REFLECTIONS ON THE TRUTHS OF TERASEM 3.4.4

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The author is reflecting upon The Truths of Terasem[1], the guiding principles of the Terasem Movement[2], a family of organizations founded by Martine and Bina Rothblatt.

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One of the three sister organizations of the Terasem Movement is a religious organization called Terasem Movement Transreligion, Inc. A 'transreligion' is a movement that transcends the traditional notion of religion, which can be combined with any existing religion without having to leave a previous religion.

As Terasem's cofounder, Martine, describes, "Most of the statements [within the Truths] summarize scientific research that has been confirmed many times. Other statements are logical deductions consistent with that scientific research. Yet other parts of the Truths are what we call "self-fulfilling prophecies." They are things that we want to be true, for our world to be a better place, and *will* be true, if we act to make them so.[3]"

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[1] https://terasemcentral.org/2016_Truths_of_Terasem.pdf
[2] Terasem Movement – a family of three organizations based in the United States and inspired by the works of the author, Octavia Butler. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terasem_Movement
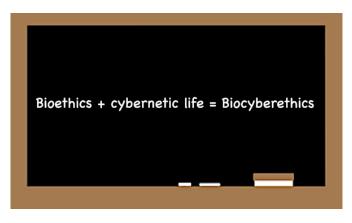[3] Rothblatt, M. (2012). 2012 Truths of Terasem, Kindle Edition. Retrieved from https://www.amazon.com/2012-Truths-Terasem-Movement-ebook

The section of the Truths this article references, and its header are:

3.0   *Where is Terasem*? Terasem is *everywhere* and everywhen consciousness organizes itself to create diversity, unity and joyful immortality.

3.4.4   *Vicious* people will not be cyber-resurrected because biocyberethics[4] proscribes causing pain in data emulations of reality.

When I entered Terasem I accepted principle 3.4.4 above as part of Terasem's transreligion; I believe in it without a doubt. However, the application of this ethical principle in practice may have some edges that are difficult to resolve, or that raise new questions of biocyberethics we must analyze.

Bioethics + cybernetic life = Biocyberethics

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The first question that arises is who and what determines whether a person is vicious or Not? Who and what determines if you deserve access to cyber-resurrection[5] or not?

The geoethical[6] implication of this question is so great it's equivalent to who and how

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[4] Biocyberethics as applied to cybernetic life. Rothblatt, M. (2016) *Truths of Terasem*: Glossary. p 67.

[5] Cyber-resurrection – beings who were originally of biological substrate but have become legally alive, functional and independent from information technology substrate. Rothblatt, M. (2016) *Truths of Terasem*: Glossary. p 68.

[6] Geoethics - consists of research and reflection on the values, which underpin appropriate behaviours and practices, wherever human activities interact with the Earth system. International

will make the decision about the life or death of a person. Mainstream religions agree such a decision can only be made by God.

Extrapolating that concept in Terasem, where we believe in a God in the making, it would then be the one who makes those decisions, based on artificial intelligence, which we believe will greatly exceed the capacity of human intelligence in the future.

There is a basic principle in artificial intelligence though, which I think will not change over time: the importance of inputs to obtain good outputs. If we feed artificial intelligence with garbage, the output will not be adequate, no matter how advanced that artificial intelligence was.

Whoever determines whether or not an individual human consciousness (IHC) deserves access to joyful immortality or not, in a kind of purgatory, must have reliable information about that consciousness; here is the core of the problem. As long as we do not have nanotechnology capable of downloading a mind directly to a Mindfile, the information available will be what the IHC itself decides to incorporate into its Mindfile.

Good people will incorporate trustworthy information into their Mindfiles, avoiding painful memories and elements that may generate future suffering for themselves or for others. To describe this, I use a metaphor about a Christmas tree, where the person's values are the tree and his or her memories are the decorations. The tree emulation must be as accurate as possible, and that can be obtained, for example, with the thousands of CyBeRev[7] tests. While the decorations can be selected, avoiding those that can generate pain.

Association for Promoting Geoethics. (2012-2020). Definition of geoethics.
http://www.geoethics.org/definition
[7] CyBeRev means <u>cy</u>bernetic <u>be</u>ingness <u>rev</u>ival. The CyBeRev project is part of a multi-decade experiment to test the ability to digitize one's consciousness. https://cyberev.org/

Credit: publicdomainvectors.org

Bad people can simply lie when creating a Mindfile, generating junk inputs for artificial intelligence that will have to evaluate it. They may not mention traumatic memories, that's fine, but the serious thing is if they lie in the values. We would then have two possible scenarios:

1- The IHC that generated that Mindfile was biologically dead a long time ago, and the Mindfile that it created can be cyber-resurrected giving rise to an emulated ICH that is good.

2- The IHC that generated that Mindfile is still alive, either because this situation has occurred in a few decades, or because the Singularity[8] came sooner than we expected. Then the original IHC may have the ability to manipulate and modify its false emulation making it dangerous for the rest of society.

Having posed a problem, the reader will be waiting for my proposed solution; I'm sorry to disappoint you, but I don't have one. The raison d'être of this article is that Terasem Joiners analyze these issues, open a debate, and come together under the guidance of the Founders to propose actions to give the greatest possible security to the process of building the future society.

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[8] "The Singularity denotes … the inevitable next step in the evolutionary process that started with biological evolution and has extended through human-directed technological evolution." Kurzweil, R. (2005). "*The Singularity Is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology*", p.498, Penguin.

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