

Partial communication: The trappings of modern communication networks and why they aren't satisfying.

Originally this article was going to be about how irritating I found the social-media trend that is occurring, but then I realized that this is really an inevitability of what has become a partial-communication rather than natural-communication.

When did this start? Well if we go back a few hundred years, communication was what would now be considered “primitive”, consisting of hand-written notes. These messages could be carried by pigeon or other homing birds over long distances. The passing of messages from smoke signals to instant messaging has been done by humans from the beginning. However as time has gone on increasing distances can be covered and more and more immediate is the information one wants, or doesn't want, to get. In a sense distance has seemingly been reduced, but as with all balancing processes this comes with a significant counter-balance.

While communication seems to be “better” than ever before and people are “connected” more than they ever were, there is a constant unsettling and ever stronger feeling of separateness. Just as with listening to live music versus recorded music, listening to analogue sound rather than digital... everything appears to be “better” but this “better” often means being split up into smaller and smaller fragments.

Before language came into existence and the processes of human civilization were being formed, the requirement for communication as a thing where “I” and “you” as separate was completely unknown. Therefore the nature of communication was spontaneous and could only be a full-body expression. In a sense communication was not about two, it was spontaneous sound or expression for no reason, just as a part of life happening, just as it is and has always been with animals in the wild. This kind of “communication” was never mistaken, it couldn't be lost in the post or that its interpretation meant that a war was begun, it was direct communication which used the whole expression of a person. In many countries gesticulations of the hands and the body are the key ways that nuances of communication are still expressed, yet as we move further and further towards mechanical communications, from the telephone to email to social-networking sites, we increasingly lose touch with this basic connection.

Sure, we can “make do”, we can use the technology to form a virtual world where it might be possible to respond “as if” one was in reality sufficiently to actually believe it, as expressed in such films as “The Matrix” or “Total Recall”, however these express something which is a growing concern for humans, that they are living a life so deeply interwoven with and dependent upon technology that they are armouring and separating themselves from each other in between layers of industrial glass and metal.

The nature of true communication is not about those methods we use today, but is something that engages the 5-senses at once. We need to see, smell, hear and touch what we are engaging with, for it to be real we need to be engaging with the whole human expression. Of course the distance-healing and telepathic connection that humans have seem very extra-ordinary, but actually these expressions are really primal and ordinary functions of the human energy-field which is in connection with

everything. The more reliance there is on technology means the more the human being's body becomes weakened as it is not expressing, it is just passive. The truth of communication is not just one sense or the other but everything altogether.

There is a strong belief that science "advances" our abilities but in actual fact the whole nature of communication and technological advance is the complete opposite of a benefit. We believe that instant communication is "good" and ancient methods are primitive which equate to "bad". Masanobu Fukuoka, the farmer, has this to say about technological development and science in his classic work: [The One Straw Revolution](#):-

"How is it that people think science is beneficial to humanity? Originally grain was ground into flour in this village by a stone mill, which was turned slowly by hand. Then a watermill, which had incomparably greater momentum than the old stone grinder, was built to utilize the power of the river current. Several years ago a dam was constructed to produce hydroelectric power and an electrically powered mill was built.

How do you think this advanced machinery works to the benefit of human beings? In order to grind rice flour, it is first polished - that is, made into white rice. This means husking the grain, removing the germ and the bran, which are the basis of good health, and keeping the leftovers. And so the result of this technology is the breaking down of the whole grain into incomplete by-products. If the too-easily digestible white rice becomes the daily staple, the diet lacks nutrients and dietary supplements become necessary. The water wheel and the milling factory are doing the work of the stomach and the intestines, and their consequence is to make these organs lazy."

While Fukuoka's statement is about rice, still it has the same truth in the expression of communications. When we "refine" communications and take away its "germ and bran" then we make it into a fast-food, something that does not give full satisfaction or nutrition.

Another statement from the brilliant film by Tarkovsky: *Solaris* (1972); in a suggested offering of a toast to science, the Physicist speaks:

*To Science! It's a Fraud!
No one will resolve this problem, neither genius, nor idiot!
We have no ambition to conquer any cosmos
We just want to extend earth up to the cosmos's borders
We don't want any more worlds
Only a mirror to see our own in
We try so hard to make contact, but we're doomed to failure
We look ridiculous perusing a goal we fear
And that we really don't need.
Human needs human!*

Communication in real terms occurs where there is no separation between a "you" and a "me", this isn't so much a sensed realization as that which goes beyond sense

and is literally a “communion”. When communication once again is about communion, meaning Oneness, then what we find is that everything localizes, there is no need for long distance communication, people start finding their connections and “real” community is the literal locality of where they are. This is then realized to be all there is. The virtual and partial communication world of emails, text messages and video-conferencing, slowly becomes seen for the fast-food it is, and there is a movement to something else. Fukuoka continues:-

“The more people do, the more society develops, the more problems arise. The increasing desolation of nature, the exhaustion of resources, the uneasiness and disintegration of the human spirit, all have been brought about by humanity’s trying to accomplish something. Originally there was no reason to progress, and nothing that had to be done. We have come to a point at which there is no other way than to bring about a “moment” not to bring anything about.”

...and lastly from the Tao Te Ching:-

Chapter 80:

Reduce the size of the population of the state/country.

Though there are machines of war that have ten or a hundred times more energy than a single human, they are not needed.

The people will be reluctant to travel long distances without reason, for they have no requirement to.

Even if they have ships and carts, they will have no use for them, weapons and armour have no occasion to be worn.

One day people might return to the use of knotting strings and hand-weaving

They will relish in their food

And in the beauty of their simple clothes

And will be content in their simple abode

And happy in the simplicity of Natural existence.

Though neighbouring states/countries are within the sight of one another

And the sound of dogs barking and cocks crowing in one state/country can be heard in another

Yet the people of the one state/country might grow old and die without having had any dealings with those of another.

David Nassim

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