

On the approaches to self-knowledge.

/ If one look at problem of the tissue-cellular architectonics of wisdom by the keen gaze of a highly experienced philosopher-cosmist/

Introduction

Vague guesses about the veritable evolutionary essence of terrestrial organisms, which are not divine creatures at all, but simple bio-robots, haunted mankind for a long time. And even, by the way, that pretty piquant alignment for us, at which “his majesty” Homo sapiens can also personify some type of artificial, i.e. not really existing hypostasis, was discussed at one time as by solipsists (Lao-tzu, Buddha, Gorgias, Claude Brunet), as other famous sages of antiquity but, true, in a little different perspective.

However in serious science, idle pompous tirades are clearly not enough - instead specific arguments were required. And here almost one and a half centuries ago in St. Petersburg an epoch-making, let's say without exaggeration, book "Reflexes of the Brain" was published, therein all this evidence was clearly and quite convincingly presented. And though against the very "father of Russian physiology" I.M. Sechenov, many of then religious leaders immediately took up arms, accusing him of blasphemy, immorality and other grave, inexorable sins, - nonetheless the corresponding initiation, as the saying goes, was successfully laid, and besides reliably documented. With which, by the way, the majority of the world scientific community agreed in the end too. While already after some couple-triple of decades, these progressive ideas of our illustrious countryman were maintained by Jewish emigrant Norbert Wiener, who officially equated any living creature with a machine.

I. Standing at the cornerstone of seemingly familiar axioms and paradigms.

But, be that as it may, in own new philosophical treatise the author undertakes a bold attempt to penetrate even deeper to the secret labyrinths of the spiritualized nature – with the mind's eye scanning the intracellular space and uncovering thus the entire complex evolutionary mechanism of optimal program control in the system of higher

nervous regulation.

Yes, indeed, there is really no need to argue here: we are all aesthetically graceful, morally perfect and, besides, well-lettered bio-robots! But then why, however, many in practice are so wary, and at times martial concerning this? Most probably, because there is just not far off the cardinal change of paradigm in the humanitarian field of research.

In particular, conceptual oppositions that have long been familiar to us, like “living - inert” or “animate - insensate”, can soon turn out, as surprisingly, anachronistic and nay absurd. For actually vivacity is manifested due a favorable combination of high structuring and psyche. Wherein, in terms of their metaphysical parameters they are by no means equivalent to each other: if the first case implies a sustained laborious process of gradual improvement of matter with the help of informons, then internal subject animativeness (psyche) is a fairly everyday for Universe phenomenon having acquired its rightful place in the immemorial pre-atomic era.

But still, from the postulates of quantum mechanics we all know that these two factors alone may not be enough in practice. So, without proper energy support (let even a one-time), it's unlikely to be possible. And in particular, such a targeted synthesizing impulse is necessary primarily for the closure of low-trim monads into a larger system (i.e. if we talk, for example, about the human fetus - in order to the transfer from fragmentary perception of many semi-autonomous neurocytes to the emergence of the personal “Self”). At that, though structuring, by and large, could be combined apparently with life-giving bioenergetics under the joint conceptual heading of "progressive system-forming metabolism", in reality similar very dubious economy is all the same incapable of playing significant role here for a better comprehension of the complex hierarchical processes occurring in the world.

Well and returning to our traditional contrastings of “living - inert” and “animate - insensate”, it would be noted that they have more of a mundane than a strictly scientific subtext. This is particularly true for the first of them: after all, “dead” (rotting and decaying) is, you must agree, by no means an inert but from an entropic point of view, alas, something much worse. In turn, natural belowground crystals are roughly in the

middle between two the above extremes. And therefore, it is hardly possible to judge peremptorily whether they are animated or not (and especially taking into account the binding character of the supplementary energetic stimulus). Incidentally, such far-famed outlandish phenomena as the self-resurrection of the deceased, enslaving zombification, the imperishability of holy relics etc., also belong to this conterminal category. And if we may boldly, with 100% certainty confirm the fact all artificially created now robots are soulless, then that thing already cannot be said, perhaps, of the notorious zombies or the departed righteous...

II. Who has greater potential for adaptation and progressive development?

As known, human memory functions on several levels, and primary (which localized in the dominant thalamus) is directly linked to sensory imprinting. It's essentially the involved here monads' memory. A few seconds later, emotionally colored informational sensations can still be restored in consciousness due to reverberation of nerve impulses along the contour of thalamic nuclei or even on the overlying brain layers (if it is about, for example, the perception of speech, gestures, hieroglyphs and other difficult abstract images). Such memory can be named momentary.

Generally, the limbic structures, including the hippocampus, are able to accept not only targeted orders from the thalamus, but also to catch the emotional background of any symbolically encoded messages which arrive in suitable for assimilation kind from the cortex. Wherein the hippocampus is responsible for the functioning of human working memory too. And the latter, among other things, is mentioned here, in substance, not by chance. Because, it turns out, it's directly involved in the distinct evolutionary mechanism of eco-adaptation (both at the level of an individual and of a biological species as a whole). With that, I was led to suited theories and inferences in this scientific field, oddly enough, by observing the rouse current rate of qualitative improvement in electronic-computing devices. Particularly, I noticed that RAM-modules¹ in almost every new version of the computer are invading the adjacent functional blocks (processor, hard drive disk, motherboard and at times even data highway) more deeply and effective.

Differently speaking, after comparison of this fact with the peculiarities of the neuro-regulation of progressing species, we nolens-volens come to the conclusion that similar phenomena must certainly take place in live nature. At Corvids, for example, the nidopallium increasingly penetrates into neighboring dorsal sections of the avian telencephalon, and in service dogs, the influence of the hippocampus is gradually extrapolated to the prefrontal region. Wherein from a physiological point of view, the whole secret of this is in the amazing plasticity of cerebral tissue, which in ontogenesis develops as demanded by concrete life circumstances.

So there is definitely do some hard thinking about all that – and not only for practicing neurosurgeons but dry armchair academicians too! And generally we will certainly return to this multifaceted topic a little later...

It's common knowledge that in the course of the epoch-making universal evolution of natural systems, a quite proper continuity is distinctly traced - moreover as in the character itself as the way of forming sensations & emotions specific to this particular stage. But still it's most clearly noticed in the example of memory, for the short-term memory of each subsequent system holds on to the remembrance substrate of the previous one. By the by, momentary (reverberative) memory is also apparently present at any step of the evolutionary hierarchy. But it mainly depends on the nature of the imprinting and methods the signals are transmitted, not on the underlying structures; because systems of different levels perceive the passage of time (and hence, the very chronology of events) unequally.

Despite that a long-term memory of chordates is based, in principle, on astrocytes, yet it's quite capable, if necessary, of appealing to similar memo-substance of a lower order represented obviously by intranuclear (but sometimes, possibly, even extracellular) proteins. However in all people without exception, long-term memory (confined - recall just in case - to the gray matter of the cortex of cerebral hemispheres) is generated from the working one and moreover, as a rule, during minutes of sensory lull, i.e. basically in the afternoon. At night it is completed only what was not done in daylight hours (and unless in separate brief "stripes", for most of the time the brain just rests).

Though astrocytes (which, as you know, have a much shorter evolutionary "experience") store their database in analog form, and peptides - in digital, both of these functions anyway are all the same selective. Particularly, in the course of the selection of more important material, concept-proteins already present in neurons obviously play leading role, meanwhile the stem's structures are helper. Wherein the phenomenon of total memorization is inherent solely in the prime quasi-monadic "Self" (and even then, not everyone is able to get a similar kind of information).

Well, in conclusion of this chapter, coming back to rather evident parallel "human – biorobot", I'd also like a little to detail some of the previously deduced synergetic patterns, which are applied equally to both animate and artificial objects. For example, such: "The possibilities for adaptation, development and progress are more favorable for that calculating machine (or, respectively, organism, species, taxon) which is ahead of its contestants in the value of the fundamental indicator CAsh". Wherein per definitionem it is measured by the ratio between operant (RAM) and read-only (BIOS \vee OpenBoot \vee BootROM) memory of a given robotic system. With that, its universal acceptability is largely ensured namely due to the physical dimensionlessness of the very magnitude CAsh². Which in computing is presented as a quotient from the division of bits by bits, however when applied to living creatures - already in the form of a similar masses' fraction (or at last case - the correlation $N_{op.} / n_{bas.}$ where is considered the summary number of neurons involved in the memorative cycle). Although on the whole, thoroughly about this is told in the extended Russian-language variant of author's research.

III. Returning to the problem of tissue-cellular architectonics of wisdom.

Human thinking is based on long-term memory and is formed in areas directly adjacent to the corresponding sensory analyzers of the cerebral hemispheres. The same concepts, what is quite natural, are capable of being duplicated several times, depending on their etiological background. In addition, one should consider the possible ramification of notions not only in the sensory aspect, but also at a higher ordinal level:

as homonyms, synonyms, idioms, neologisms, and even by purely emotional signs. At that new astrocytic & protein notions are built (with reference, of course, to the material already available here) on the basis of fresh relevant images worthy of entering into long-term memory.

In the thickness of the cerebral hemispheres, just like in complex cyber devices or propositions of formal logic, hierarchical pyramids are located, at the very top of which super-concepts lie. Besides, here are present as well analogues of the categorical-semantic apparatus, associative zones, structures responsible for the functioning of the feedback principle etc. By the way, within formal logic, one might say, there is nothing at all that would not be somehow realized in the brain of highly developed representatives of the earthly fauna. For instance, using the well-known law: "If B follows from A, then non-A follows from non-B", we must be prepared to find "the non-B protein" directly linked to "the non-A protein". Of course, in order to save space, such abstract structures are laid mainly at the level of super-concepts.

Specific "departmental" chromosomes are responsible for the connection between individual protein-concepts, whilst the neurons themselves are for the formation of the resulting associative tracks, using, to all appearance, ordinary electrical impulses for this (in contrast to the sound signals of their nucleic precursors by the system hierarchy). These neurons can work at any time, regardless of the involvement in the area of consciousness, but basically they do it during the day, in the waking period. When the long syllogistic chain "protein A - protein B - protein C - protein D" is closed by means of "protein A - protein D", cells are excited, which, as we know, leads to the release of additional portions of energy. Energy, being converted into a nerve impulse, reaches the thalamus, but it is not always properly perceived there. When this signal is irrelevant to the organism, the "Ego" does not react to it. Although in other cases, our "main post" singly can send a request to the cortex, if he needs to remember something or urgently find an answer. Such way of communication is, at least, much more effective.

As for astrocytes, they here (and above all - in the folds of gray matter) act only as passive albeit rather reliable keepers of memory. At that, as mentioned earlier (see the

previous section), the author is inclined to believe that it is analog in nature, not digital, being directly caused by the close biochemical interaction between glia- and neurotransmitters.

IV. The secret to unique volitional, perceptual, and often higher thinking qualities lies in the "Self"!

Thus, in contrast to instant recognition with sensory implications, all other memo-images (i.e., not related to the acute immediate needs of an individual) owe their genesis exclusively to the cortex. Although they are transmitted, perhaps, by the quantum-wave path but even so are projected into human consciousness for sure through a material (or rather, monad) substrate that is quite familiar to us. Moreover practically the same should be said about all sorts of dreams, fantasies, complex multi-stage abstractions, and, of course, about any mentally creative processes that are characteristic, in one way or another, for serious scientific developments. By and large, their implementation, in fact, is not much different from similar previously described phenomena, occurring in the sensory nuclei, but here, however, it still cannot do without the direct active participation of higher cerebral structures. Firstly, an abstract image of the observer is created, from the point of view of which the represented object is considered; secondly, here it is necessary every now and then to involve, besides, such formal categories as magnitude, dimension, angle of perception, etc.

All these operating procedures are the paramount vital concern of thinking, while the finally created image is transferred into the central "Self". Though the latter, at the same time, it would hardly be correct to assign some minor, purely facultative role in these processes. And here, for example, is visual confirmation of what was said: it has long been known that weak-willed people, as a rule, do not have stable and sufficiently strong thought associations. The images arisen in them are unsteady, vague and quickly disappear from consciousness, again and again replaced by some new ones. Well and, vice versa, no less interesting phenomenon of all-encompassing workability (that, on the accepted opinion, such semi-legendary personalities as Alexander the Great, Julius

Caesar, Napoleon and even some of the recent our leaders of the world proletariat were generously endowed by), is immediately related just to hyperplasia of the primary “Self”. What, if you really figure it out, could quite have been revealed during a post-mortem autopsy³.

V. On the question of the inevitability of robots' hegemony predicted by many: is this good or, alas, not so thing?

Formal logic is a science that studies the key patterns and rules of cogitative operations; i.e. its notional machinery can be considered as slightly simplified model of multiple service structures and communications existing in the cortex. After all, as we know, in everyday human logic there is no place not only for irrationalism or absurdity, but also on the whole for some that is absent in the nature around us. Any syllogistic connections are based on the fundamental axiom of causality, which takes its origins from the steadfast principle of uni-nomy & equability both in interactions at the micro-level and at the highest stages of development of systems. From a philosophical point of view, this unshakable permanency can be argued by a finite set of elementary particles (including, of course, informons), which, in turn, have a finite set of their constant characteristics too. Wherein in the case of outlook rejection of the version of the deep inexhaustibility of matter (in the spirit of Anaxagoras), such an explanation can be considered, apparently, quite sufficient.

Mathematical logic is more artificial and abstract than formal one. Roughly the same should be said about cybernetics either, which only in its initial phase reflected to the full the methodology and style of brain structures' work. Meanwhile if robots independently become to produce own “iron colleagues”, they will obviously try to improve practical ways of creating new computational algorithms, surpassing in this sooner or later their immediate designer – Homo sapiens.

And besides, given problem is particularly urgent also because when we move on to the entire planetary civilization, it ultimately comprehends its mission and aim unless with the help of robots. It is interesting both proteins and highly organized robots are

able to accumulate and dissect information about external world, in theory, even without any support from DNA or, respectively, modern scientific community. Therefore, here once more the hypothesis offered by us earlier (the main point of which is the fact the evolution of cosmic reason in its rates is noticeably ahead of the evolution of living systems) is actually confirmed. And hence, only in developed human society (after all, some tailless upright walking specimen torn out of it doesn't, alas, mean anything in himself) for the mature earthly intelligence - as the single efficacious tool on the way to find the truth – the far-reaching and very attractive prospects are prepared.

VI. Having creatively continued the wise syllogistic judgments of glorified ancient-Greek philosophers.

There are several fundamental principles and axioms of thinking, all of which, of course, are rooted in the reality surrounding us. Here they are.

1. The subject cannot affect himself; from this, in particular, follows the assertion that the subject will never be able to know himself as adequately, unbiased and timely as to do in relation to neighboring objects.

Self-knowledge is a more trivial term, therefore despite seeming secondary nature, it's incorrectly to define it by primacy of self-awareness. But still that will be discussed fuller in the completing chapter.

2. All in the world should be considered only from the point of view of something concrete, but not as a phenomenon in general.

This is the so-called principle of total relativism which is manifested most clearly applied to attributes and predicates. Though various definitions, statements and terms associated with fabrications of the human mind and used in the categorical apparatus as well as in other similar constructions, are not obliged to follow it. This remark concerns, by the way, the next paragraph too.

3. Everything can be judged only in a probabilistic plan.

This is also indirectly adjoining to spiritually close principle of space-time uncertainty at the origins of which yet Heraclitus was. Nevertheless, it is often abused in order to avoid

the cardinal solution to the issue, which was reflected, for example, in the discussion of the problem of the electron's free will. That's why in serious scientific pioneering, until all spare arguments have been exhausted, it is better to try not to appeal to the principle of uncertainty.

4. Theoretical knowledge, in contrast to empirical, is possible only on the basis of deep abstracting with the obligatory use of syllogistics, induction and retro-induction – moreover in the framework of the above postulates of formal logic.

5. The criterion of truth is in practice.

This statement is rather of an outlook character, since it is built on the absolutization of our naive-realistic perception of the surrounding actuality. Which automatically leads (if, of course, one doesn't introduce any superfluous entities) to the prerogative of the scientific exploration of the world over the religious & mystical.

VII. To recognize your peculiar identity in the universe, a mirror unfortunately is not enough!

Well, in the closing section, let's still try to find out, due to what at the level of an individual or even humanity as a whole, such an amazing natural phenomenon as self-consciousness is manifested.

First of all, it should be clarified here that without highly-basic proteins and astrocytes, neither the genome, nor the primary "Ego", nor the thalamus by themselves would probably ever have guessed about own fleshly being. Thus, it only seems like an insignificant detail, for in translation into cognitional language, one might say, so important and demanded now disciplines as psychology, biomedicine (namely, in the scope of the achievement of very desirable and long-awaited for people existential immortality), ethics, jurisprudence and many other paramount branches would be completely erased from our usual vocabulary.

Though at the same time it's, of course, hastily and, more than that, unwisely to give an surpassing role to proteins alone here. After all, in fact, even in the author's initial works, it was quite rightly noted that to the necessary and sufficient prerequisites

for the emergence of such a pivotal process for earthly evolution should attribute: a) the presence of at least two mentally similar persons in a limited area of habitation; b) an increase in early representatives of the tribe Homo - starting from Australopithecus - of the degree of generalizing thoughtful operations to the conceptual level (and moreover, one can say that gestural language or ESP in this case, for sure, does not work); and finally, the birth of the so-called second signaling system⁴. Among other things, the very term "process" is used here by no means accidentally, because it directly and unequivocally denies the idea of an explosive appearance or nay perhaps "export" of such cognito-reflexion (as many hugely popular pseudo-luminaries talk of this in their tabloid literature) from somewhere outside. On the off-chance, let's recall once again in this regard that according to the ground axiom of formal logic about the impossibility of cognizing the subject by the subject, any arbitrarily developed creature (up to aliens or super-humanoids from extraterrestrial civilizations), being lonely, is fundamentally unable to master the factor of self-awareness.

In addition, the problem of potential grassroots self-identification is also of considerable interest here, because any unprejudiced investigator, by and large, would probably be care at all to know whether, say, the ordinary thermal neutrons or some other long-lived particles possess by this native gift. For we have no right to mechanically extrapolate to them the arguments that are fashionable nowadays about a certain obligatory minimum of accumulated information, disowning in virtue of what so important attribute of the high-organized matter. Not only is one information different from another, but yet absolutely nobody has proven that those files of memory which are embedded in each monad or perimonadic structures are beneficial to a person. Maybe the human reason is able to refer exclusively to the cellular chromatin, and the monads of one particular nitrogenous base or amino group carry at the same time two sorts of information: polytypic - for own local purposes, and unified - for especially universal needs?! Thus in this case it's difficult, perhaps, to immediately hunt out 100% accurate answer: after all, the range of issues touched upon here is already far beyond the scope of the natural sciences, acquiring, in fact, a pronounced philosophical orientation.

There is another paradox too, not so vital and burning, but still worthy of at least illuminating it in brief. The point is that any actively cognizing subject, on the one hand - a purely formal – understands nobody and nothing as thoroughly and harmoniously as himself; while on the other – contentual - he will never be able to get as complete and exhaustive information about himself as regarding some physical bodies around. Which he, if desired, whenever can feel, disassemble into parts, look inside and even remake to own liking.

CONCLUSION

Here is all that may, perhaps, be said for today on the launch and implementation of the most difficult thought mechanisms at the level of an individual as well as the grandiose, truly invaluable consequents of this paramount process for destiny of the planetary civilization on the whole.

And generally the matter of author's article could be reproduced through seven laconic points:

- 1) *Human memory functions in several hypostases, and primary, which inherent to the dominating thalamus, is immediately conditioned by the current perception (or, say, early childhood imprinting).*
- 2) *In the process of long-term memory formation, the principal role is given by us to histone macro-molecules and astrocytes, not to the network architectonics of the cortex (as some of purblind overseas naturalists mistakenly believe).*
- 3) *Astrocytes are capable of acting except the role of passive memory keepers in this case; and, plus to that, carry apparently an analog, not a digital code (i.e. are as though a pocket-book for a lecturer or museum exhibits for a historian).*
- 4) *Unlike long-term, instant memory, being directly related to apprehension, imbibes totally all sensory information entering the brain and, in addition, is preserved forever - regardless of any traumas or illnesses. But in everyday life, it's extremely hard to claim it, since for this we need to penetrate in the integrative field of the primal "Ego".*
- 5) *The principal secret of good mature thinking lies in volume and the due orderliness of*

long-term memory. But apart of it, there are couple-triple of supplementary circumstances that influence on the character of the produced notions: the degree of development of cerebral cyto-architectonics, concrete emotional attitude and the type of hemispherity in given person etc.

6) In many especially gifted individuals, their unique cognitive abilities are frequently conditioned by the successful emergent closure of the "Self-substrate" in the womb not at the cellular (as among most other people), but at a higher thalamic level.

7) Formal logic's conceptual apparatus can be presented as somewhat simplified model of numerous working structures and contacts existing in the telencephalon.

And finally, in the course of fulfilled by us investigations, it was proven strictly (with the help of digits) that the evolution of reason is ahead of live beings' one. In view of the fact the CAsh of secondary systems, as however the accelerating growth index⁵ (what was already discussed thoroughly in ch. 1) quickens an order of magnitude more impetuously than of their direct creators!

And this - given coming Universal energy collapse - in turn, lead to the actual hegemony of robots!..

¹ RAM = "random access memory".

² By the way, this indicator literally means "Coefficient of Ashursky".

³ Although this is, in principle, only "the tip of the iceberg", since intrauterine "Self" qua definitio becomes closed at the field level. And consequently, the root of individual psychic talents cannot always be found out using autopsy. But still, despite that the process of monadic system's formation proceeds in the womb differently in other people, the common trend here is, however, quite obvious: the larger the newly resulting spiritualized substrate (be it a neuron, a stem nucleus or the entire thalamus) - the greater its exclusive potentialities!

⁴ In historical terms, some vague glimpses of self-awareness have arisen among those primeval savages who have been able to compare the fact of death of the best hail-fellows, neighbors or relatives with the fatal inevitability of own demise.

⁵ Which, in theory, is expressed by the general quantitative increase of brain areas occupied by working (operant) memory in any observed offspring – as regards his immediate genetic ancestors.

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