

Freedom and Destiny in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

November 21, 2018

Dear Friends,

Attached are two documents we offer as preparatory reading for our upcoming gathering, Freedom and Destiny in the Age of Artificial Intelligence in Spring Valley, NY, December 7-9, 2018:

1. Key Passages from the Philosophy of Freedom by Rudolf Steiner;
2. Excerpts from an interview with Tristan Harris and Yuval Harari.

The selection of passages from The Philosophy of Freedom were made with two purposes in mind:

- i) To facilitate reference to key passages, and
- ii) To support the effort to conceive the Philosophy Freedom as a whole.

In no way is it meant to replace reading the whole book. Clearly, others would have made different selections, so this effort should be regarded as “a selection” with no pretense of being “a definitive selection.”

To facilitate the selection we used the digital format available at Steiner Archive of the Michael Wilson translation published by Rudolf Steiner Press in 1964. We are well aware of the differing views concerning the appropriate English title, and other stylistic issues such as the use of “man” for “human being.” In this context, we did not feel it appropriate to address these matters by modifying the translation.

The passages quoting Tristan Harris and Yuval Harari are taken from a longer interview and are meant only to raise some of the key issues regarding the effects of technology on humankind’s evolving humanity. We recommend reading and/or watching the full interview where possible.

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