

# The Great Simplification

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[00:00:00] **Nate Hagens:** Greetings to the followers of the Great Simplification platform and podcast. before we get to this week's, frankly, I have a small favor to ask you the viewers. in addition to the podcast and the Franks, later this year, we're gonna be offering a series of courses broadly construed about Reality 1 0 1, in different categories.

[00:00:23] and. We have a survey which takes about 10 minutes to complete, and I would be, appreciative if you could take the time to fill this survey out, which will help us, you know, inform how we do these course offerings. that will come out later this year. You can find the link to this survey in the description of this episode.

[00:00:46] gratitude for those of you who fill it out with that. Here is this week's frankly, on artificial intelligence. Greetings is Tuesday, May 20th, and it is pouring rain here, in Eastern Minnesota, which is good for morels. wild mushrooms. Fingers crossed. That'll happen. I. In the next week or so. I'm gonna talk today about artificial intelligence.

[00:01:16] Again, I am not an AI expert. if I'm an expert in anything, it's why AI or a SI or a GI, artificial super intelligence, artificial general intelligence, are unlikely to actually happen. but I was just in San Francisco, for some meetings, some presentations I. And it's amazing how the world seems to center around artificial intelligence on this podcast.

[00:01:45] I have talked often about how in the biophysical macro sense AI will function as a larger straw if it, increases productivity and enables. better nuclear power or better extraction of minerals or energy, et cetera. It will be a, giant backfire effect. What I haven't talked much about is the impact on humans, our, human psyche, our psychology, our identities.

[00:02:17] and I'd like to, briefly touch on that and I've come up with eight categories of a typology of how AI. might impact the categories of humans, alive today.

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[00:02:41] the first category I'm Gonna call the meek, and that's a little bit of a pejorative, a pejorative, label. But I'll explain why I'm using the Meek. These are people around the world that, that won't be affected by ai, because they're remote, or they don't have access to the internet. I. and because of the, other categories I'm gonna suggest, the implication of calling them the meek is the, meek will inherit the earth, because they will remain, pure, normal human psychology that's not blended in with a large language model or impacted in the ways that, that some of these other categories might be.

[00:03:23] I think. Fortunately, or unfortunately, this category will increasingly be a smaller, percentage, in a minority as the digital infrastructure expands globally. But they also will be unique in the ability to preserve cultural practices and perspectives untainted, by algorithmic. Influence the meek.

[00:03:46] The second category, I'm gonna call the naive, which they have access to the internet and to artificial intelligence, but they're either unaware of what it can do or they're uninterested. could also call this category the blissful. you know, they just. Don't care. and they enjoy using technology, but they're unaware, of both the opportunities and the pitfalls of, large language model, integration with human behavior.

[00:04:20] The, this category is gonna be increasingly vulnerable to manipulation through AI systems 'cause they're unaware of what's going on behind the scenes. and I think this category includes people with means, but lacking awareness as opposed to, the meek, which is just people without access.

[00:04:40] So the naive or the blissful, I'm not sure which I like better. the third category, is the, the AI Luddites. So Luddites were historically against all technology and ai. Luddite is aware of. How this tech could act as a siphon on the human ability to process cognitively express emotions in the way that 15,000 generations of homo sapiens ancestors have done.

[00:05:17] And they don't want to be involved in it. but they can't help but a little bit. So they actively try to eliminate, Artificial intelligence in their lives, and act as resistance. this will potentially be, a cultural stigma for those people. and I expect

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it's gonna be a real thing. I think there will be people that don't want AI in any part of their lives, and will actively choose to do that.

[00:05:51] The fourth category, which is. Kind of a subset of the AI Luddites, is the pragmatists. Those that for, they might be aware of the, pitfalls of ai, but they have to use it. Otherwise they risk falling behind in their jobs, because of the things that their peers can accomplish. Just using AI five or 10% of the time.

[00:06:16] the pragmatists, will begrudgingly, use AI in their jobs, to make the productivity or whatever the, the goals of their organization are, better, faster, cheaper. The next category is the flexors. It is those people that either from insecurity or addiction or seeking approval, the same type of people that perpetually look at social media comments and likes and such are going to use AI to flex.

[00:06:48] Like a peacock does its feathers in all the different ways, and that's their objective. It's not to be more productive. it's not to enjoy their lives more. It's to make social statements. Look at how clever I look at how bright, look at how creative I am. And I think that unfortunately might be quite a big category.

[00:07:12] just like, you know, you're already seeing it. the. On LinkedIn, the tech bros are showing their new workout routines. Where on this podcast, I complain about my lack of workout routines. but I think flexing AI is going to be, an accordion that, lifts the amplitude of those people trying to show off in our world, with the metrics of the day.

[00:07:44] Of course, then there might be a, A boomerang effect that to not flex actually becomes flexing using ai. I don't know what that would look like. the next category, which in my opinion is the pinnacle of, integrating AI with human behavior in today's world or the world coming in the next few years, I'll just call it the achievers.

[00:08:09] And these are the people that. Are expert in using AI to get things done in their job in their life, but they draw the line at 10% or 15%, and they still have the discipline and wherewithal to focus on what it means to be human. They have great

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family lives. They are fit. They go outdoors, they meditate, they do all the things to live a real human existence, but.

[00:08:36] When needed, they are expert at, achieving and using things, using ai. The seventh category I'm gonna call the cyborg, who will increasingly experience cognition as a hybrid process between human and machine. they could develop novel thought patterns and problem solving approaches while losing certain cognitive abilities that atrophy, while gaining new abilities.

[00:09:04] And, they will. Face profound issues about their identity, where their ident, where their human identity ends and where AI begins. they are fully immersed. They are achieving things, but they're gonna be fully immersed and use AI 24 7, which means they're gonna leave the natural human, connection, love, and joy world behind.

[00:09:29] And the last category, I'm gonna label the dissolved. and that's the, people that were addicted to social media or video games or whatever. In today's world, artificial intelligence, large language models is gonna be like crack cocaine for that sort of temperament and. Lack of discipline and, personality type, they're gonna suffer massive deterioration in physical and mental health through, AI dependence, withdrawal from human relationships, maybe unable to function without continual to ai, support and validation.

[00:10:08] They may have 10 or 15 hour a day conversations with the chatbots that were based on a deceased loved one, or an imaginary perfect girlfriend or boyfriend or whatever. I wonder how many, human beings will eventually fall into this, category. Why do I care about all this? Well, I think we all should care about all this.

[00:10:33] AI is, whether you are a fan or aware of it or not, it is coming, probably slower than most people think. My personal view is there will be some sort of a global, currency bond, geopolitical dislocation before we get to the holy grail of artificial super intelligence. But I don't know. so I am confident in the logical pillars of the great simplification, and as we enter a future of reduced energy flows, ecological limits, and systemic contraction, I believe that the behavioral archetypes that I've just listed are gonna shape who adapts and who falters.

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[00:11:17] and eventually. when AI breaks or stalls or fades, those who retain deep human competence, embodied knowledge and analog resilience are gonna be better prepared. I. Especially if they're surrounded by like-minded people. So, the achievers and the Luddites, given my little, typology might fare best.

[00:11:42] Obviously the dissolved and the cyborgs, least. And the meek, once overlooked, could become unexpected teachers. I almost called that category the inheritors. So in this light, AI is not just a tool. It could be a sorting mechanism, a force revealing not just what we can do, but who we are becoming. I. I am an energy ecology behavior guy.

[00:12:14] AI is not my forte, but I think to take an aerial view of the human predicament and not include artificial intelligence as a piece on the game board is naive. it's coming and it's gonna have a huge impact. I will talk to you next week. Next week will be an unusual, frankly, the Superorganism in seven minutes, based on a talk I just gave in San Francisco.

[00:12:42] Hope you're all well, and if you live in an area that has morale, mushrooms, good luck.