

ENTERTAINMENT + EDUCATION

VIEW AS
TRANSCRIPT

RESTREAM
THIS IS
HISTORICAL CONTEXT
WITH HOST ALVIN LEE #844

EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH
HISTORIAN/ PHILOSOPHER AKIHITO
MORI.
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[CONTINUED]

MORI: "... economy was simply in no position to recover. It was the perfect storm for the assimilation of the United States, as it was called back then, Europe, Africa and the rest of Asia into the new China territories. This, of course, was then renamed New Asia in 2050.

LEE: I want to get back to this discussion of religion. It was at this time we saw the formal cleansing, if you will, of religious thought from any kind of serious influence in the public square.

MORI: Yes, but historically, it took another 20 years, for science to defeat death, and this was a major turning point. There were three things really: science conquering death, the strong atheistic views of the Lights, who became the reigning political force around that period, and the religious extremism and the terrorism that led to the Swarm Wars. The millions of deaths and the widespread devastation throughout the Middle East and Europe, made many see religion as, well, simply dangerous. When the smoke cleared the prevailing sentiment was to close the congregating sites, churches, mosques, temples...

LEE: And here it is, a hot topic again. To what do you attribute the resurgence from some thinkers, even in government, about relaxing the laws against religious expression?

MORI: You know, Alvin, I predicted this. Our current system is based on the New Asia Protocols. The law. The law revolves around the central issue that morality is purely an individual idea, but as we have designed into our synthetic friends, there must be rules so that the rights of others are not transgressed. We are free as citizens to do virtually anything we wish as long as it does not harm another human - unless, of course, there is consent. What we have done then, is develop a whole new baseline for what is considered perverse or deviant. There are no limits. Things once thought to be the most heinous and horrifying can be lived out with impunity in the virtual realm. You've heard me say this before; humans have a propensity for evil. Look at the size of our police force. That's not something we have been able to fix genetically or technologically and the virtual realm ends up being unfulfilling. We are exhausted of pleasure.

LEE: Aki, the question was about religion.

MORI: And I'm getting there Alvin. So while we, as a society, have escaped the scourge of death and the implied judgments--on the other side--we can't seem to escape our conscience. And the virtual world is insufficient to fulfill our need for transcendence. Perhaps in this there is a way for both science and transcendent thinking to coexist.

LEE: Going back to the idea of a God is very controversial.

MORI: Yes, but remember, the idea hasn't gone away; we've just ignored it for a hundred years. Our government has the best interests of our citizens at heart. They have done everything in their power to make laws that address human needs, but ultimately they have left it up to our own moral ambiguity. I think many are finding that making determinations based on moral ambiguity is not the best approach. Legislating is one thing. A moral compass is something else.

LEE: Any final comments?

MORI: At the heart of it, we're dealing with meaninglessness, Alvin. We perfected the physical body nearly 50 years ago. We adjust our chems for every stress or pleasure, we escape into the "V" when we want to dabble in the illegal or perverse, and we erase all the bad memories. The problem that many of the psycho avatars are discovering is that we're still not happy. Perhaps we need the struggle, even pain and sadness. And though we don't like to talk about it, the suicide rate would seem to indicate that death might be coming back into vogue, as well.

LEE: Thank you Aki. Controversial as always.

END TRANSCRIPT

NEWS AND VIEWS

VIEW AS
TRANSCRIPT

RESTREAM
THIS IS IN-FEED
WITH HOST BLYNN MAIZE
05.30.2159

EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH
SYNTHETIC CREATOR - DR. SEAN
COLBERT
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[CONTINUED]

COLBERT: Designers too often look at the world as a problem to be solved. Sometimes it's a condition inherent to the species, and conditions are very complex, multifaceted, chaotic, and interdependent networks. By nature they are unpredictable. In many ways the synthetics I create are far superior to humans. For all our advancements humans still have the propensity for making dumb decisions. We legalized

everything, as long as it's consensual. But that's not enough. For some, that's not enough. It's why we haven't been able to conquer crime or poverty.

MAIZE: The T-Class will solve that?

COLBERT: Probably not. Perhaps it will put a dent in capital crimes. T-Class have 99.375 percent accuracy in determining guilt. They can see into the memories through a simple touch connection, and they... know.

MAIZE: What about the percentage, however small, that they could be wrong?

COLBERT: We realize that it's controversial. That's why I've been pushing hard for pseudo-conscience, and ethics protocols that will enable T-Class synthetics to make judgment calls?

MAIZE: Morality in synthetics, don't you think that's a stretch? There's no morality in humans.

COLBERT: I think you're being a little harsh on us, Blynn. Not everyone lives a crazed second life in the V.

MAIZE: Well, you're much smarter than I am but you're still only 18. I'm joking, of course. You're not only a genius but you're actually quite mature, Sean I can see that. But we're almost out of time. What about privacy? If these new T-Class synths can see into my mind, and break through my conscious or subconscious light gates, where will it stop?

COLBERT: More controversy. This illustrates precisely what we were talking about though. A synth detective that can quickly extinguish an unquestionably evil perpetrator, on the surface, presents a discernible "greater good." This is highly sensitive, proprietary technology, and yes, the first authorized technology that can slip through our encrypted brain gates and access our memories, both latent and long term. Will this technology trickle down to the unprincipled? Yes, it's possible someone will want this technology for illicit purposes.

MAIZE: But that's frightening. One touch and it knows everything about me.

COLBERT: But it's still a synth. It makes no judgements. Unless, of course you've killed someone. [laughs]

MAIZE: They may as well be human.

COLBERT: But they are not. Sometimes it seems almost sad to me that they have no soul, but then they also don't have our fallen nature.

MAIZE: It seems we just keep running into ourselves, don't we?

COLBERT: It certainly seems that way.

END TRANSCRIPT