



## **Homo Deus**

by Yuval Noah Harari , 2015

“And God created man in his own image” (1. Mose 1:27)

Having finished reading Harari’s “Homo Deus”, the biblical quotation popped into my mind: it would fit with Harari’s postulation that artificial intelligence might rule over the future of Homo sapiens according to human’s strive for immortality, happiness and divinity ...”and Homo sapiens created Homo Deus in his own image”.

The book is highly intelligent and contains a representative description and explanation of our current human research activities to understand the nature of our being.

I readily agree with all the experiments, results and interpretations presented in a plausible way, however Harari starts his explanations assuming the existence of the very first cell which decided to live, which just came about after the “big bang”.

My reservation is, that I don’t think everything was set in motion with the “big bang” and is a result of coincidental assembly of available (created?) elements. Let alone, that there is no plausible explanation where all the energy came from to create the “big bang” and where the “cosmic inflation” expands into since then (into nothing? nothingness?).

This brings me back the biblical quotation of “God created man in his own image”, which would explain why all our “artificial intelligent” (AI) machines are following the understanding of our own intelligence, however reducing the complexity of a human brain to mathematical data processing algorithms which follow decipherable patterns in my opinion is, like moving on a 2-dimensional plane trying to understand its unfathomable omnidirectional dimensions.

With my background as a technical (space exploration-) engineer, I think humankind will never be able to achieve “divinity” because so far Homo sapiens has no explanation for the driving force having set everything in motion.

The author describes in an intelligent, clever and plausible way how mankind went through an evolutionary development process, starting with the belief in “Deism” (centered on external deities) going through Humanism (centered on listening to Homo sapiens own feelings) arriving at the threshold of a religious “Dataism”, which considers organisms being controlled by algorithms, i.e., now Homo sapiens should be listening to algorithms which know more about us than ourselves.

Having convinced the reader with this three “-isms” approach, Harari presents his message in the last chapter by asking:

“What after all organisms are more than algorithms?” *Is there perhaps something in the universe that can not be reduced to data?*

Dataism as a religion could conquer the world because it promises the fulfillment of humanistic goals: health, happiness and power which translate to immortality, bliss and divinity.

But Harari warns that Dataism in the end will do with humans what humans have done with domesticated animals – and that we might more and more becoming “chips” in the global Dataism communications network. “Humanity could have been just a ripple in the cosmic data flow.”

The book motivates the reader to broaden his approach to the “big questions of life” and Harari leaves his readers with three key questions to ponder: Are organisms really just algorithms ...and is life really just a data processing process? What is more valuable, intelligence or consciousness? What will

happen to society, politics and daily live when non-conscious, but highly intelligent algorithms know us better than we know ourselves... and no one understands the system anymore, so it can't be stopped?

The book helped me to realize that the “internet of things” in the end might totally embrace Homo sapiens to act according to the expectations of an intelligent, but “soul-less” Dataism system. Harari's argumentation also broadened my understanding of the “modern” political, scientific, religious world more and more dominated by Silicon Valley.

Yuval Noah Harari's book is a “must” for all Homo sapiens interested in our future.

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<https://opsjournal.org>