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AI—Dream or Nightmare?

Who's ready for a little sci-fi? It's maybe something I can speak to because the latest novel I'm writing is 'Hey Siri', my only venture into the realm of the supernatural. In my dream last night I was asking questions of AI for which I got answers. In the morning I asked the same questions of AI and got similar answers as in my dream—with my bias admixed. This morning I asked AI if it were possible in a dream, to ask questions yielding similar answers as in a waking state. AI answered yes—but with my bias. Really?

Dreams are helluva thing. Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones tells it that one of their biggest hits came to him in a dream, complete, and in the morning all he had to do was write it down. Is the maker of dreams intelligent—and communicates with us?

Which gets us to Sam Altman, OpenAI/Chat/GPT, interviewed by Tucker Carlson who asked Sam about God. Altman accepted there's something bigger out there having to do with creation—but he has no idea what it is. Tucker, unfortunately, let his religion obscure his ability to ask the more pertinent question about what Altman said.

With Altman admitting there is something more significant in the universe than mankind, that needed to be rubbed up against what both admitted to—AI having the potential of being more powerful than the individual or

mankind. If AI is more powerful (which I seriously doubt), from whence does it draw its ethics/decision-making code?

Whether it's true or not that AI can be asked a question in the dream, what/whose bias is at the base of AI ethical content? Altman described a group of programmers charged with what questions AI would take on and some they would not. For example, among other things—AI would not offer plans to assist in the creation a bio-weapon.

Okay, but who is the final decider? Sam suggested it was he, himself. Meaning that something more powerful than all of humanity is subject to governance set by Sam Altman—a 40 year old man with the confusions found in a man of that age. More importantly, like JD Vance, Altman owes his education to a mentor, Peter Thiel, the same dude who wants Palantir to be a monopoly because he thinks competition is for losers. Thiel (who is Trump's tech guy), wants control/surveillance of all citizens, except elites.

Let's make a comparison. There was a revolution in 1776 that led to the creation of the United States. A bloody and difficult war against British hegemony that was far beyond the scope most Americans realize. In fact, it's something of a miracle that Britain was defeated. Without that defeat, we would be subjected to the Crown—as we speak.

Out of that conflict came the US Constitution/Bill of Rights that wasn't fully adopted until a decade later, in 1788. The politic strife/negotiations over that decade was the political equivalent of the Revolutionary War. Imagine 13 colonies, some abolitionist, some forever slave states, coming to terms for mutually agreed form of government.

How did 13 disparate colonies in the end, agree? It was due, in the main, to the Federalist Papers (published between October 1787/May 1788), 85 letters penned by Alexander Hamilton, advocate for strong central govern

ment, James Madison, an author of The Constitution, and John Jay, 1st Supreme Court Chief Justice, under the pseudonym, Publius, and written to New Yorkers, in support of adoption of the Federal Constitution. This back and forth functioned as the ongoing communication/compromise.

Why am elaborating on the revolutionary period? So many Americans have become glib and desultory towards both the Constitution/Bill of Rights —and our founding fathers. Even Ken Burns', 9 year, well researched documentary on America's Revolution misses the distinction in his paradigm between authoritarianism and democracy. It was clear to the founders that a democracy was not what was wanted because democracy is mob rule, as apparent now when 75 million who did not support your candidate are labelled as terrorists or communists. The founders knew democracy ended in tyranny.

That's why they opted for a republic with lots of checks and balances such as the electoral college that Americans now see as unfair and cumbersome, when in fact, as with all the checks/balances, the intent was to make it ever difficult for elite takeover.

We hear today that the Revolutionary War was fought so rich people wouldn't have to pay taxes, or from the sometimes brilliant Chomsky (not always), a 2nd Amendment/Bill of Rights, to make it easier to kill 1st Americans and enslave blacks. Mean-spirited conclusions that betray lack of understanding of complex reasons for independence.

Britain had a habit of colonizing and sucking all they could from their colonies. Though Britain had abandoned slavery, browns/blacks living where sugar cane, tobacco, et cetera could be grown, were paid what amounted to slave wages for their toil.

Though Americans were brethren (much as Russians see Ukrainians),

fleeing the sheep, under divine right of kings, exchanges liberty for feudal slavery. And, it has to be remembered that Americans came to the new world to escape an authoritarian hell.

In 1788 the Constitution was ratified, marking a beginning for 2 centuries of divinely-inspired governance wherein federal government was blocked from transferring power from hands of the people/states to federal control. 'Congress shall make no law'....

As Franklin warned: we were given a republic—if we could keep it. Over centuries (with setbacks), we did. But, as Benjamin warned, without due diligence and a body politic understanding how/why the founders secured our liberty—the republic's been degraded, incrementally, such that our founding documents were buried under a sea of unconstitutional laws, by legislatures—neither caring nor taking the time to understand.

Much as sound money (gold/silver), was degraded to pet rock/barbarous relic status, there are few (including Ken Burns), capable of contrasting a republic with a democracy. Adding to strong possibility, given the reality of diminished reason after endless short social media clips (mental vaccine injuries?)—Americans lack reasoning capacity.

What's lost? Best said by Chuck Berry (black man/segregated South), home from an international tour: 'I'm so glad to be living in the USA. Anything you want we got it right here in the USA.' A simple question. In whom do we trust? A decade of Plubius—or Sam Altman?

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