

consideration and care that goes beyond the administration of justice that we have experienced in modernity.

The Tragedy of the Global Commons

Without question, reason has enabled us to achieve many remarkable feats. However, the powers it develops cannot be divorced from the responsibilities that are their necessary corollary. In my view, the fulfilment in psycho-neurological terms of the present potential of the human brain—if realized without the ethic of care—will lead to dire consequences.

The problem can be posed this way: we human beings have used our innate intelligence to attain a level of knowledge that now enables us to act upon our environment to an extent that the consequences of those actions are often beyond our ability to control. From the standpoint of our species, enterprises such as the development of our informatics capacities or artificial intelligence research are intended to make up for this phylogenetic shortfall, for no one knows when we will be biologically “caught up” in this regard. In other words, as human beings, we have “evolved” so much that we can now cause serious problems that we are manifestly unable to solve (at least, at the moment).

For example, we can spill millions of litres of oil into the sea but we are relatively impotent or inefficient when it comes to repairing the damage. We are producing more food, but cannot prevent one part of the world from suffering from famine and the other from obesity, cholesterol-related cardiovascular disease, and so forth. We have refined water treatment technologies, but one part of the world still lives in drought zones while another wastes water without even thinking about it while brushing their teeth, preparing food or maintaining a golf course in a desert.

We can now intervene on the genetic code, and are even preparing for bioengineering that targets nothing less than the whole of the human genome, but we know almost nothing about the consequences of the transformations that might flow from such interventions. We have been able to create formidable