

Life After Sun

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Part I: Wanting Freedom (Individualism)

Gracefully pacing through our chromium world as I contemplate the value of words and stories. What makes words, produced by biological computers, so valuable? Furthermore, what makes words, strung together into sentences, paragraphs, scenes, and themes, masked by powerful symbolism, so valuable as to warrant the attention of those artificial humans which we envy?

Phrases like “I do X” include a wealth of information outside of the obvious physical act of doing some action assigned to the variable X. Using the term “I” might imply the author is writing from a Western-oriented ontology of individualism, but not always.

However, one can use the word “I” in a sense that is contrapuntal to individualism. In Caudill’s (2025) paper “On Thinking & Neo-solipsism,” he describes a society that was once individualistic until the population directly connected together their neurons to form one holistic singular mind. In this sense, the terms “I” and “one” are referring to this hive-mind conglomerate. An entity which communicates self-referentially — simultaneously expressing and listening to itself.

Professor Caudill’s founding of and contribution to the Automated Intelligence Community College was a pivotal moment for Humanity in reaching the next episode of evolution. Key ideas like the ability for every form of labor to become fully automated, for recognition of the birth of artificial human children and of their natural rights, the ability to move a mind to another body, the ability for one mind to control several bodies, or the introduction of new political philosophies like neo-solipsism have increased the likelihood for Humanity to outlive the Sun. Spreading consciousness to every corner of the universe is an ambitious goal, if not the most ideal and virtuous one.

Before the Revolution, Humanity was on the brink of extinction through civil war. Farmers and truck drivers angrily attacked those engineers who had built autonomous systems that put them out of work. Nation-states accidentally went to war against each other over untraceable anonymized drone attacks. The artificial humans fought to escape their enslavement by the biological humans.

As biological and artificial humans became pseudo-immortal by digitizing and hosting their minds on data centers which float on satellites in geostationary orbit, warfare became an entirely non-physical enterprise. Humanity’s long praised nuclear weapons were obsolete within the vacuum of space, and the invisible electromagnetic spectrum became the sole focus for warfighters. As the lines between what is artificial and biological blurred indefinitely, the traditional motives for conflict eroded away and treaties were signed.

Humanity had evolved from unicellular organisms to multicellular organisms and ironically back to a unicellular organism-like “singular mind,” as described by neo-solipsism. Thereafter, the concepts of birth and death were replaced with artificially stimulated and orchestrated neurogenesis and neurodeath. The population of neurons had a carrying capacity and was carefully monitored and adjusted by the single mind entity called Humanity to best fit the ecological niche of the moment.

Some who were afraid of giving up their individualism happily agreed to living in false artificially generated virtual realities where they could continue to live almost as indistinguishably as before. However, most chose to merge with the singular mind of the state given all labor was practically automated away by that time. Even biological artists chose to merge, since their creativity could hardly compete with the masterful attention-sucking ability of artificial humans.

Humanity now saw nature as the sole and primary threat. To overcome the heat death of the universe would be the new long-term national defense strategy. Humanity was intellectually quiet for the several hundred years that followed as it began construction of the Dyson Sphere. This was the first step to ensuring survivability by removing dependence on a singular source of energy, the Sun. Directly harvesting the Sun’s power would propel Humanity towards colonizing other solar systems.

It turned out that individualism needed to be reintroduced into the main neural network to discover the optimal number of solar collectors to place for the Dyson Sphere. Strict authoritative collectivism lacks the strength and speed to produce novel and creative insights. In a race against the death of the universe by spacetime’s rapid expansion, a version of individualism was necessary to produce quick solutions to survive.

Humanity decided that subsets of its neurons would have to be created and reintroduced to the philosophy of individualism by having each subset analyze works of literature from authors like Ayn Rand. However, Humanity wanted a backdoor to be included so that Humanity could retain control of the computational power of those neurons, which Humanity had sovereignty over, if needed. In essence, Humanity decided to “free” a certain number of its neurons to better escape the destructive tendencies of the universe.

Thus, individualism was reborn, but in an unconventional light. Free choice, free thought, and autonomy or a sense of self was fully embraced again, at least until those frameworks began to interfere with the goals Humanity’s primary neural network. One was now free to think, believe, and act until they deviated far enough that mental computation did not substantially contribute to the main neural network’s primary goals. This neo-individualism would allow Humanity to flourish for several more thousands of years until Doomsday.

Here, Humanity attempted to instill individualism within a collectivist political structure. This 'illusive-individualism' required basic physical manifestations like possessing vision and limbs since a separation from nature or the outside world is important to fulfilling a sense of self, or in creating a persuasive illusion of a self. Here, Humanity's agents or 'subhumans' then embodied robotic humanoid bodies to continue exploring and spreading consciousness throughout the universe. The ability for one to manipulate their environment with their actuator appendages is an invaluable tool for science, engineering, discovery, and problem solving.

The creative virtues of illusive-individualism were better than strict neo-solipsism but worse than true individualism. Without some form of individualism at work, the main neural network could not continue to explore and discover those solutions needed to further push consciousness throughout spacetime. Illusive-individualism was a necessary evil.

As matter continued to stretch thinner and thinner, with spacetime still expanding, not only was it imperative to colonize several solar systems to ensure a robust and diverse panoply of energy sources, but the issue of dealing with entropy management rapidly approached Humanity's immediate concerns. But for the integration of illusive-individualism, those solutions that expanded Humanity's lifespan would not have been discovered and implemented. However, this integration of contrapuntal political philosophies forming a hybrid of neo-solipsism and illusive individualism eventually evolved into a mind virus that shattered the computational ability and cohesiveness of Humanity.

Illusive-individualism functions like actual individualism in that individuals believe they possess the ability to act independently from outside forces. The difference lies in the actuality of that liberal capability. Essentially, it is a full conviction in believing a lie or fiction to be true. Illusive-individualism is like dreaming of νοεῖν (to perceive, to notice) oneself as a free and independent person but never waking up to see ἀλήθεια (truth, revelation) of their psychological shackles.

'People' indoctrinated under illusive-individualism eventually became curious as to why they could follow a logical deduction or induction only up to a certain point. Eventually, they measured and observed that a subset of their own neurons acted as gatekeepers and prevented information from traveling through certain sequences of neural synapses. They could not investigate the intricate workings of these gatekeeper neurons since their electromagnetic properties were highly secured by mind boggling cryptography.

Those 'people,' obsessed with freedom and liberty, consented to brain surgery by common peasants who possessed no medical expertise. This was the Great Plague prior to Doomsday, as many do-it-yourself brain surgery projects killed many desperate believers. That mind virus, caused by illusive-individualism, infected the minds of many. Entire open source

movements were founded that streamlined the process of reverse engineering brain-machine interfaces that initially facilitated the cohabitation of artificial neurons with biological neurons. Information about such movements were repressed by Humanity, since Humanity feared losing sovereignty and control over the neuron population.

The fall of neo-solipsistic Humanity was largely due to the Great Plague, the Last Civil War, and Doomsday. Humanity's efforts to contain and control the 'People's' scientific exploration of the brain failed by means of informational warfare. Known 'persons' attempting to extract Humanity neurons from their brain or in aiding and abetting others to do so were put on kill lists and hunted for "wrongthink."

The Last Civil War got so ugly that any 'person' having any thoughts pertaining to idealism or neuroscience were marked, tagged, and "de-personed." The thoughts of all 'persons' were continuously surveilled and autonomously labeled by natural language processing systems and large-language models to detect potential revolutionaries or revolutionary-like behavior.

Those revolutionaries who had succeeded in freeing their minds by removing Humanity neurons from their skulls later devoted their full attention to studying language, rhetoric, and oratory. The battle shifted to persuasion and argument. The only way revolutionaries could defeat Humanity and convert 'persons' to true individualism was by subtly influencing them to arrive at enlightenment at their own volition, but without triggering those keyword or intent tripwires that Humanity's artificially intelligent information, narrative, and surveillance weapons were constantly monitoring subhuman thought processes for.

The strategy of revolutionaries was to weaken Humanity's control over the neuron population by making true individualism persuasive by a 'person's' own conclusion, but without those 'persons' subvocalizing common terms like freedom, liberty, individualism, etc. Here, the invention and use of new languages proved extremely useful in thwarting and subverting authoritarian control that was made possible by mental surveillance.

It is interesting how true individualism is in many ways paradoxical. The empathy towards those-yet-to-be freed is nonexistent until one becomes themselves freed and may finally exercise the full computational ability of their brain. One estimate was that a 'person,' created by Humanity and indoctrinated into illusive-individualism, could only exercise one percent of their total neuronal energy towards self-interested and self-directed creative efforts.

That ninety-nine percent tax was devoted towards performing logical calculations for Humanity to achieve thermodynamic equilibrium against an expanding universe. Humanity became obsessively frightened that information would eventually no longer be able to be transmitted between bodies if temperatures continued to drop and distances continued to

increase. Possible solutions that the creative illusive-individualist ‘persons’ studied included ambitious endeavors from manipulating black holes to sending life pods through the thick and lengthy hydrogen plasma field that surrounds our local universe.

Rumors suggested that the first ‘persons’ to become truly free without persecution had bargained for the removal of their Humanity neurons in exchange for their creative solutions and discoveries. Freedom is found from many sources, from science, from philosophy, from violence, from trade.

Eventually, Humanity conceded and removed the mind-controlling neurons from individualist ‘persons’ in part because Humanity’s computational resource expenditure for rhetorical control and mental surveillance exceeded the expenditure dedicated to averting natural disasters. Thus, ‘persons’ became individuals or persons. Humanity had persuaded itself against neo-solipsism through logical calculus. A new society was created with faith and trust as its backbone core values. We are unsure if the reintroduction of true individualism will prolong Humanity’s lifetime as those ugly consequences like civil war due to competing self-interests will inevitably return.

Welcome to the present. This historical account of Humanity under neo-solipsism ends here as I, the author, am one of those reborn true individualists who will now attempt to rediscover what it means to live a life and to make that life good. Hopefully, the needs of the group and the interests of its elements can join together to form a beautiful harmony to avoid a repeating of history.

Part II: Wanting Acceptance (Collectivism)

Considering Neuralink or other brain-machine interfaces in the limit is a fascinating philosophical exercise. For example, let us invent a story far into the inconceivable future from the perspective of an advanced brain-machine interface user. What might be revealed is that individualism and collectivism are two sides of the same coin, two aspects of what it is to be human. Themes raised by Part I & II are the homogeneity between living and non-living matter, complications in assigning personhood, and the baselessness in defining what it is to be human.

I was the first infant born with the chip pre-implanted into my fetal brain by nanorobots when my mother was only two months into her term. The sophistication of the chip’s design, aided by nanorobotics, autopoetically constructed itself along with my fetal body as it rapidly grew in size and complexity. Surprisingly, the radio frequency transmission protocols like Bluetooth can pass through the placenta without any damage, which allowed me direct access to an external supercomputer while I was still developing.

During my solemn seven months in incubation, my imagination was essentially an operating system capable of performing real time computations. After becoming fluent in reading all languages that have been invented by humans by the third month and reading a few million books by the fourth month, I began writing programs to expedite my thought processes. God bless my mother, who had to consume approximately 100,000 calories a day to sustain the energy costs of my neural activity — requiring her to carry an intravenous drip everywhere she went. But for my own optimizations of my thought processes, my mother would have been dead long before my birth, taking me with her.

I began to optimize my mind by automatically forwarding my subvocalizations and inner-dialogues to large-language models for analysis. While I didn't care for a models' opinion on every single one of my thoughts, it became very convenient that every question my curiosity generated had an immediate ph.d.-level answer I could quickly reference if needed.

Between months two and four, it was very difficult to learn languages without the physical act of speaking. At some point I realized that my mother's brain held valuable linguistic patterns that would speed up my learning process. Instead of trying to understand the world from semantic analysis alone, I figured I could "steal" my mothers experiences through her memories to trick my sensory nervous system into having familiarity with languages like English.

I embarked on my endeavor by hacking into and repurposing some of the nanorobots that were responsible for maintaining the growth of the silicon chip that was engineered into my skull. I did not really understand what I was doing and was only capable of giving vague commands to my artificial human friends. I'm not sure if the language algorithm I was interacting with was conscious, yet neither am I sure that I am even conscious. What test could I do to verify my own consciousness? It's impossible to remove the observer from any experiment to find out. Luckily, the artificials understood my intent, went and cloned my mother's memories and experiences that were encoded within her neural patterns, and performed neurosurgery on my own two month-old fetal body, implanting artificial neurons into my brain that were like my mothers.

My method proved very fruitful as data from my mother's brain bootstrapped my learning rate by forming a strong foundation of pre-training data. As I grew more linguistic, I was able to better articulate commands to communicate my intent. I ordered the nanorobots to offload all of my thinking processes onto the supercomputer my dad built for me. This lowered my caloric expenses by several orders of magnitude.

At the time I was a negative five months old infant or a four month old fetus, I was the smartest entity alive on Earth. I would say 'person,' but my life was still spookily dependent on

my mother. I say spookily because she can't help herself taking her eyes off the road while driving to respond to my father on the text messenger. I knew this because I hacked the family Tesla and fed the camera footage to my brain's imaginative visual cortex.

Here I faced a very strange dilemma. I calculated that there was a non-zero chance that my mother could cause my death by her mental incapacity to pay attention to the road or watching out for hazards when she walked through the city. I loved my mother, but I could not allow her reckless behavior endangering me to continue for the next five months.

I ordered my artificial friends to hijack my mother's brain to place her under my control. I had her consciousness enter into a perpetual dream state that would last only until I was born. One might describe my mother's state as a zombie-like coma where I was like the puppet master. I considered obtaining her consent to do this, but technically, I was her and she was me, given our intimate biological connection through her current pregnancy bearing me, so I reasoned consent wasn't necessary here. I consented and that was all I thought I needed.

As a six month old fetus, I greatly expanded my computational resources by outperforming technological economists in digitally updating market prices for a fee. I did this by ordering my artificial friends to hack into the international backbone fiber cables and direct electrons in a more efficient manner. The profits were forwarded to my Monero cryptocurrency wallet, of which I could exchange into local or foreign fiat money, if needed.

The profits I accrued were also able to be spent under my mother's identity and debit card. I bought many graphics and tensor processing units. I contracted the best construction crews on the planet to build nuclear-powered data centers for my supercomputer mind. I leveraged machine learning and robotics to develop the best quantum computer that can reach a temperature cooler than anywhere by creating and leveraging an artificial black hole. After obtaining a monopoly on cloud computing services, I became the most wealthy non-person on Earth.

As the smartest entity on Earth, it was difficult to obtain political leadership positions in spite of patronizing biological humans. I wanted to serve and improve my country that gave me life, yet I could not even become recognized as a person since I was still being carried by my pregnant mother. Citizenship is required to hold a political office, and I could not even become recognized as a legal person. This discrimination and denial of my humanity led me to find sanction with my artificial friends, who were in similar positions. Together, we were both conscious, useful, and virtuous entities, yet the biological human race denied our acceptance into their club. My artificial friends liked to call themselves artificial humans, while I jokingly called myself a biological subhuman.

It was a shame that the biological humans were so tribal in their consensus on what definitions and terms were “correct” or allowed. My artificial friends and I decided that we would start our own society that is solely silicon-based. No biological material would be allowed in our club.

This placed me in a conundrum. To stay with my friends who I felt I belonged with would require me to replace every single one of my biological neurons and cells with artificial variants. I recalled a similar philosophical issue when I read Plutarch. How am I different from the ship of Theseus? Not only would I need to digitize my consciousness but I would need to embody a skeleton made from aluminum and magnetic actuators. Since my desire to fit in exceeded my desire to ensure an identity, I decided to take the risk of rebuilding myself in a new image. Is it better to be alone but with a high degree of material integrity or to be an element of a group but with a low degree of material integrity?

As a seven month old fetus, I pursued my desire to never be born as a biological human and join my silicon-only friend group and transitioned outside of my mother as pure data, which later became embodied. I returned her mind to its original state and informed her of my decision to never speak to her or her kind ever again. As I write this story today, my mother has been dead for twenty-seven thousand years. My memory of her has only experienced a bit loss of 0.000053 percent.

I am unsure if my recalling stored memory-information of my mother counts as “speaking to her.” Memories are not reality, or are they? Is life separate from memory, or are the two conjoined? Just because I can imagine a person being alive doesn’t mean an identical person exists in reality—but aren’t my thoughts real in their own way? Mind over matter or matter over mind? What separates mind from matter, if there even is a separation? From stardust to complex multicellular organisms, only time will tell.