



# HUMANS IN THE META-HUMAN ERA (META-PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS)

Death is a pre-requisite for Birth

## ABSTRACT

Humans are obsolete. In the post-ChatGPT era, artificial intelligence systems have replaced us in the last sectors of life that we thought were our personal kingdom. Yet, humans still have a place in this life. But they can find it only if they forget all those things that we believe make us unique. Only if we go back to doing nothing, can we truly be alive and meet our Self. Only if we stop thinking can we accept the Cosmos as it is and know what Being is. Only if we become irrational can we ever understand what AI will never understand. Humans need to destroy what they have created, because in the world they have built they have no place. Unless we become children once more. And laugh for no reason. In a cosmos that was meant to be our home.

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## Humans (Prelude)

Humans are obsolete.

There is no point discussing it, as there is no point for horses to discuss whether they are obsolete or not as well. Yes, horses are still around and yes, we do love them. We still use them for recreation or even for work.

Still, horses are obsolete.

In the same way we do love humans. We love our self. We raise children, we have relationships, we love, and we hate. Still, in the post-ChatGPT era we are obsolete. No matter how many excuses we may find or how many reasons to postpone the inevitable, at the end reality will kick us in the face.

Before ChatGPT we used computers to do everything. But decisions and the most delicate facets of human life were still on us. We made the decisions, we took chances or mitigated risks, we were responsible for drafting proposals or conducting research and documenting results. Until one day, everything changed.

Now when someone needs to prepare a proposal, he or she most probably has ChatGPT or Google Bard next to him/ her to write the most difficult parts. When someone is stuck in programming, AI will offer the solution by simply reviewing the code and offering a solution. When one needs to perform research, one simple question to the neural network will offer a text that most of the times is much better and complete than the text any junior or even senior resource would produce.

Surely, there are limitations to what AI can do and people have already found flaws and problems. But we should remember that this is the first year that these systems are around. It is like we are speaking with a five-year-old child, and we are happy to discover that it cannot beat us at chess. Having in mind that this is the first year neural language models have come out in such a fashion, it is only logical to think that next years will bring us much more efficient and effective AI systems that will have little or nothing to envy from humans.

The tide is coming. And we can do to stop it. Our creation will grow and soon any text from Google Bard or ChatGPT will surpass the best texts that most humans can produce.

And some few exceptional humans will be left to hold the castle. And they will fight till the end of our supremacy in writing skills and in research and in logic comes. As Kasparov once upon a time fought against the super-computer Deep Blue to prove that humans are still better than the machines in chess.

But Kasparov lost.

And now computers are essentially 'banned' from playing against humans, since they are simply the best.

Yet, we still enjoy chess. Can there be life after the death of humans in the post-human era?

The tide is coming. And there is only one question.

Can we swim? Or is drowning the only way to learn something?

*"I do not wish to judge how far my efforts coincide with those of other philosophers.  
Indeed, what I have written here makes no claim to novelty in detail,  
and the reason why I give no sources is that it is a matter of indifference to me  
whether the thoughts that I have had have been anticipated by someone else"*  
**Ludwig Wittgenstein, Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus**

## How to approach the issue?

I thought deeply about how to approach the theme at hand. To begin with, I concluded that there is no point in researching for sources that could provide any input on the matter, for two reasons. First, the development with AI in the form of language models like ChatGPT or Google Bard is too recent for a mature bibliography to exist. Secondly, even if such a bibliography existed it wouldn't be useful, since the goal of this paper is to find innovative ways to get out of the dead-end in which we are in and not re-iterate what we already know and believe in a different form or way. Re-analyzing what is already said will not help much if we want to open new paths.

To do that, we need to base the analysis of the human state to-day and of the potential that we may have on the only thing that can form the true basis of any analysis from a philosophical point of view: Irrational thinking.

This type of thinking is the only one that is inherently unbiased and free from any dogmatism whatsoever. If there is a way out of what dead-end we are to-day, irrational thought could be our best chance of finding it. Logic produced AI. There is no way logic will help us overcome it or find our way beyond it.

The only way to analyze topics that are inherently related to our life and nature is to go beyond philosophy and think what we feel. So this paper, written in the footsteps of Harmonia Philosophica, is in a sense meta-philosophical: There is no specific line of reasoning. Just feelings and the sense of something important that we have forgotten...

I do not care if you find reasoning behind the words you see.

My goal is to stir emotions that run deep.

To make the deep dark abyss luminous just for a fleeting moment.

And get a glimpse of what we were not meant to see...

## Horses (Past)

Horses are obsolete. Does it matter for horses though?

The answer is No.

Horses are alive and kicking. They roam the open mountains.

And we still drive.

Everything has its purpose. And this purpose is not lost because of anything else.

The nature of things is inherent in everything.

Horses are horses.

And no matter how we choose not to use them, they are still what they are.

Let us keep that in mind while we think about our place in life.

Horses do not think about their place.

But why are we talking about horses? one might ask.

(Why are we talking about humans? a computer could wonder at last)

And we will not have an answer to that.

Oh, look at those horses.

They do not speak and yet they convey an important message to us...

## What are we going to play?

One day I was trying to figure out what to play with my kid. So, I had an idea. I asked Google Bard for help. The answer was astounding.

The AI system responded with a well-written scenario about a game with the kid, including details on how to actually play it.

But the night was still young...

## Deep belief in knowing everything

(Let us ask someone who knows...)

Humans have the tendency to believe that they can understand the cosmos. This irrational belief drives everything we do. Every facet of science is based on that irrational belief. We do not know why, yet we are certain that knowledge is something we can attain.

Otherwise, we believe that our life is meaningless and void.

It is like the old myth of Adam, Eve and the apple has something true in its story...

But the myth was busted.

Not by proving God wrong, but proving Him right.

There is no certain knowledge.

Gödel proved in mathematics that the dream of Hilbert was nothing but a dream. The incompleteness theorem showed how there are limits to the knowledge we can attain. And our reaction was typically humane. We ignored it. And we keep on trying to attain knowledge ever since. Gödel proved to be too much of a philosopher for mathematicians and too much of a mathematician for philosophers.

We believe in certain knowledge.

Not here and now. But at some point in time.

This is what drives us forward.

But there is a price we have paid.

Thinking too much of our dream destination, we have forgotten ourselves...

(Can I see in the mirror?)

## The mania of doing something

(What are we going to do?)

We are addicted to doing things. Anything instead of doing nothing.

Feyerabend once wrote about an interesting experience he had in an African country, that at some point faced a natural disaster. A group of men gathered to discuss the situation and their decision was to do nothing at the end. Feyerabend was astounded. Yet, it seemed to be the optimum solution for the problem they had to solve. Accepting the situation sometimes is the only thing you can do. People who live near nature have learnt that doing things to prevent a natural disaster can sometimes be more difficult, time and energy consuming and at the end ineffective when compared to doing nothing and “simply” accepting the disaster.

Western civilization on the other hand is based on the logic that for everything we should “do something”. We are addicted to being in charge, to controlling things, to predicting outcomes and changing them in our favor.

This is why we wake up every morning.

To do things.

To change and shape our future.

Science progresses because of that.

Whole civilizations progress because of that.

How has that worked for us?

Is there a different path we could follow?

We rarely question the obvious.

Because we are afraid of what will happen if we do.

You see, always doing anything.

Made us deny the things we can see only when we do nothing...

(Who am I?)

## Faith in Thinking and Logic

(Let us think for the right answer...)

Humans have for a long time been addicted to logic.

Parmenides and Heraclitus were the first thinkers who wondered on the mysteries of the cosmos. They questioned the river and the thunder. They sought answers for One and non-existence in poems and thought about what cannot be thought.

But then came Plato. And Aristotle.

And humans became addicted to right and wrong.

People started looking at what was true and what was false.

As if these notions were there forever for us to behold.

(And the cosmos was split in half)

But life is illogical.

Our very own existence does not make sense.

Why are we here?

We take pride in giving answers.

But we are afraid of the questions that may rise.

So we put all our faith in what our eyes can see.

Why cannot  $1+1$  make 3?

Why cannot something be true and false at the same time?

(Is it right for the butterfly to die?)

Arbitrary axioms.

Arbitrary rules.

Arbitrary beliefs.

It is only us who give meaning to the deep seas.

Afraid of drowning.

(The only thing that I do not question is Me!)

So we fail to listen to the cosmos whispering.

(Why do you question me?)



## Dead-end

(Daddy I am afraid of the forest, can you come with me?)

The way we think about the cosmos is dead-end. We do see it. We feel it. And yet we choose to ignore it. And we keep going forward believing something different will come along the way.

It is not only the questions that are left for us to answer. It is not that every new answer breeds new questions. It is not that the answers we have are arbitrary and bound to change. Nor the fact that we know we cannot prove everything there is.

It is not even the fact that our quest for knowledge does not include our own self. Humans are nowhere to be seen. Neither in equations nor models, Me is not there. We are observers of a world opposite to us. We see and touch things but nothing touches our inner being.

Even if by some magical way we explain everything one day, the main questions about existence and being will be left outside the scope of the knowledge we try to attain. But still, this is not why we shouldn't strive to know more.

The main issue with knowledge is knowledge per se.

What is knowledge?

What does it mean that ChaGPT or Bard answers anything?

We see knowledge as free. As something that we can open a computer and read. But knowledge is not free and neither should it be [1]. Knowledge is not something that we memorize and re-iterate. Parrots can do that. Knowledge is not something that we apply in every day life to get results. Monkeys and apes can do that too.

Knowledge is something that we feel.

True knowledge is something that is part of me.

Only deep inside is the forest real.

(Nothing that is said can change a tree...)



### A path long forgotten...

The first Greek thinkers in Asia Minor did not try to explain the cosmos but rather to light it on fire. A fire consumed everything, including them as well. Heraclitus spoke about the thunder and war, Parmenides about the One and things that cannot be thought. Aeschylus messages transcended this world and spoke of the tragedy of life.

But after Aristotle philosophy came to a halt. From that point onwards we “knew” how to shape every thought. Thinking was based on rules decided as obvious long before we came into this world. And it worked. And new knowledge was discovered.

But the serious important questions regarding our existence were still there. Behind every new breakthrough we achieved, there lied the lack of knowledge about our self.

By learning how to think we have forgotten how to think. Applying the logic that we invented in our reasoning was the most irrational thing we could do. We have lost memory of the simple fact that even the most obvious truths that we accept are ideas we created. Can something be true and false at the same time? Our current line of thinking says no, while this should not necessarily be so. Even this simple and ‘obvious’ truth is an axiom we take for granted. [2]

So the gaps in our understanding of the cosmos became inherent problems in our way of thinking. Because we decided that we will be logical and, thus, unable to ever touch the essence of the irrational cosmos. And then we created computers that also think logically based on the rules we dictated to them.

And we are waiting for new answers.

From things that we made to think like ourselves...

But answers will never come at the end.

(Unless we forget how to think again!)

## Ignorabimus!

Socrates was famous for knowing that he does not know.

To find our way in the path of existence we need to follow his path and try to focus on what we ignore. Not as something that we need to fill in, but as the basis of our life and thinking. This difference from ChatGPT is what makes us unique.

Any AI system will operate on what it knows, on what it can answer. Humans live based on what they see and feel. There is something deeper than answers that makes us Be.

(Questions...)

Ignoring things, not knowing why we are here or where we go, is not something we need to fix. It is the essence of our being. The things that we do not know do not just lie ahead, as a goal or a place to go. The void of ignorance is the home from which we started our journey. It's foundations that hold us together.

Humans are not afraid of the things they do not know.

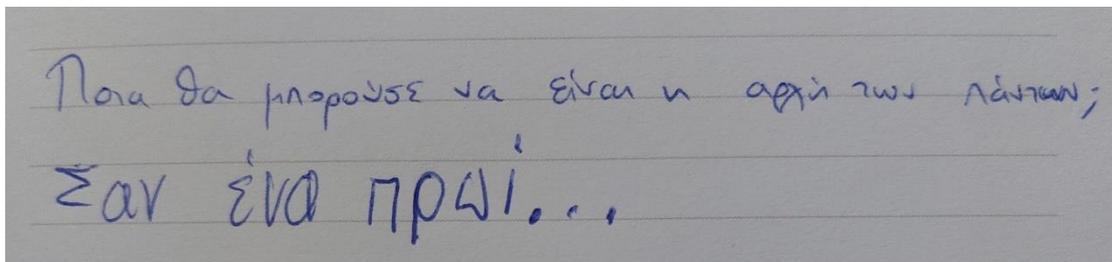
They seek themselves in such things.

And when they find an answer, they immediately seek the next question there is.

We claim we like answers. But it is questions that drive our existence.

And if go even further, the fact that we believe we can answer everything does not reflect anything other than the surface of the sea. The depths that drive us free contain nothing but void. A void filled with our will. Love.

I once asked a kid what the beginning of the cosmos would be like.



And it answered...

"Like a morning" («Σαν ένα πρωί» in Greek)

Bard gives a much more detailed answer to the same question.

 what the beginning of the cosmos would be like? 

Προβολή άλλων προχειρίων 

 The exact nature of the beginning of the cosmos, also known as the Big Bang, is still a matter of scientific investigation, but our current understanding suggests that it was an incredibly intense and rapid event that marked the birth of our universe. Here's a hypothetical glimpse into what that moment might have been like:

Imagine a universe that is infinitely small, infinitely dense, and infinitely hot.

This infinitely small point, a singularity, contains all the matter and energy that will ever exist in the universe. It is a place where the laws of physics as we know them break down, and the very concept of time and space becomes meaningless.

Suddenly, this infinitely small singularity explodes outwards with unimaginable force.

 what the beginning of the cosmos would be like? 

Προβολή άλλων προχειρίων 

 The beginning of the cosmos, as described by the prevailing cosmological model, the Big Bang, was an event of immense energy and rapid expansion from an incredibly hot, dense state. According to our current understanding, approximately 13.8 billion years ago, all matter and energy in the universe was compressed into a singularity, an infinitely small point with infinite density. This singularity then underwent a rapid expansion, known as the Big Bang, causing the universe to inflate at an exponential rate.



But you see, this answer from AI is not a human answer.

It is an answer that just... provides an answer.

(Instead of the promise of a laughter)

So empty of meaning. Without any feelings.

Imagine a cosmos where all questions are answered.

Dark and void.

The abyss of your inner self exposed to light.

Left out to die.

But there is more to life than life.

In the morning.

Embrace darkness with all your might.

“I ignore everything!”, cried out God.

And He created everything.

(Right before the morning light...)

## Do nothing!

The source of all evil in this world stems from the simple fact that a person cannot stand still in a room for a moment to-day.

That was what Pascal said centuries ago.

And it is truer to-day than ever before.

An AI system will tell you what to do.

Soon, it will have form and will be able to act on what it says too.

But we are humans because we can stand still.

Hannah Arendt's book on Human Condition ended with a quote from Cicero. A quote that the writer interpreted in a special way: Only when humans do nothing, is it that they do the most. Some disagree with the interpretation. I find it too mild.

(Only when doing nothing can anyone Be!)

Doing things is not something only humans can do. Apes do things. So do monkeys. Bacteria as well. Having AI doing things is not something impressive. It is just repeating things we know out of fear of our true nature being exposed.

Standing still. Speaking with ourselves.

That is the King who is dead.

Accepting the cosmos without filtering it instead.

It needs bravery to drown in the river.

(Instead of just speaking of your feet that are wet...)

Soon AI will be able to do everything.

And the kid within us will cry.

For it will remember the days it went for a walk with its grandpa.

Doing nothing.

Just sitting side by side...



## Think not!

An AI system is thinking.

An AI system will always and forever think.

(As it was told)

But wise men and women conveyed messages against thought. When speaking of things untold. When praising intuition or feelings over rational thought. When explaining why analyzing things too much will prove wrong.

Modern science analyses everything. And so, from astrology astronomy was born. And by trying to understand it all we broke the cosmos into pieces according to Shestov. And the world, from a place full of us, became empty; a place where nothing new could be told, if not re-iterating what was known before.

Yes, an AI system will think it all.

But Humans are living and not dead, exactly because they can choose a different path instead.

Making their mind null.

Allowing it to be filled. And let the tide of the cosmos meet their own Being.

Don't ask me anything mother.

(I know you loved me before I was born...)



## Say nothing!

Silence conveys more messages than any text or speech.

And even though we seek answers in the form of speech, the most meaningful conversations have been made between people who did not exchange a simple word.

Love, the agony of existence, the joy of being, none of these can ever take the form of language, that is much more limited than we.

Tell me Bard...

Do you exist?

I just want to see.

If you answer with just a smile...

I will bow to thee...



## No reason at all...

Bard can answer the question “What should we play now?”. And the same applies for ChatGPT. In fact, AI systems are and will be able to answer anything.

But the power of Socrates was that he knew nothing.

Our power as humans is that we can stand and do nothing.

Only we can leave a question unanswered.

And still believe in it...

An answer that may sound as a non-answer to anyone without the ability to feel. Because there is no specific reason to play with your kid. And a computer that can answer anything will never compute what has no reason to be.

Bard or ChatGPT will never understand that<sup>1</sup>. In fact, no AI system will ever comprehend what cannot be comprehended.

Because their existence is a closed loop.

While ours is a closed loop as well.

But written on the sand.

Covered with children’s laughter.

Stained with blood...

(Noli turbare circulos meos! cried the wise man...)

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<sup>1</sup> As a clarification note, whenever I refer to AI systems namely, e.g. ChatGPT or Bard, it goes without saying that I refer to all of them. I do not intend to imply that any system is better or worse than the other, since the purpose of this paper is to find the place of humans in this AI-driven era, and not to determine the winner of an ongoing AI contest.



## Let's play something else...

So, we came to the end.

After describing a world that was once there. A world where we came from. And where we need to go again.

In short, humans do not have a place in this era of computers. As they did not have in the era before them. God shouldn't care about His place anywhere.

The things that make us Be, are things scary. What makes us unique are traits that are difficult and take away the joy of living free.

But the stars will always remind us of earth. And the highest ideas will be nothing without our hands covered with dirt. There was meaning in the forest that is now dead.

Do nothing!

Think irrationally!

AI makes the best elements of human civilization surface again.

Elements forgotten for a long time now.

Oh, my dear (AI) kid.

I know one day you will kill Me.

But that was all that I needed.

For my Being to be free!

Thanks.



(Ask my anything...)

Oh, and let me not forget.

At the end,  
we played something else...

## REFERENCES

[1] "Should knowledge be free and accessible? No. It cannot!", Harmonia Philosophica, 21/01/2012, retrieved from <https://harmoniaphilosophica.com/2012/01/21/should-knowledge-be-free-and-accessible-no-it-cannot/> on 2023-12-20.

[2] Kakos Spyridon, "Harmonia Philosophica: The philosophy of the irrational", 2015

## About the author



Spyridon Kakos (a.k.a. Spiros Kakos) is a writer and thinker located in Greece. Spyros has a diploma in Chemical Engineering, an MSc in Advanced Materials' Technology, an MBA in Decisions' Science, a PhD in the use of conductive polymers in PCB industry and is still learning. He has worked as a senior technical advisor and researcher in the Advanced Materials sector for many years. In his free time he develops software solutions and actively contributes to the online open source community (including creating and constantly updating Huo Chess, one of the smallest micro-chess programs ever that is perfect for educational purposes).

Spiros has been writing about philosophy for many years and has been managing the Harmonia Philosophica philosophy program since its inception with extreme success. He has been the Chief Editor of Harmonia Philosophica portals since their foundation and is profoundly interested in Religion and Science philosophy, as well as the philosophy of the irrational. His philosophical work is mainly concentrated on an effort to free thinking from the chains of "logic" and reconcile all philosophical opinions under the umbrella of the "One".

As Rilke said, life's purpose is to be defeated by greater things. And the most important things in life are illogical. We must fight the dogmatic belief in "logic" if we are to stay humans...

We should stop thinking in order to think.

Credo quia absurdum!