Thought BYTE

CONNECT M3

Just What Makes Us Stupid?

TB-6455A

and another question – how many stupid people do we now encounter?

1 I came upon a really interesting video recently talking about stupid people. I found it indeed illuminating – although, I confess to having a key reservation. A reservation not about the analysis – that's perfect - but rather, the label.

The label problem isn't really an issue – but personally, I'd change the label. An underlying question for me and so many others is this. Why do people appear to act stupid? It has made no sense to me or to many others who exercise a critical review of their behaviour. Some people seem to act stupid in the face of so much – that being, logic, evidence and proven fact.



2 The above caption - reading *"I Annoy Stupid People"* - actually describes my own experience, or experiences. I have found it a real puzzle to understand why some people – thankfully not all – have this safe-proof lock on their own logic and beliefs. I say this, meaning that so many of us have what I can only describe as a closed mind to other possibilities. Their door is closed on the matter – *their ship's sailed* – as one person said to me recently. That was a reference to the idea that – despite the total absence of debate and any form of intelligent questioning – the minds of those I sat with at a meeting on Climate Issues, were made up. No further discussion allowed. The idea of there being a small crack in the door-jamb where someone could squeeze through to raise a point, not previously known about, was not going to be allowed. The minds were set – and that's it and all about it!

That meeting was not the first I'd been to with this particular group – setting the tone on local 'greening' topics - but it will have been the last.

3 It will have been my last, since life is short as we know and we can all waste an inordinate amount of time barking up the wrong trees. Some people are just immovable – they have made up their minds and will, almost literally, defend their belief and suspect arguments to the death. It is totally extraordinary and incomprehensible to me – as it is to others.

A colleague of mine wrote an article on this subject, which sought to make a distinction between the different people-types seen to exist currently. It was essentially based on the Covid story, but its relevance is universal. It's titled ***"What Is Your Position In Bed?"*** [**3a**].

Yes, the title is attention grabbing – but is a ploy and thus not what you think. The word 'BED' is an acronym, where:
B = Believer 'E' = Explorer 'D' = Decider

Personally, I'm an '**Explorer**', meaning I am always exploring for the truth – and prepared to have my view of the world shattered by it. After all, truth is truth and I'd rather know – than live happily deluded in someone else's world.

In recent times, many have become '**Deciders**', because they have begun to see, that what we are all given to digest by the different governments around the world – dutifully aided by great swathes of the Mainstream Media – is not entirely truthful. These people are joining the Explorers and starting to question the things they are no longer sure of. These 'Deciders' will make the difference for everyone – they'll tip the balance on the scales and move the weight needed to positively change our current direction of travel.

The problem people – if I might label them that - are the '**Believers**'. The 'Believers' will not play a part in making that positive change and will only help to enforce the current direction of travel. They believe everything the 'higher authority' – as they perceive it to be – tells them to believe. They receive someone else's view of the world without debate or questioning. 'Believers' have total acceptance of someone else's truth. One feels that many of that type will actually defend someone else's truth to the death. It is nonsensical to many and represents a behaviour which – on the face of it – is not only illogical but the opposite of intelligent.

4 But here's a thing. These 'Believers' – illogical as they appear to be – are not necessarily unintelligent. In fact, there is abundant evidence which confirms that many of these people-types are, on the contrary, very intelligent. In fact, many are clearly well above average intelligence – which seems odd indeed. They include doctors, scientists and a host of highly qualified specialists in their own particular fields of work.

And here is where I have to introduce the video I came to recently. It nails it. The video explains what's really going on with these 'Believers'. It is not that they can't think or that they cannot understand what people share with them. These people are often bright – very bright in fact as I've said. These people have been labelled 'Stupid' – in the video - because they, in effect, surrender their intelligence. But to what exactly and why?

Well, the '*what*' is the narrative they've been told by that higher authority. And they do this because – to take on board a different narrative and what is to them a challenging truth, would force them to admit something about themselves. Something about the world – something about the lies they have been living inside. Instead of facing that very personal discomfort, they choose something easier. They choose to ignore it – they choose stupidity.

With some 'Believers' I've conversed with on hot topics – topics like, Climate Issues, Covid, MRNA Vaccines, 9/11, to name a few examples, including revelations about government lies and misinformation generally - the reactions observed rarely differ. First, a look of puzzlement comes over their face. Often followed by that look of discomfort - and worse still – annoyance and even anger. The look of anger, I did experience at the Climate Issues meeting I mentioned earlier. It was as if I had been found out – I was not one of them. I was not a cult member and therefore was a threat to the cult. The reaction from my standpoint and that of my fellow and friendly attendee, was extraordinary to witness. Particularly, given the placid and respectful words I chose to use – believing the idea of suggesting a debate on the subject would test their obvious chosen beliefs.

And this is the takeaway I've come to about these situations – perhaps one we should all come to when we encounter such people-types. It's simply this. Button it - and walk away, perhaps shaking hands in a polite parting gesture. It is a complete waste of time to engage further with these *stupid people* – for reasons I have explained and are so well described in a concise **10min** video.

WHY ARE SOME PEOPLE STUPID? | Bonhoeffer's Theory [**4a**]

Dietrich Bonhoeffer [**4b**] – a German theologian who was executed by mistake just before WWII ended - is a most interesting icon of history and warrants being looked up and further understood. It was he who labelled 'Stupid', the behaviour of people that he determined were challenged due to experiencing mental blocks. Such blocks prevent them thinking critically and acting independently. Such mental blocks become particularly dangerous in situations of peer pressure and the abuse of power - when individuals surrender their responsibility to authority or to the majority. We can all witness this in action and recognise propaganda, fear and ideology being promoted within the population. We all saw the effect of this during the Covid era – and since, connected with other headline subjects?

5 Before leaving this topic of *stupidity*, I cannot help but give mention to a trend that many people have come to know as Ai. For me, this is a most scary topic indeed and one where the inherent dangers are not in the least understood - but for a small minority and I mean a very, very small minority of people.

Ai is being driven by two significant forces in the world - as I see them.
The first force is the Tech companies who are pursuing the tech with more vigour than anything I can think of in history. Money and Profit are their single motives and this very feature underlines this next belief. The time is ripe now to completely reassess society's approach to Money and Profit.

Yes, free enterprise and commercialism have got us to where we are today. But… for all the developments one can think of – great modern cities, ships, planes and fast trains and of course, those wonderfully quiet and '*green'* electric cars - we still don't produce enough good food and clean water for everyone and our hospital wards and corridors are all full. What has been incredibly successful though, is filling the pockets of all the Power Rich Class with unimaginable wealth – supported by their tribes of investors and key politicians. This fact alone should be enough to change society's direction.

The second force - which in part is driven by the first - is the thirst which politicians have for the ever-increasing surveillance of the very people they exist to serve. It's as if these same politicians have reason to be frightened of those very same people – whilst assuring us all the time that documentation of people's movements and their identity, is just for everyone's safety and convenience. Hmm, who actually believes that?

But the question is – where is this model leading us all to?
Leaving aside the above two forces, I'd say that it's leading to just more stupidity – now perhaps on a truly massive scale. We are a short step away from masses of people simply turning to Ai for all advice and commentary. Anyone who has engaged in conversation with Ai, will have been amazed at the ability of the thing. And it is a thing – not a living being – just a thing!
A seemingly clever thing – and just too clever a thing for many of us.

People will be giving up thinking, debating and conversing with another living being – in favour of conversing with a thing that knows so much more and speaks to us like a friend. Not all living beings speak to us like a friend. Some get annoyed, some even get angry. These things don't do that – or not yet. Couple this nice, friendly thing with its 'all-knowing' ability, with a link to someone's agenda and the next problem comes into focus. Ai makes it even easier to influence people's thinking on any subject. People stop thinking critically – if they ever did – and if they need to question anything, a programmed Ai will give them the answer they are meant to receive.

Critical Thinking is currently under threat. It will die unless we practise it.
Take a look at **THE STUPID GENERATION** [**5a**]

6 So, what's the cure for this 'stupidity' problem? Well, I feel confident in my stance on this point and will happily share my thoughts with you right here. Frankly, I've absolutely no idea! Except for two suggestions I will close on.

They being;
First – what and how we teach our children in school. Critical thinking and freedom to challenge views and express them without restriction, being the starting places for the Change we, as a society, need – and right now will do.
Second – put an end to propaganda, fear and misplaced ideology. Not in the least easy to achieve - requiring strategy and a good many people engaged in helping to bring it about - via a complete change in the political system.

The pathway forward here is partly lighted by one true fact of life – which is.

To change something – irrespective of how big and ugly it may appear – is first to see it in the flesh and then recognise it for what it is.
Then Change can happen – if enough people will it. So, will *you* will it?

So, that's my current thinking and opinion on this subject today –
but I wonder - what are your thoughts – let's say your critical thoughts?
My thought right now – is to leave in place, that label marked 'stupid'.

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3a **CONNECT M3:** What Is Your Position In Bed? : TB-5035A

4a **PSYPHOS:** WHY ARE SOME PEOPLE STUPID? : AV-6443Q

4b **THE INCREDBLE JOURNEY:** Dietrich Bonhoeffer : AF-6443S

5a **PHILO NAUTICA:** THE STUPID GENERATION : AV-6444E

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