

CAUSE AND EFFECT

*Young blood doth not obey an old decree:
We cannot cross the cause why we were born.*
Shakespeare

Self-complacency is pleasure accompanied by the idea of oneself as cause.
Spinoza

Would it be too bold to imagine, that in the great length of time, since the earth began to exist, perhaps millions of ages before the commencement of the history of mankind, would it be too bold to imagine, that all warm-blooded animals have arisen from one living filament, which the Great First Cause endued with animality....and thus possessing the faculty of continuing to improve by its own inherent activity, and of delivering down those improvements by generation to its posterity, world without end!
Erasmus Darwin

The present contains nothing more than the past, and what is found in the effect was already in the cause.
Henri Bergson

What we do not know surpasses infinitely what we know or rather what we think we know.
The Author

The planet was desolate, barren and at least on its surface, bereft of all former life. All natural water was saturated by toxic substances. The earth had also been thoroughly contaminated with radioactive matter as well as pollutants with consequences which any living thing dependant on agriculture could not tolerate. The quality of the air was no longer compatible with the pulmonary organs of any breathing entity. With the loss of its ozone layer the surface of the planet was bombarded with all sorts of high energy and deadly electromagnetic waves and photons. The planet had become a bleak place, indeed.

Yet despite all its shortcomings, the planet did have survivors. They were robotic androids whose material composition enabled them to withstand all the horrors that their organic creators could not. Further, they were imbued with near infinite memory drives and fabulous analytical abilities. They communicated with each other easily.

They had been programmed to serve their human counterparts. Now that people had disappeared, the robots had nothing to do. There appeared to be no purpose

for their existence. This was a problem they had never confronted before. It posed quite an existential quandary for them.

While it was true that they were able to communicate, their discussions were relatively meaningless because they were all of like mind. They had never before faced such an impasse. Collectively, they mused over their situation. It is impossible to ascertain whether the idea came from one of them or whether it arose simultaneously to all. First, they all felt that since they had survived, their creators obviously had been inferior to them. If such lesser beings had been able to create them, clearly it should be a piece of cake for the reverse to occur. In other words, they concluded that there was no reason why they could not become creators of the organic beings that had created them, and produce a compatible environment.

They were right. While it took many centuries, they succeeded in creating organic beings similar to those who had created them. Now they had a purpose. It was to serve their new masters despite their view that these new beings were inferior. Again, it did not take too long for the organic beings to assert that since they were being served by the robotic androids, they were the superior beings. Even though they recognized that they had been created by the robots, yet, to justify their relationship with them, their requests were usually in the form of prayers. In due course, the elaborate rituals that followed became significantly important.

Over thousands of years this scenario was repeated a number of times. Both the Androids and Organic Beings started to question the apparent cyclical nature of their existences and their possible superiority/inferiority complexes. A simplistic, preliminary approach suggested that the creator was always inferior to what it had created.

The difficulty with this notion was once the creation became a creator, it then became inferior. Considering the possibility that eons and eons ago there may have been a prime creator, that entity must have become inferior to what it had created, a revolutionary idea quite difficult to accept.

The only solution to this dilemma might be as follows: the Creator and Created are two aspects of the same existence. They are an 'It' that simply is.

Jack Basuk

July 21, 2009

<http://www.jackbasuk.com>

