Ethics for the Cyber World!

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Abstract :

Technology has enabled human race to modern living and associated benefits. Technological progress will continue and endow humanity with unprecedented power which will give rise to tremendous opportunities and risks. Since the advent of INTERNET, a set of crimes called Cyber Crimes have emerged. Governments around the world and religious institutions have not been able to update the laws on proactive basis to counter cybercrimes. This has led to grown up individuals using internet technology on their understanding of whether they are crossing the line in making ETHICAL and UNETHICAL decisions while children and teenagers lack similar understanding and may stumble into cybercrimes. In this context Pope Francis, head of Catholic religion cleared the way for a young boy named Carlo Acutis born in 1991 and died aged 15 in 2006 to become a saint of Catholic Church. This article creates awareness of Cyber Crimes and of many users of internet especially the younger generation and teenagers stumbling into cybercrimes by mistake as they cross the line of ETHICAL and UNETHICAL decisions in the absence of formal laws. An example of Carlos Acutis "Patron Saint of the INTERNET" is used to demonstrate that in a world full of distractions it is still possible to find the right way for all age groups irrespective of their religion or nationality..

Introduction

One of the greatest achievements of humanity is the discovery and continuous development of technology. Technology is defined as processes and products in which scientific and engineering knowledge find economic application. A classic example is the process of nuclear fission reaction that produces a large amount of energy output. This energy output can be used to generate

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cheap and clean power for our needs. The very same process can produce weapons of mass destruction referred to as atom bombs that can be used for total annihilation of human race.

Laws of God and Laws of Land

12,000 years ago, the human race was mostly living in farming societies in which each community made its own rules and practices for right and wrong. Around 5000 years ago early civilization became the way of life in which religion became a part. Religions such as Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam etc. emerged and religious guidelines for community living were formulated and termed as "laws of God". This was followed by the creation of nations separated with borders wherein each country made its laws termed as "laws of the land". In most of the democratic countries the Laws of God is subordinate to the laws of land. The laws of God based on the specific religion were communicated by the leaders and religious preachers leading to the terminology "EUANGELIZESTHAI" (Greek root of EVANGALIZE). Technological aids used were religious books, newspapers, radio & tv etc. These technological aids were controlled by the laws of land and access was possible to be restricted and violations of laws of land punishable by jail sentence, death by hanging etc.

In the 70's a teenager in the USA succeeded in building a nuclear reactor in his garage and sent an article on his innovation to POPULAR SCIENCE magazine for publication. This activity in nuclear science on private premises was against the laws of the land and as such was referred by the magazine to the security agency who confiscated and destroyed all copies of the magazine and stopped the work of the teenager. Fast forward to 2010 when an Australian journalist and publisher named Julian Assange published on INTERNET video footage of a U.S. Military helicopter in broad daylight shooting and killing 12 civilians including two press reporters in Baghdad. At that time there was no law of the land in Australia for uploading such activity on INTERNET despite which the journalist was charged with espionage. In the next 14 years three Presidents of USA, four Prime Ministers of Sweden, five Prime Ministers of UK and five Prime Minister of Australia (excluding the current Prime Minister) engaged in actions/decisions which crossed the line in making ethical and unethical decisions resulting in journalist Julian Assange forced to seek sanctuary in the Ecuadorian embassy in London for seven years and imprisonment in UK for over 5 years.

Ironically it was the behind the screen efforts of a low profile current Prime Minister of Australia (son of a single mother raised in housing commission apartment), current female foreign minister of Australia with Chinese background, current female US Ambassador of USA in Australia (only surviving member of an assassinated US President) and a republican 2024 US Presidential candidate of Indian descent to seek and succeed the release of the wrongfully jailed journalist Julian Assange who has now been nominated for the 2024 Nobel Peace prize. In a period of 14 years (2010-2024) heads of governments of USA, Sweden, UK & Australia failed in their own legislative

responsibility of governance to update their respective laws of the land to counter the use/misuse of INTERNET technology and resorted to unethical decisions/actions to cover a wrongful action by US armed forces against a journalist who undertook the ethical action of exposing the wrongful act on INTERNET as champion of free speech.

Unethical use of advanced technologies, and lack of appropriate Laws of Land

During the period 1990 to 2004 several notable technologies impacted global events for good and bad (due to unethical use). In 1991 the World Wide Web was launched revolutionizing global communication and paving the way for modern internet. During the period 1990 – 2003 the Human Genome Project was an international scientific endeavor aimed to sequence and map the entire human genome, significantly advancing our understanding of genetics and laying the foundation for personalized medicine. On 11 September 2001, terrorists used commercial airplanes to attack world trade Centre and Pentagon which had a profound impact on global politics, security and perception of terrorism. In 2004 FACEBOOK was launched resulting in a social networking platform that grew exponentially and transformed online social interactions worldwide.

Since the advent of INTERNET, a new set of crimes called as Cyber Crimes have been committed which were neither covered or termed as crime by the laws of land or laws of God. All digital devices including computers, tablets and smart phones are connected to the internet. These devices are used to commit cybercrimes which include account hacking, identity theft, credit card fraud, phishing, intellectual property theft, harassment, ransomware, prostitution, child pornography & solicitation, drug trafficking, spreading hate and inciting terrorism etc. The reach of cybercrime knows no physical boundaries. Criminals, victims, and technical infrastructure span worldwide. With the use of technology to exploit security vulnerabilities on both personal and enterprise level, cybercrime takes many shapes and are continuously evolving. In turn, the ability to effectively investigate, prosecute, and prevent cybercrimes is an ongoing fight with many dynamic challenges. Cybercrime poses a serious threat and can result in significant financial loss and damaged reputation.

Evangelisation of Technology to protect teenagers from becoming Cyber Criminals

The audio and video social interactions through the internet include good and bad products resulting in major issues especially for the younger generation and teenagers around the world. Many teens stumble into cybercrime by mistake as they cross the line between ethical and unethical. Teens who become cyber criminals often have a passion for, and expertise in, technology and misuse the technology expertise for activities such as crypto theft, sextortion tactics, swattings, ransomware etc. for fun and profit. The religious authorities were concerned on the impact of internet technologies on teenagers and a need was felt to adopt technology for evangelization especially to reach larger groups of younger generation and share the good news to enable vulnerable teenagers to follow the right ways and avoid the wrong

ones. In this context Pope Francis, head of the Catholic religion on 23 May 2024 recognized and cleared the way for a young boy named Carlo Acutis born in 1991 and died aged 15 years in 2006 to become a saint of Catholic church. A saint in Catholic religion is a person in heaven, officially canonized, who lived heroically virtuous lives, offered their life for others, or were martyred for the faith, and who are worthy of imitation. Intercession of the Saints is a Christian doctrine that maintains that saints can intercede for others. When a devotee prays to a saint, the devotee is asking that saint in heaven to intercede directly to God on behalf of the devotee with the understanding that all answered prayers and miracles come from the power of God, not the saints themselves. In the past 50 years the most known saints were Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Saint Pope John Paul. Carlo Acutis is the first person of the millennial generation to be canonized for sainthood and he used computers and his website for evangelization and called **"Patron saint of the Internet".**

Carlo Acutis was born on 03 May 1991 in London to a wealthy Italian merchant banker couple who returned to hometown of Milan later in 1991 and Carlo grew up as the only child of a wealthy family. Carlo was an incredibly smart young boy and went to a catholic school in Milan. Carlo's mother was astonished to discover that her son was reading biographies of saints and the Bible. At the age of seven Carlo desired to receive his first communion following which Carlo never missed attending daily mass, praying the rosary, or having a moment of adoration before the tabernacle. In many ways Carlo was a typical teenager. He loved to play soccer, video games, saxophone and animals. In addition to his fun hobbies, he spent time teaching catechism classes, serving in soup kitchens and outside school and volunteering with homeless and destitute. He reconciled school friends fighting and supported friends whose parents were going through separation.

From a very young age he showed a passion for technologies and computers. At nine years of age Carlo taught himself coding and computer programming and became a computer genius in using Java, Dreamweaver, C ++ and Ubuntu programs. Carlo acquired the ability to understand computers, programming, video editing and laying out small publications without any formal degree in computer engineering. At the tender age of 12 Carlo's unwavering devotion to the Eucharist inspired him to tell the story of Eucharist miracles through a website. Carlo Acutis died at the age of 15 in 2006 after being diagnosed with leukemia and was initially buried in Milan and after a year his body was moved to Assisi as he wished to be buried near to St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of Italy. The grave of Carlo Acutis became a shrine, and stories of miracles started appearing from the visitors. The body of Carlos Acutis exhumed from outdoor grave in 2020 currently lies in a glass tomb at the sanctuary of spoilation of church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Assisi. The body of Carlo Acutis dressed in Nike shoes, jeans and hoodie 18 years after his death is INTACT. There is 24 hours live broadcast of his tomb on YouTube through the channel Maria Vision Italia and can be viewed on www.mariavision. it by anyone anytime from anywhere in the world. This channel allows faithful from all

over the world to pray and leave messages and request for intercession ONLINE through Tech Saint Carlo Acutis also known as "Influencer of God" and "Apostle of Cyber Eucharist". Carlo Acutis has been made a saint because of his deep faith, virtuous life works, particularly his use of combining Technology with Faith to spread the word of God played a significant role in his recognition.

Internet and the Dark Web

The internet has changed in many ways since it first became publicly accessible in the 1990s, and one of the most controversial developments is the growth of the so-called Dark Web. The dark web is a part of the internet that lets people hide their identity and location from other people and from law enforcement. Given its anonymous nature, the dark web is also used for illicit and even illegal purposes. On the dark web black markets, a teen can buy and sell almost anything while staying totally anonymous. These include all kinds of illegal drugs (heroin, benzos, Ecstasy, marijuana, to name a few), guns, and child pornographic material. Teens who have fallen prey to sex trafficking are advertised here. There are also services for things like computer-hacking and hitman-hiring, videos of animal cruelty, torture, and murders. The dark web is popular with criminals, paedophiles, and other unsavoury character. The dark web's anonymity fosters an environment where teens can engage in harmful behaviour without fear of consequences. In most of the countries access to the dark web is not illegal but it does host plenty of websites that are used for online criminal activity. Since the laws of most of the countries does not cover dark web, many teens stumble into cybercrime by mistake

as they cross the line between ethical and unethical use of technology. The next level of cyber technology already in use/misuse is ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE or AI which is a technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human intelligence and problem-solving capabilities. AI has the potential to revolutionize many industries, including cybersecurity.

However, the power of AI also comes with significant security risks. While AI comes with many benefits, it also has some associated threats such as Security risks, Job loss, Privacy concerns, AI over-dependence, deep fake, Ethical dilemmas etc. All human beings do not have same amount of intelligence and as such may not be able to harness benefits of AI equally and may not be aware of the dangers of AI. This leads to a vital question as to what type of intelligence is required for common man to live in AI dominated era. The author is of the opinion that ETHICAL INTELLIGENCE at workplace which can be acquired by all human beings could be the answer. Ethical Intelligence can only be propagated by personalities possessing INSPIRATIONAL INTELLIGENCE who can demonstrate by their own actions and decisions create awareness and need of Ethical Intelligence especially at workplace. Life outside workplace is still guided by laws of GOD which are different for different religions. As such SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE also becomes a necessity to live in AI dominated societies. A common man possessing spiritual intelligence and enabled to acquire Ethical Intelligence by leaders possessing Inspirational Intelligence in their sphere of living/working has higher probability to survive and thrive in

AI dominated era without facing the dangers of AI.

Carlo was a boy of our time with same temptations and pressures and lived like all of us. He was not isolated in a hermitage and used the computer and social media like all of us. In an era where these tools are often seen as means that distance us from God, Carlo showed us that they can be used to bring us closer to God. It is easy to lose ours in front of useless, vulgar, sometimes obscene content. We are all attracted to the worst of humanity, perhaps because it makes us feel better than those who degrade themselves for a moment of notoriety, but this is a deception. Feeling superior by looking at the worst in others as an illusion that distances us from true holiness. Carlos on the other hand chose to confront the best. He chose the use of technology not to get lost in nothingness but to evangelize. After his death during the beatification process his computer was analysed by professional and the experts found nothing negative and no traces of indecent contents, nothing that the world could have considered compromising. No wasted time in frivolities. Only the signs of his work of evangelization. A work done with passion, dedication and love for God and material dedicating to spreading the word of God. Carlo had created a website to document Eucharistic miracles. A project aimed at making known the power of God through these extraordinary signs. This is so important for us because it teaches us that we, men and women of 21st century can use technology for good. The internet and social media should not be seen as enemies of our soul but a powerful tool to unite in a virtual community that supports each other, confronts each other and grow together in faith. Carlo was proclaimed the Saint of the Internet for this very reason. He lived in our same world, was privileged to be the only child in a wealthy family, faced our same challenges but choose to transform what could be a source of darkness into a shining light. He demonstrated that holiness is possible even amidst the distractions of our time. We can all be bearers of such light and love that brings us to make ethical decisions and avoid unethical decisions at the highest levels such as imprisonment of Julian Assange in 2010 and catastrophic blunders under the British "Laws of the Land" and "Laws of God" in case of Alan Turing referred to as "Father of Theoretical Computer Science" whose genius embraced the first visions of modern computing and produced seminal insights into what became known as "artificial intelligence". Alan Turing probably was the Britain's greatest war hero of second world war, whose achievements shortened the war, saved thousands of lives, helped defeat the NAZIs but was forced to commit suicide (eating a poisoned apple that became logo of apple computers) in 1954 since his sexuality was against the prevailing laws of the land and Laws of God.

Case Study

A Case study which compares two technological icons of Indian subcontinent of their career professional contribution in EHTHICAL / UNETHICAL manner to their motherland by the author is give below:

ETHICAL & UNETHICAL TECHNOLOGICAL ICONS OF SUBCONTINENT

The author an Australian citizen since 1993 was born in undivided India and held the Indian citizenship till the age of 44. The author was associated with the aerospace industry in India and has the privilege of knowing and/or working with some of the pioneers of aviation in India. On the topic of ethics and technology the author wishes to briefly recall his views on contribution by two icons in technology born in undivided India whose work are legendry in the Indian subcontinent.

The two icons are Abdul Qadeer Khan (born in 1936 in Madhya Pradesh) and Krishnadas Nair (born in 1941 in Kerala). Abdul Qadeer Khan's family moved to Pakistan when India got independence in 1947 and was divided into two countries namely India & Pakistan. Khan & Nair acquired engineering degrees in METALLURGY. Both went overseas and obtained a Doctorate degree (Ph D). Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan worked with a nuclear industry in Holland and returned to Pakistan in the late seventies and was entrusted with the responsibility to develop a nuclear bomb since in 1974 India carried out the first nuclear test. Dr. Khan sought the powers as exercised by the Prime Minister of Pakistan which included direct orders to the Pakistan army and was granted. Dr. Khan in 1998 succeeded in detonation of Pakistan's first nuclear device and thus became father of Pakistan's atomic weapon program. The laws of Pakistan and the laws of Islam does not include development of nuclear program as act against the laws and for many Pakistanis Dr. Khan remains a symbol of pride, a hero whose contribution strengthened Pakistan's national security against India. Dr. Khan was involved in illegal nuclear technology programs of North Korea, Iran and Libya and on request/pressure of U.S. government was dismissed from his job and put under house arrest. Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan died in 2021 due to COVID -19 and was given state funeral in which the President of Pakistan paid tributes adding that "a grateful nation (Pakistan) will never forget the services of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan". All the activities of Dr. Khan were within the laws of Pakistan and Laws of Islam but were UNETHICAL since he used the scarce finance of Pakistan without any accountability for weapons of mass destruction which has resulted Pakistan becoming a bankrupt nation and a banana republic.

Dr. Krishnadas Nair after doctorate worked in UK and returned to India in the early seventies to contribute to the Indian aviation industry which was in its infancy. Dr. Nair worked for over 25 years and eventually headed Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) where the author also worked for 22 years. Dr. Nair's efforts at HAL transformed the company into a globally competent aerospace industry with strong R&D, diversification, export, industry academy interaction and work culture based on ethics and teamwork. he founded the Society of Indian Aerospace Technologies and Industries (SIATI) to train and support small and medium enterprises to develop aerospace components indigenously. He retired in 2001 and since then for past 25 years has worked as Distinguished Visiting Professor at IIT Chennai, Vice Chancellor of MATS University and headed Cochin International Airport. The author during his tenure at HAL noted that Dr. Nair applied organizational skills, character, communication, cooperation, productivity,

respect and teamwork of the highest order in his style of working and took the high road when making decisions. Dr. Krishnadas Nair has published 20 books (including one titled GROWING UP WITH GODS), 193 scientific papers, held 15 positions and received 32 awards in which he has demonstrated INSPIRATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE and ETHICAL INTELLIGENCE. In the opinion of the author India has three inspirational technological icons namely late Dr. Homi Bhabha in nuclear science, late Dr. Abdul Kalam in missile technology and Dr. Krishnadas Nair in aerospace technology. Dr. Krishnadas Nair joined HAL at managers level and was entitled for company car to travel to work. However, Dr. Nair chose to travel in worker's bus carrying over 100 workers. It was in the worker's bus where the author met Dr, Nair for the first time. Dr. Nair in the next quarter century transformed HAL by ETHICALLY commanding the technology of aerospace engineering his academic and professional skills and making HAL climb from 63rd to 48th ranking in the world's top 100 aviation industry. On the other hand, Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan commanded the powers equal to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and UNETHICALLY misused the power (such as ordering air force aircraft for personal and family travel) resulting his country to financial bankruptcy, and sold the nuclear bomb technology to other countries illegally.

Author Joe Thomas

Author photographed with Dr. Nair in Sydney in 1993 and in Pisa, Italy in 2024

Conclusions

❖ Barring extinction or civilizational collapse, technological progress will continue. New technologies will endow humanity with unprecedented power. Similar to technologies of the past, they will give rise to both tremendous opportunities and severe risks of unethical use.

❖ Currently the pace of new technology in the cyber world and its speedy use by common man permits governments around the world to update the laws of land mostly as reactive action. The laws of God have always advised on adherence to ethics and values and universal well-being. Governments all over the world must enact universally appliable laws and ethical use of technology and

strictly implement zero tolerance to all forms of technology related crimes and terrorisms.

❖ Grownups can understand whether they are crossing the line in making ethical and unethical decisions while children and teenagers lack similar understanding, and many teens stumble into cybercrime by mistake or lack of parental guidance/control.

❖ Teenager Carlo Acutis demonstrated that in a world full of distractions it is still possible to find the right way. Carlos often said, "All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies". By that he meant that each of has a uniqueness given by God and that we should live to discover and realize this uniqueness rather than passively conforming to the trends and pressures of the world. In the Catholic faith there are over 10,000 saints including Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta and devotees visit their tomb to pray and seek intersession for their intentions and requests.

Carlo Acutis is the ONLY Saint whose INTACT body lies in state post death in 2006 in a glass tomb with a 24 hours live broadcast of his tomb on YouTube through the channel Maria Vision Italia and can be viewed on www.mariavision.it by anyone, anytime from anywhere in the world. This channel allows devotees and faithful of any religion from all over the world to view, pray and leave their written requests for intersession ONLINE through Tech Saint Carlo Acutis known as Patron Saint of the Internet, Apostle of Cyber Eucharist and Influencer of GOD.

References:

1. Historical contents from international daily news fact checked from internet (Google, Wikipedia etc.)

2. Real life experience, travel diary and practising faith of the author.

3. Case study from interaction of the author with one of the icons and data verified from internet (Wikipedia).

SUCCESS

FAILURE

Success is nothing more than

A few simple DISCIPLINES

Practiced daily and

Failure is nothing more than

A few small ERRORS

repeated daily.

"The wisdom of the wise and the experience of the ages are perpetuated by Quotations".

BENJAMIN DISRAELI