds rockets, cars, satellites, chips, networks, social platforms –

and now receives a block of shares that could theoretically be worth a trillion dollars.

A figure that sounds like science fiction – but isn't.

One can celebrate that.

One can say: That is the reward for courage, inventiveness, daring.

And yet I sometimes wonder when greatness tips over into power—and power into dependence.

Because with every step these companies take, we become more dependent on individual people—their whims, visions, moods, tweets.

This is not a criticism.

Just an observation.

When technology becomes a religion, its high priest is no longer replaceable.

Zorg believed he controlled everything.
But in reality, Mr. Shadow controlled him.
He worked on behalf of a power
that no longer saw humanity.
And at some point, he realized
that without the fifth element—
without love, empathy, humanity—
his world was nothing more than a perfectly organized void.
That sounds melodramatic.
But perhaps it's accurate.

We are at a similar point in the economy.

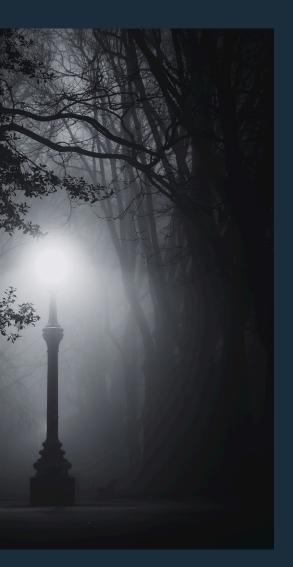
We talk about efficiency, automation, profit.

We measure success in billions, in clicks, in market caps.

But perhaps we are missing precisely that fifth element: the human core.

The meaning.

The measure.



When a person receives a trillion-dollar package, that is not a problem in itself.

But it is a symptom.
It shows that our system tends to concentrate energy in the hands of a few – while many lose sight of the connection between performance and impact,

between meaning and price.

Perhaps the fifth element in our time is not a word, but a behavior: responsibility.

The ability not only to be able to do something, but also to know when you shouldn't.

Zorg had all the knowledge, all the power, all the technology—and lost everything because he forgot the why.

This is exactly what threatens us too, if we think of progress without ethics, market without measure, technology without soul.

Musk may be the pioneer who takes us to Mars and the stars.
But perhaps we should also ask ourselves who will help us stay on Earth.
Because in the end, even the most brilliant machine will only be as good as the person who builds it—and the reason why they do so.

The fifth element of the economy is not growth. It is consciousness.

Perhaps consciousness begins where we learn to ask not only what is possible—but what remains meaningful.

Everything else is Zorg.



**AUTHOR: PETER KRAUS** 

PETER.KRAUS@AMYGDALUS.COM