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**2 Weeks Essay #6**

What if everything we are is just a program? What if everything in the world is just a program? We could be programed to be the way we are, to think the way we think. Nature could be programed to follow something and to act the way it is, and to be the way it is. It doesn't matter who you attribute this program to, it could be as Kitty Ferguson says, God, just a program that is or that this program follows the rules of logical and mathematical consistency.

I believe mostly everyone has had to come up with these ideas of just being an “experiment” in the universe at some point of their lives. Like The Fire in the Equations says: “Perhaps the universe is someone’s scientific experiment.” At least I have thought of it. I have sometimes imagined the world as an experiment kind of like ant farms. Us being like those ants in the glass containers so that someone could see how they act and react to things. Maybe there is some greater being that is doing the same thing with us. Just trying to see how we act and survive.

We can consider that many of the things in the world are programmed to be a certain way, in order to carry out the experiments that are said to take place. After reading Gödel, Escher, Bach one can start to think as the mind or brain is as a program. Like if it was pre-programmed to do certain things and to think a certain way.

We can look at various brains and they all have more or less the same shape, the same characteristics. So physically brains are all the same. Now when it comes to the mind, some people say that everyone is different, that everyone thinks differently from the rest and no two persons are alike. I think this may be true until some level. Everyone has different tastes and likes but there are certain problems in our mind that I believe most humans share, like if the mind is programmed to be a certain way. You can see this in Gödel, Escher, Bach, On dialogue, Copernican Revolution and Difficult Conversations.

Gödel, Escher, Bach mentions the following. “Are there highly repetitious situations which occur in our lives time and time again, and which we handle in the identical stupid way each time, because we don't have enough of an overview to perceive their sameness.” (Chapter 18) Just as a program, our minds cant step out of themselves to see what is really happening, like a program who never gets tired of adding and can go on forever. Also this has happened to me, and I have seen it happen to other people, so its like a whole bunch of people are programmed to think this way. This might also explain many of the things that happen in Difficult Conversations. GEB also mentions that many of the symbols are universal in every humans network (Chapter 12).

If everyone thinks differently, then how can there exist books like Difficult Conversations and On Dialogue, which talk about certain problems that they assume happen to most people. If we didn't think in certain occasions the same, these books wouldn't generalize the problems.

Its interesting to consider in On Dialogue, how mostly everyone moved from participatory thought to literal thought. Its like if it was all programmed to happen, to see the different outcomes that could come from it. Also the way that sometimes people like to look up to a leader.

We all have, at some point, more or less the same identity issues mentioned in Difficult Conversations. And also people have an instinct to blame others for things.

Also in The Copernican Revolution, how is it that mostly everybody liked to stick to one theory and had a hard time accepting another. Its like if everyone just follows what some big guy says, until new evidence is found. Which was what happened with Copernicus, Brahe and Kepler.

These are just but few of the examples that are mentioned in the books, where many more of these could be found.

After reading chapter 5 of The Fire in the Equations one can really start thinking about questions such as: are we a program of God? What if God just created a program to let us choose freely but at the end only let the ones that resemble his ideal survive?

This former question could be true if you consider humans as systems that are already programmed to do certain things. We can consider Kitty Ferguson’s basic ingredients for a system to adjust itself, in order for this theory to thrive.

1. It has to have the ability of something to make copies of itself.
2. Replicators must make occasional mistakes when copying themselves.
3. Something about the replicators has to have an influence over how likely they are replicated.

Lets consider these one by one.

Human beings do have an ability to make copies of themselves. Maybe not exact copies but they do have kids, and at the end the kids have their DNA, which means that they are 50% a copy of someone. Or we can take into consideration just the basic process of the replication of DNA inside our own bodies. (This can be read more deeply in Chapter 16 of GEB).

Replicators do make occasional mistakes when copying themselves. Sometimes there are human beings with problems, and this is sometimes do to mistakes in their genetic code or in the process of creating a human.

And for the third one, what else could it be than something that is already programmed? Or that someone programmed it that way.

All of what was mentioned above are just but ideas that at the end could be true, or could not. It is nothing more than a speculation But I believe it is an interesting idea to think that we are just programs with some greater purpose.