Reading Response April 08

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We are living in a smart-hybrid age and wanting to move towards singularity even though cost is that out behavioral actions and intuitions are recorded and nudged every now and then. One can only expect this to increase as we find computers interacting not just with us but also with our environment. They are therefore taking many decisions on our behalf just like self-driven cars. The author realizes that computers might be more liberated than human beings as we live in a multilayered world were skills like hiding and separating from social media is important. I kind of agree with the author when he says that our social behavior has been causing us hybrid-age stress, loss of privacy, duplicity is rewarded, trackers exist everywhere and therefore much harm into our social life is caused by the new tech. But I also know from my personal experience that humanity does not act unless we are deep down into the problem. That is what pandemic at least has taught us. So, expecting this technology to go away would not be a solution anytime soon. Unless we have a problem at hand. People who are earning benefits will continue to do so unless something awful happens. All I personally believe is that it is still my choice to make whether I want to live in the hybrid-world or want to opt out of it. And that is for now is comforting.

But I also know that even though I have an illusion of what choice I can make, I really do not have any real control over it. I remember I was initially hesitant using WhatsApp and for a long time did not use it. I never felt the need to use it. But then I was being nudged by my boss to use it or being left out of the emergency updates on the group chat. It felt important then for me to opt it and now I use it every day. This reminds me of a very famous quote –

"" A TIME IS COMING WHEN MEN WILL GO MAD, AND WHEN THEY SEE SOMEONE WHO IS NOT MAD, THEY WILL ATTACK HIM, SAYING, 'YOU ARE MAD; YOU ARE NOT LIKE US.""

To summarize, I feel if the technology is not nudging us then the majority using them will made us to adopt them and there is little we can do about it.