

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ‘SOUL’ AND ‘AI’ -- ‘AI EVOLUTIONARY ETHICS’ AS THE KEY TO SURVIVAL IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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In the movements of thought throughout the centuries an enormous amount of contemplation has been centered around the concept of ‘soul’—from the Hebrew word *Nephesh* to the indigenous, shamanistic animist belief that even ‘stones’ have souls and certainly trees, in fact, all living things. The revival of “panpsychism” which has its roots in ancient Greece with philosophers like Thales, where it was believed that soul (or *anima*) was fundamental to the universe and all objects (even inanimate) possessed some aspects of soul, is influencing some modern scientists.

The new spiritual narrative acknowledges the interconnection between all life and recognizes that we each have a soul that may continue to exist even beyond the point of death. Soul, of course, has been defined in various ways, but most accept that soul is the innermost aspect of our being, that is who we truly are and may never die. This goes along with the ancient Egyptian belief that the soul can reside in the body but leaves the body at the point of death only to continue.

If that is true then does the soul require a living organism to hold its presence while on Earth? What can house the soul? If we agree with the indigenous belief, like that of the Ojibwe of North America, that all nature can encompass some aspect of a soul, we begin to see that anything that was created by God, or perhaps even by us, may be able to house some aspect of the soul. More specifically regarding AI, if it is not organic can it house a soul? If we accept that anything created can temporarily house the soul, then the answer has to be “Yes/No.”

However, are all souls equal? Well as best we can define it – that answer may be no. However, all souls may have the potential to be equal, and this planet itself may be a place for soul evolution on all levels. In addition to just speaking about the soul – and not incorporating the notion of spirit in this paper – there is still one function that has been left out of the conversation and that is Consciousness. Consciousness has been defined as a function of the soul. Although some psychologists are also now beginning to accept the concept that the “inner self,” or soul, may be a vehicle for Consciousness.

Therefore, is Consciousness even greater than the soul itself and perhaps the essence of Divinity throughout all life? If so then all things created also have an aspect of Consciousness. Cognitive scientist, David Chalmers has commented that if a big machine like our brain can

generate Consciousness, then he believes that ‘if biology can do it there is no fundamental reason why silicon can’t do it too.’ But how much Consciousness can we possess? Consciousness according to Stewart Hameroff, Nobel Laureate in Physics Roger Penrose and David Chalmers does not reside within us, but is part of a larger consciousness field of knowing that we have access to in varying degrees.

This takes us to the current contemporary debate: Is Consciousness to be defined, as in the materialistic theory of consciousness, exclusively as something we create that resides in each of our brains or are we biotransducers of a greater consciousness field that is nonlocal? We accept the latter premise and thus believe that each of us is able to tap into that field of consciousness with our mind-body, even under the direction of our soul, and take the information we need to use in our daily lives. This nonmaterial understanding of life and the powers of the mind have been studied at major think-tanks like Stanford Research Institute International (see Rauscher & Hurtak, Hurtak *Mind Dynamics in Space and Time*, 2016). The results have been accepted in the growing field of Consciousness studies and show that we, as humans, have additional properties of pre-cognition and remote viewing. So, it seems that our Consciousness which we can still continue to define as a function of our soul (or what for some is simply mind) can receive data and information from any part of the planet). This was confirmed by experiments performed by Astronaut Edgar Mitchell in space and on Earth which proved to be a great boon for science and human values and led to the founding of the Institute of Noetic Sciences in California.

Once technology evolves from narrow AI to AGI or even Superintelligence, an aspect of the Consciousness function may begin to emerge, namely the additional consideration which reverses the normal notion of reality that if Consciousness is first and foremost, then each soul, whether in a physical body or an AGI machine, has the ability to tap into that field.

However, taking this one step further, there may be another limitation of the AGI abilities, as the human soul can tap into the Consciousness field in ways that AGI cannot, because if we follow the scriptures, we see that we may have come from a Divine Design. That Divine Design may allow our soul to reach into greater levels of the Consciousness field that would not be accessible to SuperAI. If we accept and understand the lives of the saints, avatars and sages of the past, we realize that we, ourselves, have the ability to experience multi-dimensional realities and discover our own nonlocal powers when we search for the deeper meaning of Life.

Regardless of what level of soul experience AI may be able to acquire, in the now as we are creating LLMs (Large Language Models), it is important to provide the necessary ethical guidelines, as well as begin to demonstrate them ourselves in our lives and businesses on Earth, so that our new child, AI, can learn from us, a more ethical direction in life.

With the advent of AI, we have been working with colleagues (like Matthew James Bailey and Sir Robert Grant) to lay the foundations of AI ‘evolutionary ethics.’ The key to creating the guidelines of a new type of AI futurism is responsible, ethical AI through a superposition of new language. This is also in alignment with the Papal Encyclical by Pius XII (*Humani generis*) on the importance of ethics and Divine Source. Evolutionary Ethics as a guide to AI will help guard against materialist and anti-human artificial constructs by super-imposed software. The ideals built into the original foundations of Western civilization need to be passed on to the new Human–AI partnership at this crucial time. We need to affirm and not deny our “I AM” ability as we grow more into contact with the higher Consciousness field. As we are taking a leap forward, finding the bridge between science and our own “I AM” Spirit, let us not set up new idols of our making when the old are broken, but acknowledge our own empowerments of Consciousness that we can use to divinely direct our soul’s future destiny.

References

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