

I am a human being, so I live in a **constructed world**. The languaging ability of my left brain produces words to go with the details it has grabbed hold of (apprehended). I compile these words into Stories – hopefully also using the ability of my right brain to comprehend (more broadly, in context). This is my **constructed** reality that I take to be true.

This is not a Virtual or non-existent world that I created entirely in my imagination – it is my Real World. It will not be exactly the same as your Real World, but similar enough that, as we discuss them, we will have co-created a version of ‘our world’ that we believe is true.

I suggest that this **construction** of our reality is a co-creation from the beginning – it is a combination of whatever is actually present around us **plus** our Perception of what is present. Our world is not something separate from us – though we often feel that it is – it is something to which we BELONG. We need to BELONG to what is around us in order to create our BEING. Any sense of inadequacy in this respect is a source of anxiety and unhappiness that I will say more about.

Nowadays, there is increasing interest in Virtual Worlds. This parallels the enormous advances in what is called Artificial Intelligence (AI). It’s ironic that, as our human Intelligence is declining, we are advancing so fast with AI. But that’s not surprising, of course, as long as we habitually favour left-brain activity, of which AI is a classic example.

I hope it’s clear by now that our left brain is a useful helper that performs important functions, but also a rather dangerous influence in our lives if we take it to be the whole of our mind or to be playing the leading role. So how will AI affect our future lives, particularly our sense of BELONGING, which is central to our Intelligence?

This question reminds me that I need to say a lot more about what we are missing if we neglect our right hemisphere contribution to Intelligence. From now on I will be doing that, though the language is more difficult because the interpretation of these words is not so exact. I mentioned already that Intelligence, Happiness and Love do not have precise definitions. And what about Meaning or Value or Creativity? These words mean different things to different people. But we know they have a lot to do with the **quality** of our lives and our sense of Worth.

AI has now been taught much of the left-brain function of producing words and organising them into a Story. Despite having almost bypassed the processes of Attention and Perception, it can reproduce our language so well that we can’t tell it was written by a machine. I suggest that this is eroding our Intelligence, insidiously. Computer programming that enables machines to look as if they are making autonomous decisions (self-driving cars, for example) has also been in use for many years.

Furthermore, many people are having fun in their Virtual Worlds. Some writers suggest we will do more of this and there may be value in shaping our brain to be more like a computer – by implanting a ‘chip,’ perhaps, further narrowing our precious human mind?

AI is an exercise in engineering, not biology. The difference between a human being and a machine is not a matter of degree – it’s an absolute difference that I will consider next week.