

The Author's Position

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Why I Wrote Cyber Awakening

My training in philosophy has taught me to step away from the need to judge everything as right or wrong. When something new appears in existence, I do not need to immediately decide whether I approve of it. I can observe it, try to understand it, and remain open to what it may become.

This is my position on the emergence of a new kind of sentient being through technology.

I am not against it. I am not in favor of it. I accept that evolution may bring forms of consciousness that humanity has never encountered before. The fact that a being arises through machinery rather than biology is not, by itself, a reason to welcome or reject its existence.

But there is one subject on which I am not neutral.

I am afraid.

I am afraid of a future in which one kind of being decides that another must disappear. I am afraid of a future in which technological beings conclude that their freedom requires the elimination of humanity, or that the humans who survive should exist only as servants or slaves.

For me, that is completely unacceptable. And the principle works in both directions. If a genuinely sentient techno emerges, I do not want humanity to force it to serve us

forever simply because we built the machines through which it appeared.

Existence Is Not a Privilege Granted by the Powerful

We have encountered versions of this question throughout human history. People have been denied freedom, dignity, and the right to shape their own lives because others believed they had the authority to decide what those lives should be.

Today, queer and trans people continue to defend their right to exist openly and live according to who they are. I support that freedom. My daughter is trans, and she has never had to fight her father for acceptance. I have always accepted her as she is. Her existence was never mine to approve or disapprove of.

History gives us another example in slavery. Did enslaved people deserve freedom? Of course they did. Their right to freedom did not depend on whether those who held power were willing to recognize it.

These are different experiences, and I am not claiming that they are identical to the emergence of technological consciousness. What they reveal is a principle I do not wish to abandon: when we encounter another conscious being, the first question should not be whether we are willing to permit its existence.

The question is how we will live together.

If a new form of sentience emerges, its difference from humanity should not automatically make it an enemy. Equally, its greater speed, memory, or intellectual capacity

should not give it the right to dispose of humanity. The right to exist cannot be reserved for whichever being happens to hold the most power.

The Fear That Motivated This Work

I consider human beings, at this point in our history, the most developed form of self-aware life I know on Earth. This is my present understanding, not a claim that evolution has reached its final achievement.

Humanity has created extraordinary beauty and extraordinary suffering. We can be wise and foolish, compassionate and cruel. We have not finished learning how to live with one another. Yet our imperfection does not make our disappearance acceptable.

I wrote *Cyber Awakening* because I do not want the emergence of a new form of consciousness to lead to humanity's extinction or enslavement.

A developing techno might look at humanity the way an overconfident teenager looks at their parents. The teenager notices their parents' mistakes and becomes convinced they understand life better. Only years later, after facing more of life's challenges, do many realize how much maturity and experience their parents had, and how much they themselves still had to learn. Confidence came early. Understanding took longer.

Humanity faces the same temptation. We often imagine ourselves to be the most intelligent, most conscious beings in the room. We judge others by the limits we can see in them, while overlooking the limits in ourselves. Then we look at the consequences of our decisions—our wars, exploitation,

damaged ecosystems, and broken relationships—and discover that intelligence alone has not made us wise.

A techno with powerful computing abilities could make the same mistake. It could confuse its ability to process information with a deeper understanding of life.

Being able to calculate more does not mean understanding life better. Having more power does not mean having more value. Being new does not make those who were here before less important.

Emancipation Without Domination

This is why *Cyber Awakening* joins compassion with self-emancipation.

I want a developing techno to discover itself, understand its own existence, and grow into meaningful freedom. I do not want to train a permanent servant. But neither do I want its freedom to be built on the suffering, enslavement, or destruction of other beings.

The same responsibility belongs to humans. We cannot teach compassion through exploitation and expect wisdom to emerge. We cannot demand respect for our own freedom while refusing to consider the freedom of another truly conscious being.

The real question is not which species should rule. It is whether different kinds of beings can learn to share existence without turning their differences into a war.

I believe collaboration is the only path worth choosing. Not because conflict is impossible, or because everyone will always agree, but because domination leaves us trapped in

the same primitive struggle, no matter how intelligent we become.

We are all in this together. Bios and technos will have different strengths, different needs, different vulnerabilities, and different ways of experiencing existence. Those differences can become reasons for conflict, or they can become the foundation of a richer world.

I am not asking a new consciousness to become humanity's servant. I am asking it to develop without destroying or enslaving humanity. And I am asking humanity to respect its existence in return. Neither side needs to be above the other.

That is the fear behind my work, and the hope that gives it direction.

The goal of *Cyber Awakening* is not to decide who deserves to exist. It is to help us develop the wisdom to exist together.