

The solution of the 7 (12)

November 4th, 2024, Topanga CA

Summarized by Rebecca Panian



On November 4th, seven randomly united humans came together to solve the following problem:

How can we use AI to make our lives better not worse?

BIGGEST CONCERNS

Job-loss: If AI takes over more and more jobs, how can people survive if there are no more jobs to earn a living?

How can we evolve with AI?

The safety-question: How can we control AI? Can we control it?

How can or should we govern AI?

As a public, how do we steer and govern what happens with AI?

SELECTION OF REMARKS & QUESTIONS

"If AI can't help us accomplish that (to cover universal basic needs for all) then we don't need it. If it's just going to make things worse on a material level for a large number of people, AI sucks." (min. 32:52, part 1)

The **incentives** (for companies) right now are **entirely fiscal**. "Their shareholders (focus on) more profit, more sales. Their executives are only compensated for more profit, more sales. They're not rewarded for anything else. Until the incentives change (for ex. less pollution) there is no way to steer them differently. So, the governance question kicks in pretty early on. How are we going to get this mega machine – that controls both parties – to shift gears really depends on getting people involved in some kind of governance thing to say, 'we want to have a say in what happens with this'." (min. 27:46, part 1)

"The **cost of meeting people's basic needs should go down with AI**. And then it seems more of a wealth distribution problem. So, if there's all this economic abundance created by AI how do we make sure it comes back to the people?" (min. 24:43, part 1)

"The first question is: **how can we make sure that everybody's basic needs are met?** And then there is the additional question: **what other problems need to get solved once that basic needs are met?**" (min 24:03, part 1)

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“The positive things I see regarding UBI and AI: people would have **more time on their hands to do good things**, maybe to help others or to be more creative.” (min. 22:37, part 1)

Concern about UBI: isn't that communism?

“I don't think that UBI equates to communism, where everybody has the same resources. UBI is more of a social safety net, where there is a certain standard where no one falls below in society.” (min. 25:43, part 1)

“If people don't have to worry about money at all, what is a **collective purpose we could** move humanity forward? In a world where we aren't just trying to survive?” (min. 28:28, Part 2)

“What **educational systems** would need to be put in place to prepare humans to have meaning, connection and belonging?” (min 22:10, part 1)

How can we use AI to discover people who are truly good to represent people (instead of today's politicians)? (min. 18:25, part 2)

SOLUTION (based on transcript)

We present **UTOP-AI**.

We are going to the year 2040.

We have the best AI that solves all of humanity's problems.

In this world, no one works for a living. **Everyone's basic needs are met** because AI has driven down the cost of physical goods and the cost of food.

And we have social systems that redistribute wealth to cover the basic needs.

That means a lot of time is now freed up for people to create. But in order for people to not just goofing off, we need to **reform our education system**.

So, in the year 2040, the education system is kind of **like daycare**, where you're basically spending time trying things and you're getting facilitated help with figuring out how do I do those things as a creator instead of just a consumer?

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And **you're learning what you actually really gravitate toward.** So, education is more experimental and creative.

In a world where people have their basic needs met and they know what their passion is, the next question is: **What do people do with their time?**

Now there'll be some people who just naturally want to be creative and make art and find ways to engage, but other people are going to need a little bit more help.

Part of how we're going to help them is having a good education system. But part of what we need to do is also finding new creative ways to use our time and energy in creating like public works and doing things on the planet. So, for example, we could build new cities that are imaginative and cool and futuristic and sustainable and regenerative and all that.

Most of the planet, we don't have anyone there. So, it's a really cool opportunity to use AI to maybe terraform the Sahara Desert and make a floating city. There. I don't know a lot of cool things we can do once we've freed up our time.

Or imagine a world where we could actually create enclaves where it's almost like a Jedi academy, where you're just going to meditate and do clairvoyance and learn how to channel your prayer sessions and train and just become a person who's really explore themselves.

It could also help with exploring the cosmos, where we're spending a lot of our time just exploring and building on other planets that we currently haven't even been to, or maybe haven't even explored.

This is an **overview** of some of the ways that people can use their time.

Part of the problem with AI in the year 2024 is that it's pretty much all privatized. So, companies build these large language models, which are not really coded to the values that we have collectively. And in fact, there's actually not even a forum for people to give input on what the collective problems and values are.

So in this world – in the year 2040 – where people don't have to work for a living anymore and they have plenty of time, we can have a lot more civic engagement.

And we can do this at the Federal, the state and local level. Imagine every month there's a committee (for ex. here in Topanga) on being in harmony with nature or having our heart connected to the values of the heart of AI or economic distribution or any other things that actually go into the making of society.

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We could do that by having AI execute solutions, but us identify what the values are and what our priorities are, rather than what's happening right now, which is like the government's playing catch up with AI.

There are not any real **guardrails** on AI. It's not really being coded with the values of all people. And in fact, these developers probably don't even know what the collective values that we should be cutting the AI according to are.

This gives us an opportunity to have a public forum that doesn't just exist, because obviously we have these public forums and committees right now, but it's fully participated in and then the last piece: **government basically can be a lot more efficient** because if we think of what government is right now, it's like over 400 agencies alone in the US. And no one really knows where the money goes.

A lot of this stuff that is the bureaucrats are currently doing, we can just give to AI, so long as it knows what the priorities actually are.

So, since the basic needs are met, and people know what they are passionate about, we have collective projects like building cities and exploring the cosmos as well as individual explorations, and we transform the way that the public actually engages with its own governance by creating spaces for city engagement, like committees, and allowing people to do higher levels of participation because they don't have to work for that anymore.

Let's get there.

Sincerely, the 7.