

## Challenges of the Modern Civilization

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All those who live on milk lack the experience to talk about what is right. They are still babies. However, solid food is for mature people, whose minds are trained by practice to know the difference between good and evil. Hebrews 5:13-14 GOD'S WORD For ages philosophers wonder about the fundamental difference between a human being and an animal. In another words, how rational creatures differ from nonrational? "I am able to think, so I'm a rational creature; an animal is unable to think, so it is a nonrational creature", a person can exclaim proudly. Of course, no arguing about that. Not to mention that human being is able to speak, too. Yet, sometimes human beings act as if they are completely non-rational. Oh yes, it happens. Great Nikola Tesla said: "Man, like the universe, is a machine". And program failures occur to the machines doesn't them? So, how a rational creature i.e. Homo sapiens, differs from a non-rational creature? It is an existence of the second signaling system. What is this feature, which turns us into intelligent animals? Second signaling system is the unique form of higher nervous activity peculiar to human beings; a system of speech signals (pronounceable, audible and visible).

An animal's brain reacts only to direct visual, acoustic, and other stimuli or their traces; and the resulting sensations constitute the first signaling system [1]. A human being, however, possesses in addition to the first signaling system, the ability to generalize countless signals using words. So, the second signaling system allows us to give names to our sensations, then to connect these names into a coherent sentence. For example, an ailing person says "I feel unwell" and takes a medicine. An animal is unable either to express itself or to take a medicine. An animal is unable to give names (speech signals) to its sensations. It means, it is unable to think. It also feels pain, but is unable to express it by means of words. Let's define what moves the behavior of non-rational and rational creatures. The strongest behavioral motivation for both creatures is the fear of death, isn't it? Each and every living being is mortal. So, the worst fear of humans and animals is the same – death. We are so similar, but have one distinction which seems at first glance unimportant. The difference - people have their intellect to deal with their fears, while animals do not have. Instinct or innate behavior is the inherent inclination of a living organism towards a particular complex behavior. So, instinct is the managing program built in an animal by nature. No animal can overcome instinct, as opposed to human being. Human also cannot overpower fear/instinct completely; but fear not necessary prevents people from doing as they intend to. Yet, a human society from its' cornerstone is manipulated by this powerful instinct of fear. Look around, people - fear makes the foundation of our life. A newborn begins to fear instinctively with his first breath – oh no, he is non-rational yet; he is educated to be rational by our society. He is being brought up by carrot and stick approach, just like an animal in circus. At first our family brings us up, then the educational system etc., so our whole life we are being punished and rewarded in turn, and we are of a whip and happy to get a sweet cake. We bring our kids up in fear. We have been brought up in fear ourselves, and we continue this relay-race started long ago. After home upbringing this baton is being delivered to educational institutions, then to our workplaces; and to human society on a major scale. We are continued to be frightened and threatened to be punished. A person is being brought forcefully into a behavioral framework through fear and punishment - a tradition of generations. Let's take a walk from our home to the court of law. Just out of the door and throughout all the way we are being intimidated by various warning signboards promising various punishments for crossing the lines established by authorities i.e. society. This is prohibited, that is forbidden, this is not allowed, that is banned, and so on and so forth our every step. Finally, we have reached the court of law library and checked the criminal code [2]. Very interesting book it is, and exceptionally scary. Sanctions, penalties, sentence of imprisonment, life sentence, death sentence.

From each page fear is staring on us with a horrible smirk. You may say “This is how it should be”, and right you are, because it is the only way you know. The fear is a reverse side of punishment. This is how it works in our world - the fear of punishment prevents a person from committing a crime. Yes, an animal instinct-a fear. Every human being, for to exist, have to feed himself, and to have a shelter, exactly as an animal. An animal gets its food, using its natural abilities, the same way is for humans. In both cases fear for life is the motivation. An animal’s fear is adapted for his environment - wild nature. Animals do not dominate wild nature; they are only tenants in the house of this not very welcoming hostess, so their instincts tell them to be afraid of their hostess [3]. Moreover, they are afraid of stronger neighbors, since an animal is a link in a food chain. Their purpose is to survive and to protect their posterity.

Humans, due to their intellect, are able to overcome the fear of mother-nature, having established their own environment, where they can dismiss their fears and relax. But alas, it turned out not as simple as it sounds. Humans, already not animals, have succeeded to overcome one powerful instinct - taboo to kill their own kind. And a human created his own “scarecrows” just like an animal, but adapted for his environment, for the same purpose: to survive and to protect his family - from both strangers and his own kind. So clever human picked all these fears together and modified them slightly – that’s how appeared gods and religion, a quintessence of human fears.

Religion (lat. religare means reunite) is a cultural system of behaviors and practices, world views, sacred texts, holy places, ethics, and societal organization that relate humanity to "an order of existence", as anthropologists call it.

Human gave a name to hostess-nature and created her image - image of a judge. He created religious laws describing what was allowed and what was forbidden. In case of being guilty, doing something forbidden, human was expected to be judged strictly by gods. Bright human always knew how to find a connection between his deeds and god’s wrath. But even religion has proved to be not enough, and not always effective – gods will punish or not, who knows? And then smart human understood that except the fear of god, he needed the additional fearful tools to manage his community, quite animal- like. He could not find other control levers. The fear that helped him managing his community was based on his physical and mental advantages - his strength, dexterity and experience, quite animal-like. Afterwards, purposed to be more effective, he developed a formula of the authority, he transformed his strength, dexterity and experience into the authority.

Authority is one’s ability to impose his own will, to control activity and behavior of other people, even contrary to their intentions. People began to fear the authority. Why? Their superiors are not different from them: they do not eat people (that is in the past), are not stronger physically (that is in the past, too), have the same mental abilities. Then why, what are they afraid of? The authority has the puissance to leave a person without his livelihood, thus threatening his very existence. There are two types of authority-physical force and money power (the power of things). Authority of physical force is meant to protect people - their lives, their property - from external and internal enemies; this type of authority is called a state. For to protect its citizens, a state creates economic levers, army and police. The main weapon of these three main tools of authority is a fear. Remember the criminal code?

The power of things is the private property power. Private property is a legal designation for the ownership of property by non- governmental legal entities. Private property is distinguishable from public property, which is owned by a state entity; and from collective (or cooperative) property, which is owned by a group of non- governmental entities. Private property is further distinguished from personal property, which refers to property for personal use and consumption. Private property is a legal concept defined and enforced by a state's political system. Every person earns his livelihood in the honest or dishonest way. The honest way is labor, creating something. The dishonest way is to take away from another person the fruits of his labor. In both cases, a person receives an

equivalent, which he can exchange for things he needs for his own existence. In our society not everyone owns the tools necessary to create, i.e. to work. So an owner of the tools can command another person, who has no tools: "I let you use my tools if you work for me" - this is the power of things. A power is a pure sublimation of fear; a power and a fear are actually the same.

One person motivates another to work for him by means of fear - the fear of hunger. A state motivates a person to behave in a certain way by means of fear - the fear of punishment. A fear can stop an animal in 99/100 cases. One case for to overcome it's fear is only when there is yet bigger fear. A human is able to overcome almost any fear thanks to his mental abilities; he has just to activate them! However, all around us, as well as our mentality, is based on fear. Imagine what could happen if human's fear has gone, but he hadn't got any other restrictions! We are not "trained to know the difference between good and evil", because only our fear instinct has been activated so far.

Finally we approach an answer to our question "How human beings differ from animals?". Earlier I mentioned that the second signaling system distinguishes a human from an animal, but unfortunately, this answer is lacking something [4]. A living creature, even such highly organized as we are, remains only an animal if he does not use his mind power, does not "switch the brain". You possessing an auto do not mean you can drive it, right? The building of human civilization is based on fear. Fear dominates us, being our main motivator. Fear, fear and once again fear... Where is our ability to comprehend, not to be afraid, but "to be like God, knowing good and evil"? Who are we? Humankind has learned to solve super difficult mathematical equations, to compose wonderful music, to construct space crafts. Yes, we are not animals anymore, but not TRUE HUMAN BEINGS yet, we are somewhere on our way. In order to finish this journey we have to stop being afraid, free our mind and really start to think deep. It is quite a process we have "to be trained by practice", and not easy is it. So much more simply to a person to live in fear, so much less problems... Browsing Internet I've come across one funny question "How to name a person who is able to achieve but does not want to?" and two cute answers "a scoundrel" and "a sluggard". Make your choice, man.

### References

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