

Chapter 10

Dynamics of Dialogue, Humanity, and Peace in the Metaverse: Towards a Conceptual Debate

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ABSTRACT

All our fundamental aspects of living a fulfilled life have become at odds with progress. This chapter will consider what are the key components of humanity, thereby addressing the fundamental question of whether metaverse going to alter our understanding of humanity, peace, and collegiality. This chapter aims to trigger a conceptual debate by applying a digital anthropological framework to examine how human beings have been socially conditioned to think, perceive, and anticipate. In doing so, the authors argue that the social construction of fear of the unknown prevents humans from critically analysing our relationship with humanity and technology. Additionally, the chapter aims to initiate some discussion around (1) metaverse and what it means in a human world; (2) will the virtually modified human beings recreate or alter humanity; (3) what would peace look like in metaverse?

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-6684-5907-2.ch010

INTRODUCTION

All our fundamental aspects of living a fulfilled life have become at odds with progress. This chapter will consider what are the key components of humanity, thereby addressing the fundamental question if metaverse going to alter our understanding of humanity, peace, and collegiality. This chapter aims to trigger a conceptual debate by applying a digital anthropological framework to examine how we as human beings have been socially conditioned to think, perceive and anticipate. In doing so, we argue that the social construction of fear of the unknown prevents us from critically analysing our relationship with humanity and technology. Additionally, the chapter aims to initiate some discussion around (1) the metaverse and what it means in a human world; (2) will the virtually modified human beings recreate or alter humanity; (3) what would peace look like in metaverse.

According to Massey (2002), the formation of human society occurred over 6 million years ago during the time of hominid evolution. During this time, the group size of humans increased steadily, and they developed a social intelligence that was based on the refinement and differentiation of their emotions. The structures in the brain that are related to emotional expression are also part of the primitive brain. Rationality emerged late in human evolution. It only occurred during the last 100 years that the various social conditions that emerged during this time were based on rationality. A review of the development of human cognition and society shows how the emotional brain has evolved independently from the rational brain. This demonstrates, how the emotional brain can influence the rational brain in myriad ways. Massey (2002) argued, if sociology is to continue to advance, it must first tackle the relationship between rational and emotional intelligence. This is particularly true during any social transitional phase when debates are exponentially driven by speculations, interpretations, and anticipations, and there is a lack of circumstantial evidence. Many leaders believe that by utilizing the talents and creativity of their stakeholders, they can improve their organizations' strategic direction setting, efficiency, and effectiveness. However, they have also found that implementing new technologies can be challenging due to cultural resistance and the lessons learned from past failures. The introduction of new technologies can also raise new sensitivities within an organization and in society. The light at the end of the tunnel emerges when we seek to break through organizational, geographical, political, and socio-cultural boundaries and create more collaborative mindsets.

As we explore the metaverse, this chapter finally raises the question, if whether time is demanding a combination of rational, emotional, and cultural intelligence to envision the metaverse. The chapter takes the reader through a metaphorical metaverse as opposed to the technologically created Metaverse.

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