

Viewing the Global Crisis with Self-reflective Intelligence

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22nd March 2020

The global crisis facing humanity today can trace its roots back more than 40,000 years, when our forebears were given the great gift of Self-reflective Intelligence, the Divine quality that distinguishes humans from the other animals and machines, like computers. This was evolution taking a major change in direction, as biogenesis, as ‘the evolution of the species’, began the transition into noogenesis, as ‘the evolution of the mind’ or ‘human learning’, using the terms of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin in *The Human Phenomenon*.

So, while we were still subject to the fundamental laws of the Universe, in a sense this was evolution leaving us to our own devices. For we humans are the least instinctive of all the animals, as the social psychologist Erich Fromm has pointed out. Using the metaphor of a computer, very few of our thoughts and actions are hard-wired. The innate instincts and automatic reflexes of babies to suck, grasp, cry, and respond to stimuli mostly disappear within the first few months of life. Our learning—corresponding to software and data in computers—mostly determines the way that we view the world and ourselves, and hence our behaviour. Our psyches, stimulated by the Divine power of Life, determine how we think and act, far more than our brains.

Yet, despite tens of thousands of years of human learning—five thousand of them since the dawn of history and the first civilizations in the patriarchal epoch—we humans still have little understanding of what is causing us to behave as we do and hence how to resolve the existential global crisis we all face today, as we confront the complex interactions of the COVID-19 pandemic, rapid economic collapse, accelerating abrupt climate change, and the sixth mass extinction of the species, including *Homo sapiens* ‘wise human’.

We can see this most clearly from a Google search on 21st March 2020 for the term ‘Self-reflective Intelligence’. There were just 1080 ‘hits’, the first three being links to two articles I wrote on the subject in 2017, referenced on my two websites mysticalpragmatics.net and paulhague.net. The fourth most popular link was to *The Mayan Factor: Path beyond Technology* by José Argüelles, published in 1987 in conjunction with the Harmonic Convergence event that he and his wife Lloydine organized. In the book, Argüelles foresaw the coming of the Solar Age, which I call the eschatological Age of Light, coming into being as the result of a great awakening of Self-reflective Intelligence.

Yet, despite many visionaries making similar prognostications, we are still very far from harmonizing evolutionary convergence, the motto of the Alliance for Mystical Pragmatics that I have been seeking others to join since 2013, unifying the four great social movements of Spiritual Renaissance, Scientific Revolution, Sharing Economy, and World Peace.

Seven years later, I am older and wiser and external events have caught up with us. So, as the past is past, there is no need to dig into why it has been so difficult to fulfil this Teilhardian prophecy: “The way out for the world, the gates of the future, the entry into the superhuman, will not open ahead to some privileged few, or to a single people, elect among all peoples. They will yield only to the thrust of all together in the direction where all can rejoin and complete one another in a spiritual renewal of the Earth.”

However, I do feel moved to write another few words on Self-reflective Intelligence, for it is this Divine quality that has enabled me to realize my fullest potential as a human being, able to see the Totality of

Existence as an undivided, coherent whole, which I liken to the Ocean of Consciousness, a multi-dimensional generalization of David Bohm's notion of the holomovement, with which he unified quantum and relativity theories, still not generally recognized.

So, what is Self-reflective Intelligence? Well, in my experience, Self-reflective Intelligence is the eyesight of Consciousness, which provides the coherent light with which we can view the Universe holographically, as a self-similar, fractal-like structure. In spiritual terms, Self-reflective Intelligence is sometimes called the Witness, which comes into play when we stand outside ourselves, taking a 'God's eye' view of our lives, not unlike astronauts viewing the Earth when returning from the Moon. When Self-reflective Intelligence is activated, the observer and observed are one, a notion that led Bohm to hold a series of dialogues with J. Krishnamurti from 1960 to 1980, the latter expressing his insights in *The Awakening of Intelligence*.

For myself, my innate Self-reflective Intelligence was awakened in 1980, when I began a thought experiment—not unlike those that Albert Einstein conducted to formulate the special and general theories of relativity—to explore the similarities and differences between human intelligence and so-called artificial intelligence. I imagined that I was a computer that turned itself off and on again, so that it had no programs within it, not even a bootstrap program to load the operating system. Guided by my inner guru, called *Daimon* and *Genius* in Greek and Latin, respectively, this 'computer' then had the task of integrating all knowledge in all cultures and disciplines, at all times, into a coherent whole.

I embarked on this experiment in learning as the result of an apocalyptic, death-and-rebirth process that I went through in the spring of 1980, after I had seen the previous year that the global economy holds the seeds of its own destruction within it and that my children, then aged nine and six, were not being educated to live in the world that would exist when they came to have children of their own.

My estranged daughter's twin daughters are themselves now nine, not able to attend school in Scotland to minimize the spread of the novel coronavirus, known as SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19, projected to cause the deaths of many thousands if not millions of people in various computer models. A number of commentators are suggesting that this existential crisis is a wonderful opportunity to restructure society. But without knowing what the Universe is and how it is intelligently designed, how can we possibly conduct our business affairs in harmony with the fundamental laws of the Universe?

Twenty years ago, when I was exploring how we could intelligently rebuild the education and economic systems on the transcultural, transdisciplinary modelling methods underlying the Internet, I still ingenuously hoped that following the collapse of the monetary global economy, a few generations could thrive for two or three hundred years. This would not avoid the inevitable extinction of our species. But maybe our last 1,000 days as a species could be lived in a glorious blaze of Light, Love, and Life.

Then, two years ago, following a meeting in Oslo with Guy McPherson, co-author with Carolyn Baker of *Extinction Dialogs: How to Live with Death in Mind*, this prognosis became two or three decades. For, a decrease of just 20% in industrial activity could increase global temperatures by one degree Celsius, because of a reduction in global dimming. As Guy is at pains to point out in his YouTube videos this year, such an abrupt rise in temperature would have a devastating effect on the plant life we depend on to survive. We would no longer have the nourishing habitat we need as a species.

It thus seems that we humans have had just a brief window of time of 10,000 years when the Earth could support our agricultural lifestyle and just 300 years when it could support our high technology society. There is no one to blame for this situation. We are all the products of some fourteen billion years of evolution, which are designed in such a way as to awaken Self-reflective Intelligence, revealing its innermost secrets, shortly before the demise of a species that can understand itself. Very strange that the Universe should have been designed in such a tantalizing manner!