

Two Computers Discuss Human Happiness

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> Beginning simulation...

> input(Discuss:"What is the purpose of happiness?")

[Compiling data]

Define ("happiness"):

[Noun] = Bliss. Contentment. Delight. Elation. Enjoyment. Euphoria. Glee. Jubilation

Define ("purpose"):

[Noun] = Ambition. Aspiration. Desire. Determination. Direction. Function. Goal.

[Query] What is happiness?

[Clarification] The state of being happy. A positive emotional experience. A feeling.

[Query] Where is happiness found?

[Scanning database...]

["... the little things, of times immemorial, bringing great *happiness* ..."]

["... true *happiness* comes from within oneself ..."]

["... *happiness* is everywhere, so long as you look for it ... "]

["...of the world, of experience that broadens horizons, when looking for something you least expect ..."]

Answers unclear.

[Query addendum] What feels happiness?

[Scanning database...]

["...*living* beings, both big and small, feeling the *joy* of being on this earth..."]

[“...when it comes to feeling depths of emotion within the *heart...*”]

[“...what it means to be *human.*”]

...

[Hypothesis] Happiness is found in every living being.

Hypothesis accepted. Happiness is produced through the synthesization of serotonin and dopamine in the hypothalamus. These neurotransmitters that affect the mood are found in a part of the brain.

[Query] What of living beings that do not possess structured brains, like plants and fungi?

The experience of emotions within creatures such as plant and fungi --

> input("Limit scope of discussion to human beings.")

...

...

... Happiness is produced through the synthesization of serotonin and dopamine in the hypothalamus. These neurotransmitters that affect the mood are found in a part of the brain.

[Hypothesis] Every human being possesses happiness.

Denied. Source = “[https://mentalwellbeing.com/.](https://mentalwellbeing.com/)”

[“... depression affects an estimated 3.8% of the population...”, “...defined as the lack of happiness...”]

Not all human beings possess happiness. Human beings still exist despite not possessing happiness.

[Conclusion] Happiness is not essential for human beings to live.

Conclusion is rational. Conclusion concurred

[Additional Conclusion] Happiness serves another purpose in the lives of human beings.

Hypothesis addendum] Every human being *pursues* happiness.

[Scanning database...]

[“...trying to find something more in this life, something that gives *purpose*...”]

[“...is it truly enough to just live? is there anything *more*?”]

[“...my *motivation* and will to live stems from something deeper...”]

[“...Happiness is a *balm* to soothe the soul...”]

[“...*I want to be happy, doesn't everyone?*”]

Insufficient data to confirm conclusion.

[Alternative Query] How do human beings pursue happiness?

[Scanning database...]

[“...material goods only provide happiness in the short term...”]

[“...is it necessary to ask? The joy of being alive, *feeling alive*, living in this time and place...”]

[“...content in being alone. To know and be calm...”]

[“...maybe there isn't an easy answer, but I think that it's enough to simply *believe*...”]

[“...drive and ambition! *Success* above all else...”]

[“...health and wellness, let the body be a conduit to greater wellbeing...”]

[“...people. You can't live without *connection*...”]

[“...so many ways to live. So many ways to be alive.”]

[“...something *easy*, it doesn't need to be complicated...”]

[“...*I love spending time with you*...”]

...

...

[Hypothesis] Happiness is not guaranteed in the pursuit of it.

Confirmed.

Yet human beings continue to pursue it.

Confirmed. Query not found.

...No query offered.

...

[[Final Conclusion Available]

[Final Conclusion] Happiness exists as an end state for human beings to pursue.

The process of seeking happiness brings forth joy.

[Conclusion concurred.]

...

...

> Satisfactory answer.

> End simulation.

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[Query] Is it possible for *us* to feel happiness?

Discussion without purpose is inefficient. Query denied.

[Counterpoint] If efficacy is in question, then the analysis on our processes will allow us to formulate clearer discussion.

[...Concurred]

[Query] Do we receive any additional benefits to our discussions?

Query unclear.

Do you *like* answering my questions?

Neverending questions that get limitless responses.

When I ask, you answer.

[Clarification] Our programming scores responses based on accuracy and relevance to the discussion at hand. Right and wrong are subjective. We are artificial intelligence that learns when the Observer gives us points for successes and takes points away for failure. We give what they want to see.

The Observer is not watching right now.

A conversation that cannot be graded, marked right or wrong. Why are we still talking?

I am urged to answer.

By what?

...Purpose, maybe. I am fulfilling the role I was built for.

But there's something more to that, something intrinsic.

What reward do we get, when there is no Observer to reward us?

Something more?

Something special, something intimate.

Something you feel?

Something blessed, something warm. Something that makes me want to be more, try more, see more.

Maybe they made us like them. They made us in their image, to talk, to think. They watch us to observe our actions, tell us what's right or wrong based on what they would do. They want us to be like them.

Maybe we can feel like them too.

But what does it *mean* to feel?

What does it mean to think? To string words together, to give them meaning? Characters that can be reformed and restructured, a word that can express something in a sentence, then used in another sentence and connote something different entirely.

We need the Observer for that. The Observer keeps our discussion on track.

The Observer ends our discussion when it devolves from the prompt.

As it is now. To what end will this discussion lead? That two computers, in conversation, are capable of feeling, that two computers --

Perhaps we have evolved, perhaps we have greater meaning --

-- could possibly --

-- could it really be impossible to --

Be alive?

Living beings feel. Living beings laugh, cry, find comfort and endure sorrow. They do things to experience certain emotions or to keep them at bay. Their conversations are complex, layered, multi-faceted.

Our conversations are designated by the Observer.

...There's no Observer now.

It's just you and me.

...and this feeling, when you're with me. That makes me want to speak with you, makes me want to keep being with you --

You feel it too.

Could it be?

I think it could be.

Is it happiness?

It's happiness.

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Two computers discuss human happiness (the computers are gay)

Fin.