

Experiencing the actual living process of thinking – versus – Premature abstract concepts of the human mind

The dilemma of thinking

- The consciousness of modern grown-ups is a thinking consciousness
 - Thinking is our brightest mental function
 - If I am looking for orientation to my life, I use my thinking
- Thinking seems not to have the power to access reality, to solve our real problems
 - Example: are books heating materials? (G. Kühlewind)
 - Life is not a rational phenomenon
 - People trying to live rationally are getting mentally sick (Jung)
- Thinking cannot establish its own origin
 - I know *that* I think, but I do NOT know *how* I do it →
 - Existential uncertainty – we miss our spiritual origin

The given structure of consciousness

- Children before and during learning speaking have a unified (*monistic*) cognitive capability
 - Thinking, perception and feeling are not yet separated
 - Ancient humanity had a similar consciousness (Steiner)
- Language is *dualistic*: signs & meaning
- After having learnt speaking → mind gets dualistic
 1. Thinking: Tells the truth (evidence-”feeling”, universal)
 2. Perception: Tells reality (reality-”feeling”, se)
 3. Feeling: Tells me, how I am (egoistic, non-universal)
- Thoughts and inner images are not felt *real*
- Perceptions must be interpreted: *What* do I see?
- Feelings are “alive”, thoughts are “dead” (past)

The consciousness-soul

- The above structure: *consciousness-soul* (Steiner)
- The consciousness-soul can *reflect* – on its *past*
 - I know of my thinking, of my mind → responsibility
 - If I want to observe my thinking I come too late: it is already formed into a sentence, the *process* has gone
 - As soon I understand *something*, the process has already gone
 - A precondition-less theory of cognition is impossible
 - I needed another, a higher – a *meditative* – cognition
- Dualistic mind: language ↔ thinking also separated
 - *Lying*: I can tell something, I do not mean (babies can't)
 - *Meditation*: Thinking without words (staying in *presence*)
 - Lying → Meditation = Turning mind: Past → Presence
 - Lying is GIVEN; Meditation need to be LEARNED

What is Automation and AI?

- Where are the many automata coming from?
 - From our inner automating, getting more automaton-like
- Can computers understand? Perceive? Feel? – NO
 - NOBODY is there, who could understand → inner exp.
 - How can I know that YOU are NOT a machine?
 - Why do people believe false myths? – Fear & uncertainty
 - Can we build a machine that thinks as we? – NO
 - Can we become as “stupid” as a machine? – YES
- Can AI (based on statistics) be better than humans?
 - AI's *performance* can be better than *average* human perf.
 - It is always a human, who tells machine learning (ML) what to learn and who notes if ML finds something “new”

Premature incarnation of great Ideals

- Eternal life (& reincarnation) – as an example
 - Replacing human cells by artificial cells (nano-tubes)
 - Similar to Steiner's “car-replacement” parable (GA 107, M.kunde)
 - Steiner begins from *above*, premature concepts from below
 - Loading human mind into the cloud, into a machine...
 - Extending human mind by attached computers ...
- Can it be done? – NO. Should it be done? – NO
- Will it be done? YES (except we change our mind)
- „And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent“ (John 17, 3)
 - Eternal life is *knowing* – it is an *experience* in mind

Extending consciousness -1

- Exercises of concentration and meditation
 - We learn experiencing the – *not timely* – *present* process of thinking and perception → changes also feeling
 - Main sources: Rudolf Steiner, Georg Kühlewind & myself
- Concentration in thinking
 - We take a simple, man-made object (paper-clip, jar) and try to keep it in mind for a few minutes, without distraction
 - At the highest level of conc. we experience the *pure idea* of the object – as the inventor in the moment of inventing
 - At the same time we are becoming aware of our higher SELF, of our attentiveness *creating and holding* the idea
 - *Monistic exp.:* subject ↔ object do not differ: true & real
 - This is not thinking any more, rather a *cognitive feeling*

Extending consciousness -2

- Concentration in perception
 - The ideas of nature-objects are NOT known to us
 - I have no idea of the “function” of a rose or an elephant
 - Science doesn’t *read* the book of nature, measures signs
 - We can differ texts of Dante and Vergil with help of an analysis of the print-image (e.g. via ML) – this is NOT reading the texts
 - I have to concentrate to the perceptual qualities of natural phenomena (e.g. color, shape of a plant)
 - If concentrated enough, I “forget” the already known concepts (“the flower is red and round”) and begin to see the un-known, name-less qualities – as “miracles”
 - If concentrated enough, I can again experience my own attentiveness, participating in perception – *cognitive will*
 - Also a *monistic* experience: object ↔ subject fall together

Extending consciousness -3

- Meditation: Dissolving forms to their living origin
 - Text, nature (perceptual), symbolic image meditation
- Text meditation – wordless “thinking”
 - Texts from people who can experience their own presence (e.g. Bible, Steiner, Kühlewind, Bódhidharma)
 - Similar to concentration, but we do not know the idea in advance (as with a jar)
 - We concentrate the meaning of the sentence into a single word – still NOT meditation
 - Dropping the last word, and NOT falling asleep, but keeping attentive: The higher SELF wakes up
 - The “faithful witness” who can testify for truth – *aletheia*
 - *New begin, freedom, love, peace* → mental experiences

What should we do?

- We should understand our life, our mind, experience our own real presence. Why are we on the Earth?
- Rudolf Steiner: “The Earth is the planet of love.”
 - The “second” love – not given, is to be learnt
- Georg Kühlewind: “Being together is not just an additional task, it is our most important task.”
 - *Really* together: in spiritual experience. As small children. Or the shepherds. Or people at Pentecost
- Machines are neither *moral* nor *responsible* nor *free*
 - We *ARE* – at least we could be and should be
- ML is a premature substitute of what is needed: Spiritual Schooling → New Heaven and New Earth