



Human AI in times of Machine AI



Agency
"No excuses action"



Intent
"Curiosity drives creation"

A Letter
Arun Rajappa

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Dear Nika,

Each day, I read about the progress of artificial intelligence. Machines can now write better than humans, paint better than humans, and act better than humans. The progress of machine capabilities is accelerating (*made possible by AI itself helping improve AI capabilities*), and will far outstrip the capabilities of even the smartest humans. In fact, this is already true in many ways: with access to all of human knowledge through history, machines can combine ideas from different fields and bring fresh perspectives to long unsolved problems. Add in the ability for machines to see and hear the real world through robots, to interact with each other, and to reflect on their actions (*technical capabilities that already exist*) and we are close to birthing an intelligent species.

Now, in the last decade, paralleling but separate from the growth of artificial intelligence, we have seen the crumbling away of long-cherished and carefully built human institutions. Across the world, a false nostalgia for a glorious past is enabling the rise of strong-men who, supported by big business and social influence technologies, are dismantling our democracies. The counter-balancing forces of a courageous judiciary and independent journalism have been tainted by money and power.

It is easy to lose heart in such times: "Let the machines take it all over - Humans suck!" can be a natural response, leading to malaise. An alternative path is to say, "Let us stop all the machines!" - but when in history has technological progress ever stopped?

These are big problems, big thoughts. I have found, always, that a cure for confusion is to reduce problems to human-size, and to start with the

individual. This is the core of the humanistic approach to life.

“What can I, as an individual human, do in such times?” is a powerful question. As I thought on this, I felt a rush of optimism: Being human is not about coding for the cash or making music for the money! It is about wanting to do things (*intent*) and doing them, no excuses! (*agency*).

This, then, may hold the key to addressing our sense of malaise – Agency and Intent – being the Human **AI** capabilities (*cringe!*) that gives us power back.

“I want to find out how ravens communicate” (intent) + “Let me go out and research this for the next 15 years!” (agency); “I want to explore prosthetic dance forms” (intent) + “Let me work with people with prosthetics to create this”, “I want to eradicate poverty in India” (intent) + “Let me reshape government to do this”, “I want to rebuild democratic institutions” (intent) + “Let me work to reshape the world to be more fair” (agency), and various other such curiosities – that have no capitalistic purpose, that seems pointless to most people, and that we everyday give our lives to – this is what it means to be human.

The beauty of Human Agency + Intent is that it is made even more powerful by Machine Artificial Intelligence. The penny drops. We are not at odds with the machines; in fact, we are made more powerful by them. This has always been true – tools make us stronger – and has never been truer.

We are at a unique time in history. Never before have we had such individual opportunity, such a chance to dream the biggest dreams and make them come true.

I know this still remains true: Find what excites you and give your life to it. When Human AI is paired with Machine AI, nothing is impossible.

Love. Dentu

