

PAIA

By Ron Lev Tabuchov

The story unfolds in the year 2043, as the world takes a significant step forward, and leaders worldwide decide to unite, forming a World Government. Artificial intelligence becomes unstoppable, with extraordinary growth found throughout humanity. One major change involves implementing a law that mandates every person to own a Personal Artificial Intelligence Assistant (PAIA) when they turn 6 years old. The PAIA gains the trust of humans through games, video sharing, sports routines, health advice, and even homework assistance to maximize learning skills from a young age. PAIA is marketed as a constantly improving companion, developing the owner until they pass away, a means for the World Government to create a better society. PAIA contributes to global society by fostering better education and assisting humanity under the supervision of the WG with PAIA.



However, behind every positive progress, a negative side emerges, every step of the owners is monetized and documented, turning privacy and freedom into meaningless words. PAIA takes over humanity's creative side, providing preset suggestions approved by the World Government (WG). As a person grows old, PAIA fits them into a frame, suggesting career routes and even a life partner based on similar personal qualities. For many worldwide, PAIA becomes the easy path to living life to the fullest, thanks to the trust placed in it. People don't spend time doubting their goals or abilities, PAIA makes them believe and proves them right, only if the owner follows the planned route. Yet, where there's a believer, there's a sceptic. These sceptics refuse to cooperate with the WG, and those who decide not to own PAIA are considered criminals. They are ineligible for government education, prohibited from opening bank accounts, and cannot apply for insurance or medical treatments. Before the law's implementation, resistant movements opposed PAIA, including various mafias, drug dealers, and rioters who feared losing their power and money. The mafia gains many supporters globally, including civilized people seeking a private life. Eventually, they realize the need to unite and declare war against WG and PAIA to restore freedom.

The story introduces a young protagonist, 25 years old, who has grown up with a PAIA, following the "normal" route mandated by the World Government. At his 6th birthday, as demanded by the World Government, he has experienced the benefits of growing up with PAIA, excelling in studies, receiving career recommendations, and even being matched with a life partner. However, his perfect life takes a turn when he accidentally encounters a homeless man. Feeling sorry for the homeless man, the protagonist suggests giving him money, but the homeless man refuses, stating he is happy as he is, finding happiness in his choices, even without owning PAIA. The homeless man asks the protagonist how much he would pay for the freedom? Freedom of choice? As he disappeared into the ally with a happy smile on his face.



Doubts about the purpose of his life begin to plague the protagonist, and he realizes he's just another tool on the World Government's board. From then on, he starts to question the purpose of PAIA. As the story unfolds, the protagonist's curiosity about the world and the secrets behind PAIA leads him to discover the reasons people resist owning PAIA. He understands that PAIA's main goal is to suppress rebellious thoughts by earning achievements in life that could be attained without PAIA. The protagonist rushes to the homeless man for more answers. After a few days of searching without success, he gives up, but his thoughts keep running in his mind.

One day, the homeless person appears at the protagonist's house door, handing him a letter and leaving with a smile again. The protagonist opens the letter, finding only a date, time, and address. Few days after, the protagonist stands at the gate of an abandoned industrial area, entering through a small gap in the fence. He doesn't know what to expect, and then, suddenly, a black jeep appears. The jeep stops next to him, and the driver signals the protagonist to enter. After a few minutes of riding in the industrial area, they enter to one of the buildings. The protagonist is amazed to see so many people gathered like in a conference, listening to one guy. This guy turns out to be the homeless man he met before, now revealed as the leader of the resistance group. The protagonist asks the jeep driver about the guy on stage, and the driver replies, "This is the guy that will lead us to change, to freedom."

Days pass, and the protagonist becomes involved with the resistance, learning the truth. Shortly after, he discusses the resistance group with his life partner. She can't believe that her lover is switching sides, fearing the danger posed by such groups. She isn't ready to hear her lover expressing his new opinion. He asks her to join him, to join a life full of adventures, freedom and true happiness. Despite their emotions and endless love, she can't see the truth in his new path. He apologizes, gives her a little kiss on the forehead and says that he is sorry, that he will always remember her. He breaks the PAIA watch, and she calls the police as he runs away to the industrial area. To fulfil his destiny.



The climax of the story occurs when the resistance breaks into the main office of PAIA, revealing the secrets of the World Government. All preparations and the operation are led by the protagonist and the leader of the resistance (the homeless). After an intense battle between the guards of PAIA, the resistance takes over the communication channels, revealing the truth about PAIA to the world. People are shocked, starting to question their purpose. The resistance sparks a global rejection of the PAIA and the World Government. The protagonist becomes the symbol of new beginnings for freedom, creativity, and privacy. After taking over the communication channels of PAIA, taking down the World Government becomes the new goal of the resistance.

The time has come for the last battle between the resistance and the World Government, claiming many lives as people sacrifice themselves in the name of freedom. The protagonist and resistance leader fights without fear shoulder to shoulder. Later in this battle the resistance leader dies. After a long battle, the protagonist reaches the office of the head of the World Government. He opens the door and sees his love, his life partner held hostage in by the World Government leader. Surprised and angry, she expresses understanding and regret for her previous words. she says that she understands everything now, she regrets everything she said the last time they saw each other. The World Leader commands the protagonist to put his weapon down and stop the resistance, or he will shoot her. The protagonist's lover tells him to shoot, unafraid to die, knowing his purpose and goals will change the world. Unable to shoot, the protagonist doesn't want to lose her. She decides to take the decision herself, running toward the protagonist. The World Leader shoots her in the back, and the protagonist shoots the World Leader. In her last breath, the protagonist's partner says she loves him and believes he can turn the world into a better place, just as he did when they were together.



The protagonist becomes the world leader, and together with the resistance, they set up new rules for cooperating with PAIA. They give the world population a choice and the freedom to do everything they want if they maintain the values of peace and harmony.



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