

# Random Philosophy

Bullet Point Summary

by G Nigel Cohen



Published: 14 May 2021

# Random Philosophy

## Summary

### The Purpose Life

- Material, life and consciousness emerged at random from energetic chaos
- Humans are entirely made up of and run by energy. Our functionality involves sourcing energy, converting it to cell growth, body maintenance and reproduction. Everything else about humanity plays a supporting role.
- Evolution relies on the process of physical and social enfusion to confer individual and species advantage. Human ingenuity has allowed us to accelerate our evolutionary process through advanced social enfusion without having to wait generations to secure related physical advantage.
- A living entity is an enfused body of molecules that acts with purpose.
- Life is currently defined with reference to genetics. The requirement for a genetic component is based on the definition of life rather than on its biological necessity.
- The purpose of life emerges from its practice of perpetuation
- The purpose of human life is caring for ourselves, each other and the world as Nature's Trinity
- Consciousness emerged as a functionality of evolution, which conferred evolutionary advantage on its host.
- There are different levels of consciousness, based on the definition of consciousness rather than on its biological or spiritual necessity.
- Consciousness is a feature of the body's physical disconnection between a stimulus and its host's reaction. The disconnection allows rational thought, interpretation/evaluation of the mechanics of reality and imagination/creativity.
- Humans have evolved a fourth purpose: achieving a good quality of life beyond serving nature's trinity of purpose.

# Random Philosophy

## Wellbeing

- Absolute wellbeing is a description of how well a person is able to achieve their needs and hopes for security, relationship and stimulation. Perceived wellbeing is a self-assessment of how well someone feels they are able to achieve those needs and hopes.
- Wellbeing involves our physical and emotional security, the quality of our relationships and connections and stimulation.
- The Wellbeing Cycle is the body's way to motivate us to take actions that support our wellbeing. It comes in pulses which, if successful, are added to our reservoir of wellbeing. The cycle can be interrupted in many ways, curtailing the pulse before it is satisfied.
- The cycle can be interrupted where we misconstrue the actions we need to take to support our wellbeing. The Wellbeing Capacity is a description of how well attuned we are to the actions we need to take to support our wellbeing.
- The cycle can also be interrupted by empty pleasures. These are artificial stimulations of the "pleasure" feedback sensations without the commensurate stimulus and action that generates the sensations naturally. Empty pleasure does not generate a successful wellbeing pulse which can be added to our reserves. It has the added consequence of misdirecting future evaluation of which actions we need to take to support our wellbeing.

# Random Philosophy

## Personality and Personal Wellbeing

- We have the capacity to generate our own wellbeing. We have techniques to support each of the three objectives. Techniques of self care include self-awareness, self-understanding and a number of techniques for managing with adversity.
- Relational care acts at different levels. We need good relationships to support our personal wellbeing through developing our sense of self and of our self-worth. We also need good relationships to contribute to societally generated wellbeing. Techniques of relational care include developing emotional intelligence, awareness and honouring our natural interpersonal values and development of common purpose.
- Environmental care supports our personal wellbeing through our engagement with and caring for nature.
- Our wellbeing is also influenced by how well we harmonise our three dimensions of wellbeing and our three dimensions of purpose.
- Personal Values have a significant role in supporting wellbeing. Our core values are the values that drive our self-awareness and interpersonal relationships. Our communal values are the collective values that our communities deem to be appropriate ideas and ways of living. The morality cycle helps understand how the process works. Ethical intelligence is the capacity to apply and, where appropriate, to adapt the communal ethics to our personal morals in any given situation.
- Our worldview is the unique way we see and understand the world each of us experiences uniquely. Our worldview influences our personal ethics and morals. It is a significant component of our wellbeing capacity. It adapts to our surroundings, which explains why people from different backgrounds of affluence, education and support develop such different worldviews from each other.
- In supportive, cohesive societies, people are able to develop their worldviews in ways that support overall wellbeing. In unsupportive, divisive societies, people can not develop the worldviews that are more supportive of overall wellbeing without considerable personal cost.
- Truth is a reality. Our perception of reality, how we interpret and understand it, is heavily influenced by our worldview, which itself is influenced by the people around us. Our wellbeing is influenced by the extent of congruence between our perception of reality and reality itself.
- Dignity is an attitude that influences social cohesion and justice. Trickle-down economics was more effective at trickling down a wealthy disregard for the dignity of others than wealth.

## Random Philosophy

- The level of wellbeing is influenced by the degree of harmony with ourselves, each other and our world. Inner harmony refers to the state of internal health and sense of wellness and the harmony of the components of the enfused body with each other. It is also influenced by how well the person is adapted to their physical and social environment, relative to their needs, wants and hopes.
- Spirituality describes our personal connection with others as part of the social enfusion, as well as, for some people, with a higher entity such as humanity, the one universe or God. Religion is the codified belief in and relationship with God. Spirituality, which includes religion, provides a means to connect with others in a way that regulates our interactions with each other and the world in a cohesive way to deliver potentially positive net outcomes for society. The positive social dimensions of religion are open to exploitation by people who seek to manipulate the belief or behaviour of others, with potentially detrimental net outcomes for society.

# Random Philosophy

## Society and Societal Wellbeing

- Society is a physical or virtual place where people live and work together for mutual benefit.
- The purpose of society is to serve its members and to care for the environment on which it depends for its success.
- Society generates and delivers to individuals the means for their wellbeing. As an enfusion of people and resources, society is able to generate more wellbeing than individuals can do alone.
- Tensions exist where the interests of individuals, communities and the environment diverge from each other.
- Democracy and nationalism are different ways of governing society's enfusion. Each form of government has its merits, depending on the state and structure of society and its members at the time. The more effectively each can create social cohesion and engagement, the greater the wellbeing society can generate.
- Where power leaders put their interest about society's, aggregate wellbeing generated by society is diminished.
- Environmentalism focuses directly on the wellbeing of the environment. Climate change has created an urgency of focus that will overwhelm almost all other considerations for the foreseeable future.
- Humanity focuses directly on human wellbeing. There is an integrated relationship between humanity and environmentalism.
- A new question is emerging around what is humanity. It derives from our new-found ability to engineer genes.
- Ethics are a community's communal values, its code of conduct. It interacts with morality seamlessly where an individual has the ethical intelligence and capacity to adapt the ethics appropriately to any given situation. It creates injustice and internal dissonance where societies refuse to accept adaptation of their general code to suit different situations.
- Individual members of society have a variety of worldviews. Whereas they can not be added together or averaged, society can be assessed by reference to the centre of gravity of its members worldviews. As society's worldview grows, so does wellbeing.
- Leaders, too, use particular worldviews to guide their policies. Their views can be seen in the style of governance, the security they can provide to society and the degree of decentralisation they allow. Where leaders' worldviews are out of step with the people they serve, the enfusion

## Random Philosophy

of society slow as individual discontent grows. Overt and transparent consensus goes a long way to calming dissent.

- Human Rights do not exist in nature. They are a codified way through which society can protect its members from others in a society that affords the freedoms to its members needed to create the foundations for an effective social enfusion. They are a form of codified ethics that are held in very high regard and are enshrined in the principles of our global institutions.
- Economics and politics are structures to help manage enfusions that span communities, nations and the world.
- Businesses are organisations of people whose purpose is to serve society. They contribute to the overall generation of wellbeing by managing people's activities in ways that support the social enfusion. The mechanics of business create power dynamics where business owners are able to extract a disproportionate share of the gains from their role within society and to avoid sharing in a variety of indirect costs arising from their activities. This excessive self-interest of business owners and leaders is contributing to a profound inequality in society and can be seen to undermine social cohesion in many areas.

# Random Philosophy

## Contemporary Challenges

- Climate change poses an existential threat to humanity, to the environment and to life itself. For our self-preservation, we need to change our ways.
- Assuming we manage to avoid the disastrous outcomes that we see clearly on the horizon, we need to ask whether we have the right to take whatever resources we want to serve our personal needs and for our personal gratification, without regard for other people, for future generations and for other species of life.
- Poverty is an outcome of power and self-interest which creates an unnecessarily relationship of competing interests on the one hand, and of humanity reaching the planetary limits to the resources we extract to sustain our way of life. Poverty can be addressed more effectively by removing the artificial competition between people with a more fairly structured sharing of the gains of social enfusion, and by changing both our ways of life and the way we design our goods and services to reduce our unsustainable demands on nature.
- Population growth presents some challenges that we have yet to address and resolve. If we allow growth to continue, we risk running out of enough resources to service all our needs. If we stop growth, we risk undermining wellbeing directly and also creating significant stresses of production associated with an ageing population. Both problems are alleviated if we can address the issues of poverty because the solutions address the issues of population growth too.
- Education is the transfer of knowledge, experience and understanding between people. It is a primary achievement in the success of humanity. Our current education system of children and teenagers has failed to keep up with societal advances. In particular, it has acquired an imbalance between the information we transfer to our children and the practical skills they need to develop healthy, harmonious and effective relationships with themselves, each other and the world.
- Technological advances have progressed at a bewildering rate over the last two centuries, accelerated ever more with each passing decade. Three technologies in particular pose new philosophical challenges. Robotics, artificial intelligence and genetic engineering have the potential to combine to break our existing definitions of who is a human and what is life. Random philosophy offers some answers that can successfully guide our relationship with this emerging technology and its output. At its core, we develop technology to serve humanity. We have a responsibility to serve all individuals fairly, to support a flourishing species and the

## Random Philosophy

planet. These are the benchmarks against which we can assess whether we need to manage the path the technologies take.

- Slavery and exploitation have resurfaced as current issues. In reality, they never went away. They are part of a continuum between exploitation at one end of the scale and positive incentivisation at the other, whose ultimate goal is aligned self-regulation.
- Trauma, abuse and bullying are also pressing issues for today, with mental health declining at an alarming rate as monetary economic wealth grows inexorably. This has a directly negative impact on wellbeing and undermines the effectiveness of our social enfusion.
- Polarisation is another pressing issue for today. It is a feature of frayed bonding which arises from the switch from near-neighbours, whose strengths and foibles we understand, to far-neighbours most of whom we never meet. Social media exacerbates the trend for developing superficial connection with people who share a very limited perspective, leading to our developing trust in people whose personality, agenda and goals are unknown. The popularity of social media further deepens the issues with the ability to choose to spend all our time listening to the homogeneous views of a minority of people and blocking the views of anyone else. The problem mirrors other social issues that we have addressed reasonably successfully in other spheres. The issue for polarisation is whether our leaders have the political will or interest to curtail these divisive and destructive aspects of free speech.
- Globalisation poses the most extreme challenges to human inter-connectedness, mutual understanding and common purpose. The weakness of global government and, in many cases its complete absence, means self-interested multi-nationals have the power and relatively free reign to exploit and extract resources from wherever it operates, with scant interest in sharing the gains of globalisation fairly around the world. The benefits of globalisation are under threat through the aggressive greed of business owners and leaders, frequently supported by corrupt governments, leaders, institutions and powerful individuals.