

The Human Spark

The majority think that human life has greater value than any other animal. During our history we loved telling stories showing some magical quality that gave us moral justification for our privileged status. In fact, a lot of people still believe that we are magic beings and aren't the result of evolution. In the USA, religious zealots still insist that Darwin's theory should not be taught in schools; they want intelligent design theory to be taught instead. Yuval believes that because evolution theory doesn't allow the concept of soul zealots want to ban it.

However, there are many ways of justifying our superiority. For example, saying that we are the only conscious animal. It's commonly known that defining consciousness is quite difficult, but let's suppose it has sensations and desires. Computers do not have consciousness of course; answering the same question for animals is more difficult, though.

We have learnt about electrochemical reactions in our brains and recognized that different areas bring different feelings. But how these reactions create consciousness is something that we don't know. Also, it's very difficult to find the meaning of why we have it. After all, if everything happens automatically, why should we feel?

During the last centuries we have studied animals' and see how they react to our interpretation of consciousness, nevertheless, we may be approaching wrongly. Nowadays we are thinking ourselves as if we were machines, however, we used to do the same with steam machines and we know that our brains don't work that way. Some people argue that animals aren't intelligent compared to us because they can't control the environment like we do; that is true but I'm not sure that shows they are not smart. What is different between them and us is our ability to connect and work together. However, there are other animals like ants and bees that cooperate so why don't they control the world? Because they are not flexible.

Other people still believe that we are rational beings although the evidence shows we act based on a warm social logic. We were brought up having to live with our mates so our behaviour corresponds to that necessity.

There are three types of reality: objective, subjective and intersubjective. The objective and subjective are quite simple; gravity is objective and our feelings are subjective. What about intersubjective? Its value depends on communication among many humans rather than on the beliefs and feelings of individual humans. For example, nations are an intersubjective reality. Our actions have sense only within the network of intersubjective realities we and our nearest people believe. Thus, meaning is created when many people weave together a common network of stories. So, in order to understand the world, we must decipher the fictions that give meaning to it.

What we have that other animals haven't is the capability of create these intersubjective realities

