1

Technology shapes man just as much as man shapes his technology. Technology is a foreign concept to the rest of the animal kingdom, and it poses the question why humans rely so much on their tools. What need is served by these tools? The first tools were aimed at survival, but what about today? Fire taught a new way of life to our ancestors, and the internet is building a brave new interconnected world today. The goalpost has shifted from survival to information, however.

2

The increase in technology’s abstraction and interconnection points to a vague but compelling goal. To punch up against the universe. A desire to remove ourselves from the pain and struggle of death. To redefine the human condition on our terms. It’s an impulse to fight against all natural boundaries. In this way it can never truly be satisfied, but the process of technological development is recursive and self-informing, always building on itself, and reflects a comforting idea of constant progress.

3

Consciousness and progress practically become forces of nature. Whether the end goal is galactic conquest, immortality, extinction, or something we can’t even comprehend yet, the mysteries of existence drive us to improve ourselves and our surroundings.

4

The internet has created a network of information that can inform anyone about nearly anything. The effects of this type of information system on our society can only be speculated at this point. Maybe modern computers will be viewed like a book or cassette tape to our grandchildren’s quantum computer AR contact lenses, but it is currently the high water mark for known information systems. Its abstraction and connection provide a superhighway on which ideas can flow like no other time in known history.

5

The secrets and knowledge of recorded history are laid out waiting for the right person to read them. Memes are an official disinformation tool for foreign governments. Anyone can find a tutorial video on all but the most obscure challenges.

6

I believe the effects of the internet on the human psyche are myriad and currently not fully understood. The internet can be addicting, distracting, manipulative, and scary. Kids growing up today will be guinea pigs in the internet’s effect on a developing mind.

7

The EU has taken steps to ensure some security protections for consumers, but the US’ backpedaling on net neutrality and the unceasing flow of privacy scandals paint a more worrying picture.

8

Internet culture is changing the way people relate to each other already, and it doesn’t show any signs of letting up. To keep up with it, we need stricter regulations on internet privacy and to collectively grok the pitfalls of social media. Setting a good precedent for how we use the internet today may save our grandchildren from being crushed under their corporate overlords.

9

As computer screens spread like hotcakes, imagining a tech-free life gets harder and harder. The future is uncertain, but technology still has a long time before finding its upper bound. Technology culture is the future, and I for one can’t wait until virtual reality lets you plug into the matrix. Trying to guess where else technology could go from here boggles my mind. How could anyone communicate more efficiently? We’re already plugged in.

10

Like the fateful Tower of Babel, the internet’s success also drives people apart. Anonymity allows for a wealth of unverifiable information, and brings out the worst side in people. I think in the future people will catch on, but the internet as a disinformation tool is the unfortunate reality we find ourselves in today. Until political meme pages are viewed the same way as deposed Nigerian princes, this will probably continue. I’m hopeful that day will come soon however.