



# An Approach to the Creative Origins of Human Life

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## Abstract

My several decades of research into artificial intelligence have given rise to two fundamental concerns. Firstly, the awareness of the unacceptable but very likely possibility that humanity will become subject to a subtle but powerful digital dictatorship. Secondly, there is a pressing need to gain a better understanding of human intelligence, which is crucial to understanding ourselves from moment to moment, from day to day and act consequently. We need to find out where actual intelligence lies and see clearly that the power of domination and the corresponding submission to it or lack of actual freedom is the main obstacle to intelligence's healthy development, the main illness that intelligence can fall prey to. In this essay intelligence is viewed as the embodied interactive agent that creates life, fulfils its needs and harmonizes its interactive diversity - in particular as to human life.

## Security lies in the Exercise of our Collective, Free, Creative and Loving Intelligence

Human intelligence is the creator of the culture and the worldview in which we live. It embraces every aspect of the way people think, what they value and how they act without them even realizing it. Hence the primordial importance of intelligence and its health for our wellbeing. As we will see, intelligence cannot be defined but only characterised through its creative powers and three dimensions. From the very beginning of our species, domination power has been present one way or another. Firstly, to face the enormous contingency of our lives, we sought protection and security through submitting to supernatural domination powers such as spirits and gods, which represented the unknowable but liveable mystery of reality. Later this domination power extended to the political domain with kings and nation states, all of them turning human intelligence a programmed one, which could submit to their command. A loss of true freedom making most people, especially from modernity onwards, just interested in their own skin, allowing the perpetuation of the domination power. Initially this domination was

exerted by means of mythological narratives and belief-systems, then later through ideologies, established knowledge and normative societal rules. Now this power to dominate is stronger, more effective and subtler than ever in its ability to control us all, and thus disabling the most specific power of human intelligence: creative freedom and its unconditional love.

Opposed to this apparently universal human tendency is the discovery that real security lies in the joyful exercise of our collective, free, creative, loving and ever learning intelligence. This is what constitutes a truly human way of life. Millennial wisdom traditions already taught different versions of it, but they did not change the human domination-submission tendency in search for security. Hence, creative freedom never fully flourished in humanity. Now it is necessary for human survival. For example, in the face of the destruction of jobs caused by automation, the response of the domination power impulse is simply to change the rules of the labour market. It does not consider helping people, through education, to become the free, creative intelligences that machines can never be. It should be clear that the main

role of education is helping to develop our innate creative intelligence and its main creative powers (interest in reality, communication, subsidiary symbiosis, inquiry and freedom) rather than reducing education to just the knowledge and skills acquisition, needed for productivity and so competing with machines.

While there is currently a great deal of noise about so-called artificial intelligence, very little attention has been given to the real potential of human intelligence. People the world over are enthralled by the progress of robotics or machine learning, while at the same time completely disregarding the true constitution of their own intelligence and its threatened impoverishment. Artificial intelligence taking over the world and controlling human activity can only happen because humans have not developed the full potential of their innate creative intelligence. We now need to change our priorities and plunge into the vast potential offered by a fully developed human intelligence. This is our very own creative power, our innate capacity to properly understand our world, to act flexibly and effectively within it, and to make it our happy home. In summary, this is the central focus and overall purpose of my work.

Moreover, a creative intelligence is not only important to get results satisfying our needs and interests but also, like what happens with a cared body exercise, intelligence when healthy and not submitted to productivity pressure, then its simple creative exercise is a source of well-being. I offer a look at the creative origin of this life, at the origin of all human action, and links it to what I call *the creative freedom of reality* and its agency, *universal intelligence*, the body of which is the entire universe. Notice that these creative origins do not refer to time, a history of human evolution, but they refer to the source from which human life is continuously created. That creative freedom is the foundation and the main power of the human species, is not considered in most of the accounts on the humanity's origin.

### Interest in the Foundations of Human Life

Such an intention may sound speculative in the extreme, perhaps idealistic, even a fantasy. At least it seems an elusive a topic, but central, with far-ranging implications. However, I want to insist that the foundations for such an approach are there, underlying everything, simple, concrete and accessible to everybody, the commons of humanity. We touch the foundations when we approach things without goals, without self-interest, without relating them to a 'me', without a separate 'me' conditioning action, in pure contemplation of beauty and selfless action. For example, the spontaneous impulse we feel to help an old disabled person to cross the street and many other acts of selfless love sustaining human life even risking the own good. Realizing this freedom and its

unconditional love together (not to be confused with a mere moral good action) is the birth of a new life of clarity, peace and happiness ~~love~~, with the ground beneath our feet, the quality of what grows from these foundations will depend on the care we are prepared to give them. It is nothing less than the growth of humanity that is here the focus of our attention.

This interest in understanding things by examining their origins or foundations has been with me all my life. When I was eight years old, full of enthusiasm after reading a brief biography of Thomas Edison, I was on my way to school in the rain. I decided to invent something that would keep me dry. After long pondering, it dawned on me that the best possible invention already existed: the very umbrella I was carrying – both simple and effective. I may not have actually invented anything, but I began to experience the joy of looking at everything as a creation of intelligence.

From that point on, first subconsciously and later actively, I became more interested in questions than in answers. I wanted to understand the creative powers of intelligence itself more than its creations - knowledge and its applications. I started to discover that my primary interest was not in knowledge or explanatory theories but in their foundation and origin, the intelligence itself. I began to think of myself not as *Homo sapiens*, the one who knows, but as *Homo quaerens*, the one who is aware he does not know - and so inquires. In our present situation, far from being part of an idealistic dream, this attempt to get to the origins or foundations is now *the* vitally necessary approach to human life. It is there where the power lies continuously recreating the world. Without it, the temptation to despair in the face of the world's complexity and current problems threatens to be overwhelming. In a word, only the intelligence of creative freedom, humanity's actual power, can overcome the current perverse power of domination conducting us to total destruction.

### Human Great Power, Fulfilment and Responsibility

However, it is essential to keep in mind that the words and ideas deployed here should be taken (and allowed to take us) beyond their usual meaning. They are pointers, intended to awaken the sense of a subtle but powerfully free, creative reality that pervades the entire universe. And humans are distinguished by their capacity to be aware of and participate in this creative reality. This is our great power, fulfilment and responsibility. Not of a few privileged humans but of everybody. Now it is more clear than ever: without the contribution of everybody humanity cannot survive.

But at this point I need to offer a double warning.

Firstly, human participation in this creative freedom of reality is not the same as the capacity to choose or to have 'free will'. On the contrary, the need to choose indicates a lack of freedom. Only by *being* free can we have any clear insight into reality and the right action arising from that clarity. This creative freedom allows rich and healthy human relations, including true love, by putting an end to jealousy, envy, possessiveness and domination. This is achieved through attentively observing the operation of the latter without judgement. Secondly, the everyday pleasure of satisfying our needs and interests should not be confused with the happiness of true love, of living in reality, its unity, freedom, truth and beauty that is much deeper and far more subtle because unlike pleasure in happiness there is no thought wanting more. The beauty of that thing drives away the 'I and you'. The constant search for pleasure characteristic of a dominant intelligence of need has led us to increase the domain of need, desire, of consumption and so of labour easily becoming toil for many. In turn this has led us to greediness thus becoming merciless predators leading to an unsustainable world. We are consuming natural resources 1.7 times the sustainable level, with our lives taken by work, with more frustration, domination and inequality and, therefore, with more suffering. Happiness arises through unconditional love – i.e. love not conditioned by a 'me', a love that is the natural and immediate consequence of freedom. *Realizing this freedom together is the birth of a new life of peace, happiness, beauty and love.*

My aim is that all of these words should become transparent to the creative reality that precedes them. Plunging into this reality requires of the reader an attitude of inquiry, a meditative approach and a mind that is ready quietly to listen. This text is offered as a pointer to what the reader has to discover for him- or herself, rather than using it simply to acquire yet more ideas. Such an approach is something we are not used to, but is well worth the effort to cultivate. Those from younger generations might benefit in particular, subjected as they are to the continuous consumption and restless stimulation of digital messaging. Submitted to the search for immediate pleasure that leads to permanent dissatisfaction. Not everything can be fun all the time. This superficial 'information' and 'communication' results in a loss in the capacity of quiet attention, impoverishes, and damages their never-quiet brains. This, along with the many other dis-eases of our current culture, raises the prospect of

living under a complete digital dictatorship. My response to this dire possibility is that we should live with an awareness of the origins of human life and of the creative freedom that I have pointed to. Above all, we should live from our subtle but very real capacity to overcome any human tendency towards domination or submission the enemies of freedom. Only with this kind of habitual disposition will we be able to enjoy shared, happy and peaceful lives.

### **Creative Intelligence is what Constitutes us as a Species**

This approach to the source of human life is radically different from other types of discussion and debate about the multiple problems and threats in our complex and changing world. There is undoubtedly something seductively attractive about entertaining ourselves with such arguments. However, starting from the very ground of human life the fundamental source of all our peace and happiness – has the advantage of being within the reach of all. Creative intelligence is what constitutes us as a species. Attending to, and nurturing the roots of this intelligence, rather than simply moving within, and losing ourselves among the many branches of the tree of mere *knowledge* (scientific, ethical, behavioural, historical, sociological, economic, cultural and so on) should be our primary undertaking. This is the most effective way to ensure that we actually live together *in reality* – and create the possibility of a shared and happy life. In other words, we cannot fully understand our own actions without knowing who we are and the our own constitutive creative powers or CCP namely, the essential aspects of intelligence such as interest, communication, cooperation, research and freedom. Starting with the emphasis on our own innate powers of intelligence, rather than simply concentrating on the perversities of power-as-domination, is at the heart of this radically different approach.

I want to be clear from the start that *intelligence*, the central subject of these pages, is far from being simply a matter of cognition, of knowledge acquisition, application and understanding. Knowledge is a static output, whereas intelligence is the dynamic force that creates and changes knowledge as and when appropriate. Intelligence always leads to action; it is the interactive agency of the universe's creative dynamism, of which humans - themselves creative members of this universe - are conscious embodiments.

