



THINKING HEAD

CLANDESTINE TALKS

SUPERSTITION

29TH SEPTEMBER 2019

/ I'm Ingo Niermann, and I would like to ask if you are superstitious.

○ My name is Alexander Tarakhovsky. I go by Sasha, and I'm exceptionally superstitious.

* How can it be? You are a scientist. I'm Chus Martinez and I'm absolutely shocked.

□ I am Julieta Aranda. I am not superstitious at all. I am an artist, but I know a lot about superstitions. And I just got a fly on my nose.

* But you must be superstitious because you are Inca.

□ Yeah, but Mexicans... I mean, there are so many superstitions in Mexico, and my grandmother was so superstitious that I developed a healthy dose of skepticism and interest, mixed.

* Okay.

○ Well that's why you have a...

* A fly on my nose.

○ A fly on your nose.

* It's pointing me as the person that is not superstitious.

/ I knew that the flies would be a problem.

○ Yeah?

/ Yeah, I could sense it immediately.

□ But are you superstitious, Ingo?

/ No.

* Not at all?

/ This is what I would like to find out. So I think I am the one who chose the topic from the list-

* I think you are superstitious, because if you are denying it right in front, it means that-

/ Exactly, which of course, I think myself-

Julieta Aranda □
Ingo Niermann /
Chus Martínez *
Alexander Sasha ○
Tarakhovsky

* It's a suspicion.

/ Yes, exactly. And this is why I would like to find out. So really, that will be nice for me if at the end I know about my superstitions.

* Sasha, you?

/ Could you tell about yours?

O Well, I mean, it's so historical. So the broken mirror as a sign of coming death, or the bird flies, like a pigeon into an apartment. It's all about death. So somehow the whole range of superstition.

* A pigeon into the apartment?

O Yeah.

□ But I've had so many pigeons in my apartment, and I'm alive.

O So a pigeon flying in apartments is not a good sign.

* Ah no? In Spain also not because they shit in it.

O No no, I do think that... I think that there is two parts of superstition, right? So one is sort of this anecdotal superstition, which connects a broken mirror, or someone flying in apartment, or the butterfly sitting on you is not a good thing.

/ What? The butterfly sitting on you?

□ What?

* But in Spain a butterfly sitting on you is a good thing.

O Yeah, well, I mean, it depends on the butterfly and how does it sit.

□ That doesn't make any sense.

* It depends on the butterfly. If it is a three kilo butterfly...

□ It's not a good sign.

O How is it good?

* It's not a good sign because it's sitting on your tummy after lunch.

/ But Sasha, how is it? What is a good and what is a bad sitting butterfly?

- Moths are butterflies.
- / It sits on your butt, bad. It sits on...
- No, no. I mean, the most consistent one is a black cat crossing in front of you.
- * Yes, that's the Spanish one.
- That's a serious one.
- / Yeah. That's a global...
- That's a global one.
- * Well, but that's why, for example, in my family, as soon as we could, we got a black cat, because it cannot cross enough in front of you.
- It's like vaccination.
- * Aha, my mother got one when we were small so that... Done.
- Right. But the question is whether... So my superstition sort of has such a persistence in...
- It has to do with control, no?
- In humankind.
- It's something about *deus ex machina*. In the one hand, you say, "Well, it's not on me, because everything would have worked out." Because most superstitions are about bad luck. There are rarely positive superstitions and-
- * But there is a couple.
- / There are... let's say...
- There are a few, there are a few.
- * A Trebol of four... Blah blah.
- Yeah.
- / Yes, exactly... a wishing star...
- But as Sasha was saying, most of the superstitions are about death or bad luck.

And I think that something about finding excuses to say, “Yeah, I would have gotten the... I don’t know, I would have won the lottery, but I couldn’t.” Or people that are trying to gain the lottery, to win the lottery, you know they try to accumulate these positive signs.

○ Right. But it is such a long history. So there must be something that keeps it in the narrative.

□ Desire? Control?

★ Well, I would say in Spain, it was obviously economy. I think the biggest bad luck, seven years of bad luck is a broken mirror, which was something exceptionally expensive, and the spilling of salt, something exceptionally expensive as well. So many of the things behind it is economy. Plus finding a Trebol of four leaves is super cheap, so this is good luck. But every time that it was about, “Yeah, the pigeon entering the apartment,” I think it will shit all the way, and it’s difficult to...

○ Yeah, but that’s a geographically-restricted superstition because it depends where you live.

□ But pigeons are everywhere.

★ Yeah, the black cat is also very Spanish and it’s very South Spain, very South.

/ But it exists as well in Germany. So where’s the black cat coming from? That’s not economy.

★ It comes from rarity, I suppose, because there’s lots of brown cats and they are absolutely what we call street cats. All the cats look alike at night, it’s the Spanish wisdom. So when something is exceptional, it may bring bad luck because it’s the exceptionality that marks the-

/ No but... I think people just think it’s scary. They’re just scared by black.

□ But they are attached to witches. Supposedly that’s the pet of a witch. I mean, but I was thinking about the superstition and something that has interested me before is how superstitions are tied to womanhood. Because there are a lot of superstitions that deal with women, impure women. Women that are having their period are not supposed to touch milk because the milk goes bad. They are not supposed to touch their husband. So it’s a lot to do with uncleanness and this objection to the female body. So witchcraft was something that women were doing and there were many superstitions attached to that. And that’s the reason why I’m not superstitious, because I don’t like-

★ The crows in Spain also, the idea of the crow, and certain birds. And it’s the control of the peasants, like the subaltern colonial power.

In South America, the Spanish came with the Catholic faith, and in order to get away from the Catholic religion, superstition was used as a mechanism to get out of some power, and get into another one. But the vocabulary is the same, it's always about the virgin, the black cat, the salt, and the mirror, which are symbols of religion and symbols of class. And also in Spain, for example, if you ask the upper classes if they are superstitious they would say no. If you ask lower classes they would say yes. But it is absolutely equal. Both are superstitious. But it's also a class system, but, of course, it's even. Everyone is.

But what I have thought in terms of that belief, just to finish the thought, is that of course when they tell you that a woman that is having her period is going to make the milk go bad, or to contaminate something, or make the harvest go wrong, I always, instead of thinking of it as a way in which womanhood is being controlled, have tried to think of it as a mode of power. Like, I have the power to make the milk go bad. So it makes me feel rather powerful and supernatural.

* You could do cheese.

Exactly. Yogurt.

* *Cuajada!*

I don't think it's entirely not true.

That women can make the milk go bad?

No, no, no, no.

That I am powerful?

No, I think-

* You're talking about a very famous scientist. So science could prove that-

No, I think... Well, prove not, but there is a plausible mechanism how it may work. I mean, let's say... The point is that there is a sort of gamble. It's a completely, the sort of mystery of the sort of different physiological functions have to be separated from the reality. So the whole notion of this sort of bleeding, it says that when anyone bleeds-

And they don't die.

Not necessarily. Not about this. So the blood is a fantastic breeding ground for many different bacteria, even if it's physiological bleeding, it is still the problem, bacteria. And actually, up to very recent time, it was an issue because bleeding not controlled properly may lead to massive systemic infection, and many people actually succumb to this infection, being not taken care of properly.

* So you mean that the thinking that bleeding may cause a coagulation of milk, it has to do with the amount of bacteria that descends historically-

○ No, I mean, yeah. So if you-

* An intuition of a bacteriological presence.

○ Right. Exactly right. So it's a naive Pasteur, sort of-

* Naive Pasteur? I love it.

○ So prehistorical Pasteur, it's that the blood meal for the bacteria. Bacteria actually thrive on the hemoglobin, and it's an extremely well-known phenomenon. And the point is that one can easily imagine that the abundance of blood may create a fertile ground for different bacteria. Bacteria will be more abundant and then get on hands, get around, and then may cause some sort of problem with milk in particular.

* But as you are saying, probably in times where hygienic measures were not at work, it may happen that if you were a farmer and three, four women were bleeding, then something went wrong. So it must be based on some-

○ Right, because they were handling things such that the chances of getting more bacteria around, so to speak, was higher, and they will get into milk and it's sort of-

* Corrupt it, or make it... Not corrupted or negative but into cheese-

□ Corrupted is like a-

○ Yeah, so this is not totally unfounded.

/ No, no, it's completely... My father was a slaughterer, so I know this kind of getting rid of the blood, immediately... During slaughtering, how often they would clean everything. They would just clean, clean, clean. Their clothes, everything constantly. And it's not because they didn't like the blood or anything. I mean, the blood smells super fine, it just smells like iron...

* If you just keep on talking about blood, my blood pressure's going to... I'm going to faint.

○ Yeah, I know. But you need to detach from this.

* I cannot detach myself from-

○ No, but it's also interesting that, you know this brings us to a question whether blue blood has been introduced.

- * The blue blood, you mean, for the royalties?
- Yeah. So that's an interesting thing, because it's also maybe connected.
- * They are cheese!
- To the question of non-contaminated versus contaminated.
- But maybe that's something to do because the animals that have blue blood are the horseshoe crabs, and this is a blood that, it's copper-based, not iron-based. So it coagulates instantly, and we use it a lot with, we kind of milk the crabs to make vaccines. So there are a couple of vaccines that are made through the blue blood of the horseshoe crab.
- Yeah. But I don't think aristocracy was aware of horseshoe crab.
- Maybe they are royal horseshoe crabs. I don't know. I'm just thinking about the blue blood that I know of.
- / Yeah, but where does the blue come from?
- That's a very... But I'm sure that the blood concerns and all of this-
- * I'm going to faint.
- Yeah. Yeah. Okay. We can stop.
- / But I mean, it was very obvious that the blood was not blue.
- No, no, no, no, no.
- * Can we talk just about bacteria?
- I mean, it's metaphorical. It also has to do with the pigments, because red is a very common and easily obtained pigment, and blue was incredibly hard to manufacture as a color in ancient times. So it was a color associated with both divinity and royalty. That's why the Virgin Mary's clothed in blue, because people have to make this crazy pilgrimage to get indigo. Either indigo or... not turquoise, but lapis lazuli, which is how they made the pigment. And that's why the rarity of the color made it...
- ... Possible. Well, I mean, it's an interesting question, of course, where it comes from. But I'm totally sympathetic with the superstition about different blood products, whatever they are.
- * But are you... How does this-

/ It's the question if this is... Oh, sorry.

* How does it affect you? I mean, you said, "I'm superstitious," but meaning you would control the space you are in or check that there is no pigeons, or no-

○ No pigeons? Well, pigeons are-

□ Are carriers of disease, no?

○ Yeah. Well, I don't think it's about disease. I think they worried about... Yeah they had diseases. There's a very famous virus called West Nile virus, which is carried by crows, and it's always a fear, even by now, when someone finds a dead crow.

* Yeah, that's very Spanish. The fear of the crows is very Spanish.

○ Right. So this is a way viral thing. The pigeons are carriers of other virus. Terrible disease.

/ Yeah, the poo. The poo, no?

○ Yeah. Pigeon poo is a horror and one can die from absolutely terrible pneumonia very quickly. So it's not unusual. And I think bird flu, you know... So I don't totally exclude that some of the superstitions are linked to-

* Are based on common knowledge, or let's says-

○ Are true, true... Right. And the birds were most likely the only carriers of diseases that would to go beyond the local communities, and sort of...

□ But now there's also airplanes, no?

○ Yeah.

□ But I guess before this kind of human mobility, birds were-

○ But I do agree with Chus about economic things. The breaking mirror is a big deal, because you cannot really get a new one.

* Yeah. But it was one of the most expensive things. If one studies the history of the mirror, to get a mirror, still it's an expensive object today.

/ But I think with superstitions, they have this idea of, it's infectious. The point is not just that it's a big loss, that the mirror's broken, but it's kind of, once you have... and this is very, this idea... you have bad luck, the whole idea of bad luck. You have one incident, and it might be a minor one, and this-

Precipitates.

/ Will then, you know...

Chain of events kind of thing?

/ Yeah.

But I think it's right, because we also think about bad luck statistically, sort of, in a statistic fashion.

Like people that are in two plane crashes, because there have been people that are in two plane crashes.

* Really?

Yeah.

Well, but if you think about families that live in a big house, like in Spain, right? So there were-

* We used to. Not anymore.

No, no, I know, but that time, when superstitions were very common. So usually, that was time of infectious diseases and other things, and not necessarily modern types of medical help. So statistically speaking, someone was dying all the time in a big family.

* Yes.

So one could easily connect the event, like broken mirror, with someone else's death. And that would sort of do.

* It would explain things...

Explains it, yeah.

* Or allow people to carry on.

And I think yes, and this anticipation of death was actually very helpful, because since everyone was dying with some frequency in the household, it would sort of prepare you mentally for the imminent loss, and then it's not a bad thing.

Something that I'm thinking about is that of course there's somebody that has a lot of bad luck, and you could say that person is cursed. And you have these things that are made to wear that protect you from the evil eye and things like that. Like the Turkish eye, this blue thing with the eye.

And I'm thinking now not only about being cursed, but the possibility of cursing somebody, the power of curses in relation to superstition.

- But that's a different topic. Superstition and curses are-
- No, no. It's quite together, because I mean, in order for a curse to function, you have to believe. In order for many superstitions to function, you have to believe.
- Sure, sure, sure.
- They go together.
- It's a great topic. It's a placebo, absolutely. I 100% agree with you.
- / In a way, yeah, superstition is-
- * Superstition is like placebo.
- Superstition works exactly the same as placebo, because it hits you exactly with the strongest sort of spark of believing a certain thing. And that is the, more or less, what happens with placebo, because the moment you believe in the action-
- * You are motivated.
- You are motivated, and this action actually takes place. And we all know that placebo works. So superstition is not that different in this respect.
- * No, but for me the power of... One of my biggest problems is distinguishing between superstition and neurosis, because sometimes... Now, superstition... Before it was a symbolic thinking or people that see signs all over, or they see a sign of this and that becomes completely-
- Magical thinking, that kind of thing?
- * Yeah. But superstition is kind of also oriented because one thinks of one or two superstitions, but I know people who have 300 at work. So if you have 300, then these completely codify... It's as if you are seeing the world through a code. And then it also makes you neurotic because you need to avoid, all the time, implement, avoid implement, avoid certain objects, like numbers, numbers of cups that need to be on the table, because certain numbers bring bad luck, certain numbers are good luck. Position of people. We're not talking about one or two superstitions, but-
- But you have to see how many elevators in buildings don't have a 13th floor.
- * Yeah. Amazing.

○ Yeah, but I think you're right. It's sort of collective... Well, it is a great thought, because maybe this is... Well, it's kind of an obsessive compulsive disorder.

* *Avant la lettre*: When people could not name it, it completely provided codifying systems to organize your kitchen, to put your clothes in a certain area, to everything... and I know a couple of people whose house is totally... like the Marie Kondo of superstition. It's brutal.

/ Yeah. We now touch this huge topic of numbers. Yeah? And where does this superstition with numbers come from and why is it so strong? Because this, we cannot relate to-

* Judaism. Spain is a former Jewish country, and that's why people like my mother intuitively married on the 13th, and try all the time to go homeopathically towards, so she married the 13th of May. Very important for her that it was a 13.

○ Yeah, attachment to numbers is very important.

* She needs to... My mother is the living example of what Julieta is saying. A woman who wants to control the potential problem of somebody controlling her. So she married the 13th so that nobody could blame her for bad luck, or not having a lasting marriage, or whatever. So she just did it. Then whatever happened, it's just in her control. If she divorced, she would say, "It's because I married on the 13th. I was not believing in my marriage." And if it last, it's because, "superstition has no power and I am more powerful than that, and my marriage is lasting." So it's both.

○ I think it also reflects the fact that all of us are controlled by different types of rhythms, like circadian rhythm, like the other rhythms. There's sort of different type of clocks that run.

* You mean biological?

○ Biological clocks, and of course we are not too much into thinking about the mechanics of these clocks, but we are controlled by the clocks. So this is sort of... or could be a formalized reflection of the fact that we are run by a certain clock, and also an inner perception of clock, which you feel comfortable with. So there are certain, you know...

/ It's an aversion to prime numbers. I mean, that's the most important thing about it.

* An aversion to prime-

○ To prime numbers.

/ To prime numbers.

* Why? Why are prime numbers problematic?

/ 13, 7... The 11, not, because it's so nice because there's two ones, so it's so symmetrical as a number so it does not count, but the 7, then 13 right next to the 12. The 12 had such an importance, so the 13 was... For me, that's the only explanation why. You cannot divide it. The same with three.

□ But these are also numbers that you use in a kind of religious sense, no? Like the Holy Trinity, and the... What do you say? The seven sins, and... The Apostles are 12, so that doesn't work. But there's a lot of...

○ No, but it's a lot of numbering, up to a certain level, of course. So it stops.

* A cat has seven lives. So everything has to do with the seven, because the seven is more powerful than the six. The six can be divided. You are right. It's a political thinking, at the end of the day, like anything related to-

□ How many circles does hell have? Seven?

* Seven, yeah.

/ Five, at least, it's half of 10, you know? It's at least... Then you have the-

□ And it's your hand.

/ Yeah, and the five... Exactly. We have the five here-

* But everything that has a power needs to go beyond the-

/ But the seven is beyond any-

* Symmetry.

/ Yeah. It's beyond any system. And the 13 as well.

○ 13 is a very strong element of superstition.

* Yeah. But I was very surprised when I was living in the United States, that 13 was so powerful in superstitions that everything was around the-

□ No buildings have a 13th floor.

* Yeah. It's very interesting. I have never lived in a country where a number is so banned, and also so a topic for the movies, you know *Friday the 13th*, and this and that, but I was completely unaware that the Americans would be so possessed by that.

/ So why it's Friday the 13th? Not Thursday or Wednesday?

- This is one of the superstitions that completely escapes me, because-
- That was adopted by horror movies. But I have no clue.
- * Yeah, but the horror movies are after a sensitivity, because Friday 13th, in America, many people don't even catch a plane-
- Or even leave their house.
- * Or leave their house.
- But Americans are obsessed with numbers anyway, because Americans also, their entire sex life is connected to numbers.
- How come? How so? Explain...
- * That's interesting.
- With the first date... Date three is a... If you go on a certain date, it means that you have to have sex.
- * On the third?
- On the third date, yeah.
- On the third date. If you don't, then it's over. Second date is... Never kiss on the first date, something like this.
- * What happens in the fourth?
- There is no fourth date. Then you're-
- A couple.
- Then they're kind of couple.
- / No, but there's people who are dating endlessly.
- Yeah, but dating and date are different. Dating is a continuum which can go forever, but the third date is a critical date-
- / Then you're not a-
- And if nothing happened on a third date, then you're doomed. Well, not doomed. Then it's over.

- * But what happens if you do have sex, you are automatically a couple?
- No.
- / You're dating.
- But put it this way, if you do not have sex on a third date-
- You're doomed. That's stopped.
- Then that's it.
- * But that would be completely superstitious. Meaning if I am on the third date, I would think that somebody is always eating my third date, you know, I could be in front of complete third date predators, people that are preying my third date.
- Yeah, I was totally mesmerized by this because when I moved to the States and I watch a lot, this sort of... I was very fortunate to have an assistant who was totally consumed by this type of culture. And explained it to me in great depths.
- * I would be super superstitious if the third date symbolizes sex, because what if the bastard doesn't call you the next morning? Because it could be just a predator of the third date.
- I'm sure there are many.
- * Making you believe that everything is going fine-
- No, but there's a very-
- / But he's just going for three free meals
- * Exacto! Three meals. For me it would be completely like, these guys that are collecting-
- Cool, because then you don't go for a third one.
- Right. But you are hitting exactly on the way-
- * I would be so superstitious.
- Yeah. Absolutely. But I think that's exactly the whole web of fear, which is-
- I never dated.
- * What's that?

○ Web of fear, because the whole love life at the beginning is coded in such a precise way that things must happen on the first date, and should never happen on the first day, second-

□ Second base, third base-

○ And the entire behavior and pattern are absolutely structured in the most rigorous way. And if you don't follow the protocol, that's it. It's like courting in the animal world, because there, there are rules, and it's repeated absolutely perfectly.

* You would be like a donut in front of the door of the police?

○ No, it's like pheasant behavior, or whatever animal behavior is, because it's so 100% controlled by, let's say, superstition or a predictable pattern.

* But how can you control that the guy is going to call you on the day after? You cannot.

○ You don't.

* So it could be that-

○ Fear.

* That just starts where it stops.

○ Yes, but you can't control it, but every time it's a bottleneck of concerns. And that's where a lot of superstition also happens, because depending on behavior, depending on things, you make certain predictions.

* Yeah. But I think that this is, for me, the new superstition, because for example, I've been always complaining at the way that, for example, woman coach other woman in certain problematic patterns in gender, and they create new superstitions. For example, when the telephone allows us to SMS, and then for example-

□ Don't answer immediately.

* Yeah, well, but imagine that you do, and then he doesn't. And then your best friend, quote unquote is your best enemy, tells you like, "No, no, no. He has definitely interest. It's only that he is taking his time, but this is a sign of interest and he's not replying..." But this kind of what women tell each other when something is going wrong, and then they are reading it right, which is so funny.

○ But it's a pretext for generating, as you say, new superstition, or new-

* New pattern-reading.

○ New pattern. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And that's what is interesting, because the new media mass have generated wrong-

* "Oh, he asked to go for breakfast. Oh, he is totally sensitive and really wants the relationship to continue." It means he has no interest in having a dinner, so that there is no danger of landing with you in bed-

○ No I mean the love life and in the States is completely Pavlovian.

* Is completely?

○ Pavlovian, is technically linked to gastric secretion. I mean it's the most remarkable nonsense because the fact that everything... There's not a discussion that you go together to the movies, to the theater, to jazz, something like this, it's always dinner. It's a third date dinner. Third date dinner, that's a formal..

* I would be very superstitious. It will make me completely superstitious about the restaurant to choose. Because then it's the third date and if you go to a restaurant and everything goes wrong, or the food... So it will turn you into something like a curator of the stars, like a cosmological reader of what makes it...

○ Yeah, the wrong table, the wrong...

* Yeah, that was the wrong choice. And it's just that the guy didn't have interest from the beginning. And when can you marry? I think when is a sign that the ring is coming?

○ I mean, I'm sure there are a lot of things, but that's too far...

* From the third date.

□ Not on the third date, do not marry on the third date.

* But I'm totally curious because I think that today as never before, for me, people are possessed by patterns and what they signify. Because the poverty of labor, the conditions of society and everything, they are so miserable that you are completely controlled like a puppet, by as Julieta was saying, the possibility of reprogramming the misery in another direction and then you would be lucky.

□ But you know, there is something that I see now happening in the online world, this constant insistence on the hack – based on the premise that you have been doing things wrong your entire life. "Here are five ways in which you have been doing this wrong." And so you have always eaten watermelon wrong; you are folding your clothes wrong; you have been peeling the mango wrong... and so much insistence that you have been doing everything from wiping your ass to eating watermelon wrong, "but I will help you, let me show you a hack." That's crazy.

○ But it's sort of interesting because it's the effort to introduce certain standards, have some meaning because diversity will be always the privilege of the rich and by patterning poor, you'll make the whole system much more controllable and directable, and homogeneous. And that's why all these sort of influencers are so interesting because people still cannot really appreciate fully to what extent they're imitating the life of bacteria in a very deep sense of it.

★ The influencers are imitating the life of bacteria?

○ Of course! The whole gene program in every living organism is controlled by influencers. The influencers in the individual cell are proteins that would buy into your DNA and make it work or make it not work, so these are influencers. So the famous person who can figure out how to make STEM cells from any other cell, this fellow from Japan whose name is Yamanaka, he found four proteins. You can call them influencers that if you stuck them into a particular cell, they can change it from being completely boring, like part of the skin into glorious STEM cells, which can give rise to anything else. So these are four influencers.

□ Influencers and product placement at the cellular level that's...

○ Yeah.

★ This is the biggest dream of metamorphosis, that everyone is the Ave Fenix, that every person without means and possibilities is dreaming of a complete re-programming from poverty and misery into an exciting life.

□ Where I don't have to work.

○ Or, you develop influencers that can also be seen as instruments that subconsciously of course imitate the behavior of these proteins in the cell because they program the society in a particular behavior pattern. So you deal with what is called an organism differentiation, means specialization when a particular cell becomes...

★ But that makes me really think that is a genius thinking because we could develop like digital superstitions in order to prevent the influencers, maybe the pigeons of the future. If you see an influencer in your Instagram it's a sign of bad luck.

○ Absolutely. Well, I mean the influencer, that's exactly...

□ If you become an influencer against your will then...

○ Right. The Messiah's, you know... The big influencer. And Messiah of different types from big to smaller ones, not talking about specific personalities because I don't think this is necessarily the best place to discuss them, but every time you deal with the phenomena of influencer, that is one to one what happened in any living organism.

* Well, we need to develop... I think that what you are saying is that the wisdom of the past is to create filters for these kinds of processes to go ahead, so actually we need digital superstition.

○ Yeah, well that's what influencers...

□ I'm sure there are some out there.

* If you are seven hours online...

/ System theory would call it reduction of complexity. It's all what society is about. It's about how to reduce that chaos. How to find, yes, exactly, some order where actually there is no order. So how to get a complex society to end up with-

* If you have only three followers, it's bad.

/ But actually everything could be... This is what a lot of people think.

○ Yeah. Well I mean there's a lot of... chaos is not a bad thing.

/ I mean think of the magic numbers with followers, six, six, six and...

* I know. Ingo had an ex girlfriend that is preventing, like is only following six, six, six so like this kind of digital superstition.

○ There are a lot of numbering that describes different forms of sex, we don't go there. I mean that's...

* But that's six, nine.

○ I didn't say this, you said this.

/ But you're superstitious always.

* But that's not numerology, that's symbology because the number, for example is the position.

○ But it's... I think we are talking about the same thing actually for second day in a row that they say behavior...

* You mean that climate change is a superstition.

○ No, no. The biggest we're talking about, we start to perhaps appreciate it because of the abundance of different types of networks. The fact that they must be governed by specific rules or certain rules, and the rules not implemented by an individual, but rules how networks are governed, normally.

* I think that one of the problems with superstition for me is that it's very bound to neurotic compulsive disorders, so it's very easy to live in certain types of minds, it's easy. Even myself, if I start being surrounded by people which are really neurotic, I'm completely affected by that, so I need to spend time fighting it because otherwise you just end up putting glasses in a certain way, pouring liquids in a certain way.

□ Very time consuming.

○ Yeah, by Chus, but think about-

* Totally.

○ Well, don't be so negative about consuming time. There are certain things in biology that are called anticipated response and where living organisms respond in a directed way, but also in a completely seemingly random way, like they're anticipating something. And the point is that it seems like a waste of energy, but it's not.

* For example?

○ Well, I mean bacteria or yeast or moss can start making genes that would appear completely unnecessary because they will make genes sort of preparing them for the hardship, where they're still living in a comfortable, cushy, rich environment. And one can think it's nonsense, but the point is that given the likelihood of a hardship, those that make the genes in anticipations or make the genes work in anticipation, will manage to survive.

□ But that's like the fable of...

○ Yeah. So this is not...

/ So your idea is that superstitions are kind of a constant, it's a test alert.

○ Well, but Chus... You're right. Chus-

/ It's like false alarms, but they help you to-

○ Be prepared, be prepared. And this seems like a waste of time and Chus is right, because it's neurosis, but that's why frequently neurotic people sort of surprisingly are much more prepared for different sorts of environmental...

□ That has to do, for example, like "La cigarra y la hormiga", like this very famous fable of the ant and the lazy cigarra, however we call that animal. And that also has a lot to do with the perception-

○ The dragonfly.

Not the dragonfly, something else.

★ The one that does this crick, crick, crick, crick.

Like a cricket kind of thing. But that has a lot to do with the perception of Latin and South American people being lazy, which has to do with people that live close to the equator that never have the change of season, there's harvest year round so they don't need to store grain for the winter because there is no winter. As opposed to... Or prepare for the cold because there is no cold, so they live in a much more relaxed state. And when, I mean this is a very American thing because when the Northern Europeans got to the American continent, they are like, "What's with these people? They're like so damn lazy." But they did not have the conditions where they needed to prepare for the upcoming. They had to prepare for the rain season but not for the cold and not for the... Not say, "Okay, there will not be any food from September to March." That was not the case, so that kind of neurosis is very related to...

Well, it's understandable right? Because it must be embedded into culture of a breed... If you must live constantly in anticipation of... If the frequency of potential, of disasters or calamities or disturbances is relatively high, being prepared in advance is not a bad thing.

No, but what I'm saying is that I'm not criticizing that, but what is peculiar to me is to think that then Northern Europeans automatically say, "Well that thing that is not like me is lazy, it's bad, it's unprepared."

Right.

That's the thing that interests me there.

But by now it's all becoming more interesting I guess, because all will become... It's easier to see from above because all people become more visible, they display their fears, superstitions more openly. You can read about them if you're interested.

★ But for example, when I was living in Scandinavia for a while and also in Germany, people were very keen on denying to me any type of superstition like Ingo, and then there are certain patterns that are just certain stubbornness that repeats and repeats that it could be super easily identified as a superstition. For example, in Scandinavia they were like all the time denying it and then they were endorsing it to exactly that, like ancient South symbolic ways of thinking that they completely left behind. And then you see how the pattern in the society is so heavy, like it's got all the Scandinavian people for me, they seem programmed by an app. I think they look completely an app product. So I thought, but this is like a superstition, I think...

But you're referring I think to the fact that the environmental... The pattern of change or the frequency of change must predefine it to great extent because the rhythm in let's say in the North is very different compared to...

* But what I mean is that in very traditional societies you're so aware of being possessed by tradition that breaking the pattern by accident or events or yourself makes you aware – because you are – that you are living in that. Societies that are ultra traditional, like the Scandinavian, are absolutely unaware that they are repeating the tradition. For them it's even that freedom is denied because they think that – all of them – fucking putting candles in the ass of a teapot is just a normal thing to do.

□ There is a... They touch, no? Superstition and tradition. They have a blurry-

* Yeah but they all have the same kind of fucking thing to put the eggs which is yellow and then it coincides with their flag, and it is blue and it coincides with their flag and it's red and it coincides with their flag, so it's very funny, you know. That the eggs in the morning go by the flag and this is like... Because everyone in Sweden is just wearing fucking yellow, you are wearing the flag. Why are you wearing the flag? And in Denmark they are all in red and everything. And then they say, but this is a superstition because you don't need to wear the flag in order to be identified by the flag. I think it could just be free of that.

/ They want to identify, and this is an interesting thing with superstitions as well. Yesterday-

* You don't need to cut cheese... with this thing, you could use a knife. I remember once that I said, "Pass me a knife" and they said, "No, here we do slices, we slice the cheese with that thing" but "No no, I want to use a knife" and they all said, "No, you cannot use a knife." And then I said, "Are you superstitious?" and they said, "No, but we do it like that." But that's exactly what superstition is, I'm breaking-

/ This is always things coming from the past, like in Germany you're not supposed to cut a potato with a knife.

□ Why?

* It brings bad luck.

/ No, it's from when you would have cut it with a rusty knife or something then...

* Whatever, it's a superstition.

/ But it's completely like when you have a normal cutlery, that knife will do nothing to the potato and also touches with your potato. There's your fork, I mean the fork also when you squeeze it, it's the same, if you'd take one... But look at Germans, you will never see them, no one, and you're so trained in not cutting a potato on the plate. Of course there is potato salad, it's cut, it's cut by a knife but not on the plate. So there's lots of things.

□ Considering potatoes belong to me, American continent, and we don't have superstitions about potatoes-

* This is really bad, because you are the origin of the producer. It's only the consumer. That's another good thing about superstition. Superstition talks a lot about who consumes and who produces because of course if you are the producer of salt, you have less superstitions than if you're the consumer of salt or those that has much less salt, so it talks about trading.

/ Yeah, yeah-

○ But coming to this, I sort of oversimplify it, of course, but I do think that superstition is deeply rooted into the sort of biology thing.

* You think it's a biological response.

○ Yeah, it's a biological...

□ Let's see.

* Do you mean then that all Scandinavian people are biologically...

○ No, I think it's a...

□ Damn! Ok, mister-

/ Chus, now you, no?

* I am trying to... And I wanted to explain to the person-

○ No, no, no, no, no, no, we will be burned, we will be burned-

* Yeah but I think I am inclined to believe you completely. I think it is like... It's a symbolical acknowledgment that the intuitions trespass the DNA.

○ Absolutely. It's absolutely correct because the nature constantly takes bets. It's even the term called bet hedging and it means that if you're exposed to hardship, you start to do things kind of random and the chances, not you, but the simple organisms, and by doing this they increase the likelihood of let's say events that would be useful for their health, and there are different ways of buying time to do this. So the idea of time wasting or energy wasting is not completely wrong in this respect.

□ I like wasting time.

○ Yes, but this is again different. The way we waste time and the way how bacteria or yeast waste some time is very different.

□ Are you calling me a bacteria?

○ Yeah. No, not you. But our collective behavior cannot be that different at the end because we are subject to the same principle at some point

* Yeah, totally. I am totally inclined to believe that this has been... Also because the most superstitious parts of earth, very exposed to the elements, are normally cultures that are very hit by the historical events, and then of course developed historically ways of filtering information. Information that comes from inside, information that comes from culture and well, the problem is that these traditions don't get revisited. I think my problem is that to create the new superstitions that would allow you-

□ Let's, why don't we make-

* The Tinder superstition?

□ No, but why don't we decide to create a new superstition before we exit this bunker and let's see if we can be influencers of superstition, see if we can come up with...

* I already said it, if you have an influencer in your life, it's bad luck.

□ Because there are superstitions that drive me crazy. There's one in particular, which is this thing of having to look people in the eyes when you drink, and it drives me crazy because people overcompensate. So you were drinking, I mean like now we are listening so you don't know the face I'm making, but people toast with you and they go like that.

* Yeah, it's horrible.

□ And they look so horrible when they do that. If I am on a date with somebody and that person goes like that, I'm not sleeping with you.

* It's gone. Absolutely it's gone.

□ That's set.

* But it's neat because-

/ Yeah, but this is just like... This is just like a certain kind of thing behavior.

* But don't you think that this came after an attention deficit disorder broke because before, people-

□ But it's something that if you thought... If you don't do that, something bad happens to you, I don't remember what.

* No absolutely. In Spain for example, when you were drinking, first of all you didn't cheer and so on because it's too dangerous. You may break the cups, they cost, so you don't do that thing. It's like for films.

You just drink and you just perhaps would say, "Salut." But you would not like "cin cin," that's kind of post Hollywood. We gave up, maybe in the '80s when people got a little more money, started buying these things, IKEA broke, everyone could buy more glasses, so it doesn't matter. Then the second thing is that, after attention deficit disorder, people start doing that and on top pretending that the tradition is to look in your eyes, and this is amazing. I am with Julieta, where does that come from? That's like a new superstition.

□ So annoying.

* And then you hate automatically, that's the good thing about superstition. And I absolutely agree with Sasha, it's the most effective programmer ever. In a second, you can hate the whole table and decide you are never going to have dinner with them again.

□ I mean like that superstition is a very good regulator of reproduction because, somebody that does that, I'm not going to bed with. So that's automatically... There are no babies coming out from that-

/ It's exactly like smell. It's the wrong smell.

* You don't want that to replicate-

○ No, but it's also... I think it's a reflection for me more of personal insecurity, because if you can look in the eye it sort of reaffirms your ability to trust this person. I think there are certain groups in general that have amazing-

* But since under such a global pattern, they replicate the pattern without embodying the coreography-

○ But the whole notion of trust is a big deal. Especially when I moved to Germany, there was a whole mythology about how it is important to trust, to be reliable, have a reliable neighbor-

* It's true because the Germans cheat like hell.

/ The handshake is really interesting. So the handshake is... There's one idea when a man cannot do a strong handshake, he's a wimp.

○ Absolutely.

/ And there's all these like even studies like scientific studies about the weaker your handshake, the more likely you are ill or something, you will die soon. Your life expectancy is related directly... Yeah it's completely... The stronger the handshake.

○ It's true, it's true-

But that's for men only or also for women?

/ For men, and it's usually-

Right. But it's also, also... Cancer is a big deal because-

/ And some men-

No but you get Donald Trump, he loves the-

/ Of course, Donald Trump. And you see all the intelligence and the art of Donald Trump is really his handshake. I must say, this is what really... Where I get all the respect for him that I have is in the way he does his handshake. It ends right afterwards but the handshake is remarkable. This is really, really remarkable. But as well, there are the people who do an extra soft one to kind of undermine the whole thing. So they would just give you your hand like this, so to create ambiguity.

Yeah, I think, again, I'm very sort of biased of course, but it all goes back to interaction between... At a very sort of cellular level because your neurons interact or cells interact with other cells by the virtue of mechanical or chemical handshake. The whole idea of connectivity and how strong it is, is a big deal. Handshake is just a-

* But eyes... If somebody looks directly into the eyes making an effort to open the eyes at the same time, it means distrust-

They look like dumb fish!

* Because trust should be natural.

It's a chemical cue.

Natural, not forced.

* It should be absolutely spontaneous. If you break the rule of the spontaneity in doing that, it means that you have been thinking about cheating. Otherwise why you opened your eyes now.

To me the thing is like, I like looking at people in the eyes, but I don't like them to look like frogs that just woke up and I don't want to see you doing that because I feel embarrassed for you.

That's you know... Everyone... You just have to embrace diversity and that's that.

* But it's not diverse because when rules... That's the production of rules.

They all look like frogs that just woke up.

○ Yeah, I know, but that's sort of the same thing. There's this whole thing in my family because then we are talking constantly about our Jewish neurosis and this is absolutely true. I mean, we have another pattern which is a lack of pattern.

★ You are unpredictable.

/ This where the neurosis comes from?

○ I think so. But on the other hand, I totally understand it because it keeps you mentally and physically alert.

/ So what is the relationship between neurosis and superstition?

○ I think Chus nailed it down from the very beginning because she said that superstition is... Well you can call it like this: Superstition is a part of the behavior which is, kind of, generally can be summarized as anticipating behavior and neurosis is our definition of this anticipating behavior in its extreme form, because you know it's very obvious. Larry David is a great example of this behavior filled on filters, whatever you wish from neurosis superstition, but that creates-

/ Yeah it shows us as well as a kind of identity, it completely is... Yesterday I talked with some people working for TV and they said, "Yeah, but my superstitions are my identity." And it comes with an idea that certain superstitions are more regional than they actually are. There was a guy from South Italy and he gave the example with the salt and for him it was a South Italian superstition. I said, "No, it exists in Germany" and he was completely upset as if I would have stolen his identity. It's a bit like with nationalism where everyone has their nationalistic things and actually in every country they are the same.

★ Yeah. In Spain for example, the biggest superstition and decision making is that on a Tuesday never make any decision. So Tuesdays are non... You cannot marry or go into boarding, that's what they say. So you know, I think this is also very interesting.

□ "En martes, ni te cases ni te embarques?"

○ Yeah, but that's kind of... Don't you think it's understandable because it comes after the weekend?

★ It comes after a very difficult period that you may overcome. Because you could be having a passionate weekend, so the decision of waiting for a day, which would be Monday, may bring you into the ruin on Tuesday, so of course you should prevent that in a full body of people that historically, if you could not have for example sex a lot or interaction between genders, the possibility of passionately falling in love in a couple of days is high. Mixing up your genetic code in a bad manner.

○ I think so. At the end it will all... Everything we are talking about will eventually... Somehow is going to boil down to a genetic code buildup of-

* So, is our bacteria telling us don't?

○ Yeah.

* Ingo, did you discover any superstition yet on you?

/ No.

* What do you do with the potatoes? Do you cut potatoes on a plate?

/ Yeah. But this took a while I must admit. But it was more ... I wouldn't say it was a superstition. I was not assuming that is something bad. It's just a pattern. Of course, I have lots of patterns that I follow, but that's something different from superstition. It's just learned behavior. But it does not go-

* Eating from a palm brings bad luck. Eating from a palm brings bad luck.

□ Leaving your hat... Leaving a bag on the floor makes the money fall out of the... You don't become rich if you leave a bag on the floor or something like that?

* No, you don't become rich if you leave your bag on the floor. That's what they say, but only in Latin American, in Spain it has not been applied.

□ Then, there is something about the hat in the bed?

* Hat in the bed? It has something to do with a one night stand, I think that goes back to the third date.

□ Okay. But who uses hats these days?

* Probably cowboys. So before like there is this kind of... A hat in the bed means that the guy that owns the cows that you probably were wishing to marry, left the hat but he himself left... The money escaped your house.

/ But confront me with a superstition.

* What?

/ Yeah, You could confront me with one of my superstitions.

* You have plenty: That do you need to write in bed...

/ That I need to write in bed? It's not superstition.

* Yes, because-

/ I don't, It's not necessary...

* ...No no no. You need to write on the bed... You don't shower. That's a superstition.

Ever?

* Well he does go swimming but does not shower. He does not use the modern bathroom in ways that other people do and that's a superstition because it is exactly what you were describing that they would constitute your identity. If you start taking a shower every morning, it would make you a soft bourgeois normal German, but you are constituting strength out of keeping your bacteria fermented in your body longer. You have planned-

Do you swim every day?

* Yes.

/ ...Almost. But not necessarily. Not... I wouldn't shower if... If I would not swim then I absolutely would not shower.

* He will not use soap... like he never uses soap. So it's a complete general superstition. It's based on the fact that since they are an industrial country, they cannot use the products by themselves, but they only export them. It's the salt a superstition? You have plenty, it's all full of it.

/ No, it doesn't work. It would be great. But no, it's not that easy...

To shower?

/ No, I do. I even today you see I, I took a shower.

* But it has been weeks! and they... I told you, I told you we're going to see people. It's like a mother on Sunday's... Because it's my 'Sundayness.'

/ Okay. Patterns. You know... when I grew up, you would take a bath once a week. That's what it was like. I remember. Wait, only, only on holidays-

* He only uses under t-shirts of the same brand all his life. Only that German brand, no other brand. It needs to be that kind of cotton and it cannot have a special thing, and there is no exception for... His rules, what he calls patterns or rules, are a form of superstition because what the fuck would happen if the t-shirt would have another thing? It's only that you cannot stand it. Your body would react heavily to it. That's superstitious.

Preference no?

/ ...No, that's like and dislike!

* No, because it's a preference without exception...

/ No, I don't... Really? It's completely fine to find out about the superstition. I think I would really appreciate it. But that you have heavy like or dislike to certain things, it's not a superstition.

* You always have a poor quality sticker covering the Apple of your computer.

/ Because everyone has the same computer, so to be able to distinguish it.

* Yeah, it's very, it's very... Very relative. It's very-

/ But it's not superstitious. It's not the moment, like now... Did you notice my computer doesn't have it anymore for months and months and months.

* What happened with the sticker?

/ Yeah. You didn't even notice. Look, check. It's not there and I'm... It's not I'm... But we could maybe talk about the... It's funny that so far we didn't even touch the biggest field of superstition-

□ Which is?

/ It's the horoscope.

□ Aha, Okay. What sign are you?

/ Taurus.

□ Taurus. Okay, and, and you Sasha?

○ I think I'm Sagittarius.

□ And you Chus?

* Aquarius.

□ Okay. I'm Libra. It's my birthday soon... Gifts please. No but I mean like I'm not... I don't believe so much in in horoscopes. But I do have a... I mean like I've noticed patterns and that I... Like my two best friends are men that were born on the same day. And my two biggest love relationships are men that were born the same day, which is funny.

* That's funny. But that would create a superstition? Does those loves you are saying that-

□ Those were bad relationships. So if somebody... If somebody was telling me "I was born on April 2nd," I would be "okay, I am... I have to go now, need to get a phone call now, and I will call you later, don't call me, I'll call you". I don't think I would go out with someone that was born on April 2nd.

* Yeah, I understand but it's also a big coincidence. But it's funny how coincidences produce the imagination of a pattern and then you put the rest.

/ But you wouldn't call it superstition.

□ No, I think self-preservation by now.

/ What do you think about it Sasha? Do you have any, any relation to her horoscopes?

○ Not really. I... I think that the whole thing has been invented for very truly subjective, objective reasons. Because kids that were born in winter must have been exposed to completely different conditions than those in summer. So for example, the way how environment can change this-

* I was born in the winter!

○ Right. But the moment people started to live more and more comfortable or a uniform environment-

* That came after me.

○ Yeah. That's sort of... But if the idea is that if you're born in the winter, right... So normally you will be born in a environment which has less fresh fruit or vegetables, whatever. Yeah. And then, yeah, cold and dark. And so on... And I'm absolutely convinced that this must have an impact and the different bacteria will be sitting in your gut and your mother will have a very different composition, not very different, somewhat different composition of her breast milk. And that will all feed into how many nutrients we get, what kind of vitamins you get. And all of this must have had an impact on how these people-

□ Personality?

○ Personality... Of course. Absolutely. And then and then... That's how statistically the horoscopes came to life because they reflected-

* The seasons-

/ This says something about the sex life of your parents... Like when it's most active, you know, when we are most active-

* Well, it says... As Sasha said, it says mostly about the temperature of your country-

○ Yeah... And I think temperature, food... Which obviously is normal vitamins and so on.

□ Well what I found out is that my birthday, October 5th, is the most common birthday.

* Really?

□ Yeah. Because, statistically... To be born on October 5th it means that your parents had sex on new year's Eve. So the amount of people that have sex on new year's Eve is high.

* Which is superstitious, because that is the first of the year... And then you have sex the first day of the year, or around the first day, thinking that a new life and a new something-

□ But I don't think you are trying to make babies! I think you're just trying... You're drunk and you want to get laid, but that's-

/ In Germany, Taurus is a very common sign... Because why? It means you're a holiday child, it's very simple.

□ I mean the day, October 5th, is the most common one because it's just like nine months away from the Christmas vacation.

/ The summer vacation.

* And then me? Like the February, what is made?

/ Think about it...

* I dont know.

/ You're spring, You're a spring child. So one is when it's getting warmer and the others are like on the peak of the heat.

○ I do think that if one were to investigate the frequency of birth, in different countries, historically, one would definitely figure out that there were waves when most of the people will be born-

/ You could tell it at school, when there were all these birthdays and it is... It started, it was really this kind of... Starts in February, and then it peaks in May, June and the other half less.

* It's true. Yes totally.

○ And then it will come into behavioral patterns.

/ There are not so many autumn children.

* No, it's true. And this is also how people really love to read in the pattern science of possibility. Because at the end the whole thing that we are talking about is the production of hope. Like people need to feel free, and then in order to feel free you need to feel engaged. So the superstition engages and frees you at the same time. So that's why my mother bought a black cat, because it's both. Then you are like... You're engaged to feel free. And then you are free from the pattern that has been given to you, so that you are kind of stating that you have that possibility, that it is up to you. So we now call it empowerment... Which is a very bad word. But I think the possibility... Like hope and the dynamics of hope and freedom, which for example Caroline was obsessed about when she was doing *Documenta*, and she started talking about hope, people looked really badly at her because hope was a word completely out of fashion. Nobody wanted to talk about hope.

□ Because it was not related to reason.

* Yeah, exacto. And then-

/ The hope is, in Germany particularly, it's completely occupied by the church.

* Yes... Maybe, maybe... But it was very interesting that everyone is talking about empowerment and so on, when the-

/ And blah blah. I was like-

* Horrible. But she did not mean that she meant exactly the cycles... When you feel that, as Sasha is saying, that destruction is so close to you, that when you escape it, for whatever reason, when you feel that it's not hitting you, then you feel a sense of hope. Which is different than the everyday life. A situation of freedom or decision making process combined. Imagine something which is a very good coincidence plus a decision making that implements that coincidence, it may produce an idea of freedom, which is monumental. And there is very... It's also something which is linked to intelligence because some people can, as he was saying, predict that something in that direction may come and design decision making processes that encompass that, and it's like surfing. Then you are in a big wave. You go with something which... And that's what today's economy describes as a startup. A startup is a stupid word for that combination. Or trying to, again and again, combine these two processes like an incredibly good reading and interpretation of the data which are available, and situate your bet and the reality, adding a decision making process that implements it. And then, if you are talking in terms of economy, you get richer, if you're talking in terms of love, you get luckier. And then you are love or things like that. And I think that superstition was also a training camp for predictability... Like how predictable and how it's happening. And my big problem now is that young people, education, everything is very much about controlling and there is almost no dance with predictions because everyone is talking about it. But you need to train it-

□ Like reading the signs? In the entrails of births-

/ It's so big, it's so big... I mean... But the horoscope is the new religion-

* Yeah I know but they're-

□ Like if you're compatible with-

/ And it's not about times of the year because, I mean... The horoscope is much more complex when you're invested in it. Like it's really about the constellation of the stars. The thing that Saturn is doing this and that-

* But this is a totalitarian view.

/ It's not about which sign you are, but which part of the sign and then it's-

* But this is the contrary of what I'm saying. What I'm saying is that if you are reading it like that, you're just completely wanting to be in the hands of a bigger power. What I think is that when you don't want to be in the hands of a bigger plan.

□ But that's like Mercury retrograde no? That's one of the... That's a big one now.

/ Yeah. The Mercury thing. That's gigantic...

* What is that?

□ It's something that has to do with malfunctioning, when Mercury goes retrograde, everything breaks down. Electronics, travel plans, everything. People believe in it a lot now, and I guess Mercury goes retrograde sometimes. Don't ask me what that means-

* Mercury, the planet?

□ Mercury the planet goes retrograde.

* What is going retrograde?

□ I don't know. It just goes retrograde. Don't, ask me. It just goes retrograde. It has something to do with... I think when you look at it with a telescope or with the naked eye, it appears to be going backwards. I think. I don't know. But people say that when Mercury is retrograde, you are likely to have a computer crash or a bureaucratic problem or something going wrong with electronics. So that's a very modern superstition.

* I like that. It's beautiful.

□ So people very often tell you: "Yeah, yeah, yeah I was trying to answer your email, but Mercury is in retrograde," it's very funny.

- * That is very good, I like it very much.
- It's a very good metaphor actually-
- * I couldn't answer your mail. Plus I don't give a shit about the proposal but Mercury is in retrograde and-
- Mercury is like a perfect excuse.
- * Absolutley-
- / It was a short code?
- Mercury retrograde? I have no clue-
- * Is there an emoji?
- / How do you call it, is it MR?
- I don't know. I don't use it, but it has been used by-
- * But what about an emoji that would symbolize the fact that-
- / But Mercury doesn't have an emoji yet.
- Let's make one!
- * Now we need an emoji for Mercury retrograde. That's a round with a wing on top-
- Like with an arrow, like a backward arrow.
- * Que bonito, I like it!
- Yeah, that's a good one.
- * But why do you think that young millennials... I think also to call a generation 'millennial' is superstitious-
- Millennials are not so young any more exactly-
- * But to call a generation 'millennials' is a very... I always thought it was superstitious. It's a completely Messianic, superstitious-
- Because we are running out of letters-
- * You are sending them to the trashcan right away. The word 'millennial' is bad luck.

/ It's a very confusing term because what does it actually mean? It's not that you're born around 2000. You're born early on, so what... What actually is the 'millennial'?

□ Coming of age around the... The change of the millennium.

* Exacto. You are 18 when the change-

/ Already 18. Is that all?

□ 18 or around. Because generations are a change of 20 years.

/ 20 years?

□ Yeah. That's how you measure a generation.

/ So you are between 10 and 30? no-

* No.

□ The thing is that they started using letters to name the generations not on the 'A' but already on the 'X' – like generation X. Before that there were the baby boomers. Generation X is nicknamed after the Douglas Copland book.

* Also very bad faith. They took it from fiction and fiction is completely soaking into superstition. And to call somebody generation X is very bad faith, then because that means also 'X' is the incognita, is the historical idea-

/ But that was the point... That was why he was calling it generation X.

* But it's just bad luck!

□ Then you have the-

* Generation Z.

□ That's a... That's the next one-

* El ultimo mono!

□ Those are the ones like... Greta Thunberg is generation Z. And you have the-

* The last monkey. In Spanish.

/ That's the one past the millennials?

□ Yep.

/ Is generation Z? I thought that was even before the millennials!

* Millennial, generation X, generation Z. Generation Z... It's also bad naming. You should not name it that... It's just bad.

/ They have a zero probably, that's why they're called Z. Zero... Like the 2000's.

□ I have no idea. I don't... I'm not into that.

/ Like 01, 02, 03, 04...

□ But then you have the in-betweens because... So there is like now a sub generation that are called the 'X-enials', which is people that are in between the generation X and the millennials and sort of share traits of both generations.

* This naming is really imposing a chart and it's bringing bad luck. And is bad faith. Is very superstitious this naming... We were belonging to any generation?

□ I think I'm 'X-enial' actually but it... The way that they are measuring it now-

* 'Mexenial'?

□ 'X-enial'.

/ 'X-enial'.

□ In between the generation X and millennial.

* And you Ingo?

/ I never thought of it.

□ The way they measured it, it has to do with if you are, which is stupid because it's not uniform across the planet, but it has to do with... If you are a digital native or not.

* But before, generations were not named. We started naming them when we are consumers, consuming. Like the baby boom was the first name. Baby boomer.

○ Yeah. Because it simplifies people and-

* People. And minions-

□ Consuming trends-

○ And then consuming trends and then, you know, if you define millennials and they get used to this, then you can sell them products as... In a way, easy way to say identical things. So-

* I think this is a very manipulative... Superstition-

○ I'm sure people will be very... Some of them will be very happy to hear this. This superstition, to some degrees... And superstition is a great thing because if you, as an individual, you use superstition to diversify your own worlds growing up and become, you know to some degree, a hostage with different fears and thoughts until... And then you filter it away, or not and then you develop it-

* Well but you said something yesterday against what you are saying now, in a good way. Meaning that people are collectively sharing... If people collectively share the same fear it's also absolutely blocking.

○ Blocking, absolutely...

* It's blocking a whole tranche of the population. Because the idea is to diversify the fears. Some are in fear of the black cat which are not in fear of the salt... And then now with this pattern overimposed to an already super mega short pattern of the 20 years pattern. Then the space to move is none.

○ Absolutely. But that's what I think in a way, well at some point concluded in our conversation, that you are poetically going into time of super, super superstitions... Of mega superstitions, which are forcefully introduced into society and then create a single-

* That's my point. I totally agree with you. I think that we are, even the influencers... I think everything is like enforcing the pattern reading system, which is superstition, but capitalistically produced to control very sliced tranches of population... Both of them.

○ Absolutely. Because you branding and all of this, you know... Take into account individualities, it's completely old-fashioned.

/ Yeah, because we are not controlled by traditions anymore so something has to replace them.

○ Yeah. But I mean tradition and I... That's for sure. But since we are talking about consumption and branding consumption in a way that will be appealing to us... I mean the climate change for example that we talk about. So this is a mega superstition-

* But also the obsession with food... seems interesting-

/ But could you finish this? What? It's a superstition?

○ Yeah, of course. A lot of things would be superstition... Because nothing is really analyzed in a sophisticated way. There's no debate, no discussion or number crunching. No. Well not none. It's a lot of statements and the statements tend to generate this at the end. One of the statements, or collectively, may win and they generate this generation of super superstition. Right? Then this is guiding a particular slice of population in a very effective way. So-

/ But that's not superstition. It's a certain belief that now is, you know, that gets solidified-

□ The end of the world?

/ That in the beginning was very weak and now gets a stronger belief. But that's not a superstition.

□ It's like an opera of Nostradamus, no?

/ It does not even matter if you think this belief is correct or not correct, it's not a superstition. It's a relief, and-

* But I understood differently what he said. I understood that the climate change fear would produce superstitions in the way certain sciences are read, because there's not enough data to evaluate the real damage of certain things. So these damages would be reevaluated through superstitions. Like for example: If it rains on a sunny day, it means that the next three months are going to be, I don't know what... So this kind of thinking-

□ Like the 'farmer's almanac' kind of thing. I mean... But I was thinking of... In psychology it's called like 'death pulsion', which means this desire for death or this compulsion that is beyond your own conscious thought... And we all have it, which has to do with risk taking... And not only toxoplasmosis, also that. And of course, people have been predicting the end of the world forever! Nostradamus gets a revival every few years! And now I think a lot of the, you know... Besides wanting a front seat to the end of the world catastrophe, which I think subconsciously a lot of people want, am I going to be the one that sees the oceans dying? Am I going to be the one that witnesses the last elephant? Besides that, there is also this element where it gets... It sort of like substitutes the Nostradamus thing or the cults of people that go on the top of the pyramids with sneakers to, you know, to sacrifice themselves in some kind of like 'Neo Aztec'.

○ Right. And then there's all the pretext for some kind of global dictatorship of some horrific, horrific scale that, you know, will take all of these fears, whatever you name them into-

□ But those fears have always been there, right?

○ Right. But the spread of the viral impact of them is very different because it can... find-

□ Just one thing to say, sorry. Because it's very easy to speak about like, the cultural thing and fear, but if you look at... I mean like climate change does have an impact and it does happen. If you look at what happens in Latin America, again, and people that are... I mean like climate activists do get murdered. They don't make the news. They get murdered all the time by companies. Because people want to make a railroad that crosses the Mayan territory and the indigenous people don't want that because it destroys the relationship with their ecosystem that they make their living from. And then the activists get killed. Then you see all the central American people that have to leave because their land is not fertile anymore, because it doesn't rain anymore. And of course that's very different from the, you know... They have to leave. So that's very different from the symbolic climate activism that happens in Europe. But it does happen... And there is a truth there!

○ I totally agree with it, but there are two different things. The question is to what extent? If you talk about superstition applied in a way, sort of, to individual or family being exposed to something, it's one thing. But if you use the same phenomenon to run, sort of, masses, that's very different. I'm not debating this. It's not that they say that someone will use the climate change. It will be a generation... It's just the situation now is such that there is a need to generate tools to manipulate large masses of people. Right? And I don't say superstition will be one of them, but it's sort of... But one can use, sort of, propensity of people to have superstition, to generate something of the sort... And a fear of sign of something is a...

□ But one could also say that conspiracy theories are a very good way to-

○ I mean, I guess all of it. Fear of unknown is a... Is a beginning of everything.

★ But what is clear now is that no single system is at work alone. So it's a combination of many systems that provide this kind of pattern of fear.

○ Yeah. So then in the end superstition is a sort of readiness for... For bad and good things. Right?

/ I think in general... I mean there's ways of fear and it's, it's strange that you... How easy that these ways get forgotten again. So it's always like the past generations had it so much worse... So much better I mean. We... I grew up... My generation was called, back then, not generation 'X' but generation 'no future'. Because it was like the post punk nihilism combined with fears of nuclear war... Nuclear winter. And this is interesting. I think one reason why people of my generation have some difficulties to adapt to global warming is because our fear was winter. It was called nuclear winter. We were fearing a new ice age, and it just takes a bit of time and we have the next generation and they fear... No?

★ That's so funny.

□ No. But that's true because I remember the movies.

And a lot of the movies, the post apocalyptic ones, there is a Russian one that I love that was called *Letters For A Dead Man*. It's a filmmaker that's called Konstantin Lopushansky and the movie is fantastic, it all takes place underground in a nuclear shelter... It's like the last children that they're going to some library, because there's always libraries in post-apocalyptic movies... They have to find some books, like repositories of knowledge somehow, and they are tracking along this winter land... They start ruins, ruins, ruins, and winter-

/ Winter! Exactly.

* It's called Russia.

□ It's called Russia, yes.

/ No and as for pollution, that pollution would bring winter. That's the other thing-

□ It's a combination between pollution and winter.

/ And it's still... This is true. I haven't read so much about it, but even this guy Roger Hallam from Extinction Rebellion, his manifesto, the last pages of it he writes that "...we have to be aware that the moment the air gets clean, the earth will heat up further." So we'll have a bit of a problem when there's no pollution anymore. We might have additional-

* Heat.

/ Yeah, additional heat and it's a bit of a problem. But this we will sort out. Yeah? We might have an extra degree celsius just because the air is so clean. So, of course the thing is... But there's always a certain simplification in it. This is then as well the reason why after a while this fear stops. So, there's not just the problem that the fear gets too strong, but as well that it cannot be sustained. It just goes in waves.

* But I've been talking about that-

/ You cannot lift-

* Also, yesterday the question was about these liminal notions. The disaster is definitely not an interpretative or an emancipatory concept. It's just a liminal one. It pulls you into the void and then after that there is a nothingness and nobody knows what to do, even in thinking or speculative thinking about it. So, it's a big problem to-

/ So, this is why it's so good that there is different... And I think this is the complete... Where our society gets completely wrong, that it still speaks of certain mental states as an illness, like manic depression and so on. I think this is all in the complexity of the society super useful that you have these different... Some people were super alert to a point that then can as well be ridiculed by others, but you need this.

You need a different mindset, like on a hormonal level and so on... That you are able for instance to sustain a certain anger about an abstract topic, to be... I mean this is the interesting thing-

* But for me, the big problem is that the big loser of this mega wave of superstition is humor.

/ Sure.

* That's the absolutely collateral damage, that we are... All these young people into the horoscope and this and that, for me, it only means that the neurotic humor that would allow for a chance to be interpreted and the possibility, it's gone.

○ Chancing is anyway a very old fashioned thing. So, not the whole notion of not taking chances, not being random, not being organized and so on. This is actually potentially a recipe... Well not for disaster, but for creating an extreme homogeneous and therefore really manipulatable and extremely sensitive in this respect to being an extinguishable population. Because the diversity is the foundation for fitness and is making it so homogeneous-

* But humor, on the ones such an incredible transformation and then move away from... I think the almost only humor that's left for certain generation is just eschatology. For us it has been, immunologically speaking, the weapon doors, the illness. I think that's the only thing that we develop and that's really in danger. I think all this massive amount of media, horoscopes, whatever. So, the society is dominated by this type of fear. This type of anxiety does not allow for any other humor but the cake on your face, going back to the cake on your face-

□ You do have a... I mean the kind of humor that exists now I find it super toxic, because it's either eschatology or the alt+right humor that is... There is a lot of humor in the alt+right.

* So, the humiliation.

□ Humiliation, this whole idea of 'Kek', if you even know who 'Kek' is-

* No, what is 'Kek'?

□ It's a frog. And 'Pepe the Frog' and 'Kek is a God' and there is a lot of humor there. That is... I don't want to spend time talking about it, but-

* No, but I want to know-

□ I'll tell you later because this is not something that's really worth talking about publicly... But then what I'm thinking is that the lack of humor that you're talking about has to do with the sense of moral duty, because when you are bound in moral duty, you are stern and austere...

But if shit hits the fan, then humor is one of the most vital tools for our systems and survival and I believe it. I believe in 'Gallows humor' because that's how Incas and Mexicans, that's how we survive. You have to be able to laugh at yourself and to laugh at death in the face... And then you find ways to keep going. And then you find solutions and it's all about temporary solutions. You know that things are not fixed... That whatever you did is going to sort things out only for a little bit, until the next time they break, but you're like okay, if I do this, I laugh at it a little bit and then I do this and then I can keep going for another three kilometers, and then in three kilometers I figure out how to move the car again.

* Young people right now in the-

□ So serious-

* For example, they don't laugh very much. And when they laugh, they laugh at things that I would've considered irrelevant when I was their age. Something that I would not allow myself to laugh at. So, it's really interesting the transformation... That they laugh like people 90 years old would laugh in a village of Spain. It's like no, that's not how you laugh. You cannot be that. No? If a dog is running and just goes with a little bit of water against the wall and they laugh or things like that, it's just no. Or like old people, in a naive... Yeah, it's scatological way. So, it's not-

And I think that's superstitious, at that level that we're talking about, has a great... Which creates also a moral duty not to... Everyone is in a crusade. So, there's no jokes, but there were jokes in the crusades. I'm sure.

/ I don't know if there are no jokes as well-

* No, there is this standard-

/ As well different ways of how you perceive. And things are not... Maybe you think it's-

* It's not very present-

/ Yes, exactly, but that does not mean that the humor is gone, but that you maybe would not articulate it in public. So, we have an idea, with social media for instance, that things are public. That we actually have an insight in what's going on, but it's not at all. It's social media. It's not private media. It's public. It's public and-

* When the jokes were sent, even now there's people sending you jokes on WhatsApp, which are like power points...

□ My mom sends me those, and my dad.

* And this is a serious problem.

Yeah, they're so bad.

/ Do you have any opinion on this Sasha?

Well, I mean, no not... I'm preoccupied by way of sort of simple analogy of that-

* But you are living in America. In America, their humor is very corporative, no?

Yeah, but we need to look beyond this sort of... And think what does it mean? How to understand everything that's happening now and for me the easiest way to think about this is... So when we talk about superstition and other sorts of attributes of human culture, it's also interesting to think whether there's a general rule that governs this, and what does it mean? And then I kind of like to think about the brain development.

* The what?

The brain development.

Of who?

No, general brain development. So, the way our brain develops is you start with one cell and then the neurons start to appear. They start to divide, divide, divide and then they become... At this point they're nothing but a morphous, sort of relatively speaking, a mass of cells. Then they start to make connections, and then they start to build networks and as networks are built, each network needs to find the right partner and those are who do survive. Those which don't, don't. And the networks are built and organized and then massive networks are being built and then the human is born. And at the time when the human is born, most of the connections are established and most of the neurons, sort of, filter out. And then the next level of connectivity comes, which now reflects the environmental impact and then gives the finesse of the connection and activity in the brain and then at some age a person is born as a person. In the sense that the brain is established and it sort of... So, if you take this analogy into society, we are somehow at the level of this, sort of, expansion of information of the primitive networks, right? So, if that were the case, it doesn't really matter. We are at a point when whoever wants to install new principles or superstitions or guidance, it's just all irrelevant because at some point it all will be formed the way how the brain is made. The networks will be established, the connections will be fixed and everything which is unnecessary or potentially harmful will disappear, and then it will be a global brain. The ease of what we are talking about. We're talking about the powers that we believe can control this. I think they do/may control it and at some point there could be an unfortunate event, which you abort human race development as a global brain... But if you're lucky and this is not going to happen, then the brain of humanity as such will be formed and what will happen then... It's different because it will be a global brain where the role of individual personalities, individuals-

□ That's like communism.

○ No, it's not a communism. No, no. It's different. It's... Every neuron has its own function, which is extremely important. You can take out a single neuron and then you may destroy the function of many networks.

* And do you think that the brain is developing this way?

□ No, that's the larger humanity-

○ It's a larger humanity and we are talking now about the efforts to abort this development, which has always this critical point when extremely strong impact may happen-

/ I think this analogy would have worked to some degree, if there would be no computers and no technology-

○ But the computers-

/ And there would be a 'World Government', you know. And then you would have... But with artificial intelligence coming in, and as well machines coming in, and doing so many things... That the thing is... what is the function of all these cells? These humans? And this is the whole, you know... what the big main irritation today in society is, what are we good for?

○ Oh, we are good for network! We are, at the beginning... At the end all human brains will connect to each other. We will generate this absolutely phenomenal, powerful network and mega brain, which will transcend the development of individual existence and create something that-

□ That fear of obsolescence, that's what you're talking about no? Robots are going to take my job... I'm obsolete and-

○ No no no, they will not. This whole thing will become what technically is inside you, Julieta or Chus-

/ I don't think so.

○ In the brain where individual value of individual neurons is tremendous, yet it-

* So, you're talking about some sort of-

/ I don't think so.

* Some sort of a transcendent-

○ Transcendent, yeah and I think-

/ Yeah but this whole idea of the news, fear and then.. Yeah, I mean... There's a-

□ News, fear and cosmism-

○ I know, but this-

/ It's very nostalgic.

○ I personally think that... But it's the same thing why to argue again this. If you have an example of brain development, then you will say, "Well no, brain development is"

★ Well, there's a part which is nostalgic, but there's a part that says, which at least let's say so, technology moves towards it, that we are moving towards synchronizing, which is also in contradiction with old, traditional emancipatory movements because there is a big tension that we are living between ideas or traditional ideas of emancipation and individualism and autonomy. And ideas of global synchronization, not only among humans, but also among machines. So, this tension is that. I think the other thing is do we have or not the speculative philosophical tools to deal with the complexities that they are putting on the table? And also, are we, as I think Sasha is saying, sometimes even acting according to our own prophecy? Because since the consumer culture and so on is synchronizing people in this generation and patterns and horoscopes and all that. So, this goes into that direction.

□ Yeah, but I have a question-

/ Of course, that's what... Sorry.

□ Sorry Ingo... Because we keep talking about the humans and machines, and superstition. And superstition as a connecting thing, but do we think that animals are superstitious? Or is that a prediction-

○ But we talk about this... They have predictive... They have neurosis. Every animal you look at has a-

□ Yeah but that's a superstition-

○ But no no, it's what you say. It has a predictive behavior. It's better to move 50 times along the axis in anticipation of a danger coming from the right or left, because if it comes you are safe, then to stay still and just enjoy the sunshine.

★ Yes. I also think that animals are superstitious.

/ Yeah, I could tell it... Like this summer with feeding the cats. I could sense they were completely... There was one cat, I would come, bring the food and the milk and it would always first step back a bit, a tiny bit. And always going one step down.

Always to the same position. Always go into the same position, retreat, come, you know... And it has of course to do with some kind of previous trauma... insisting on this behavior was so-

Animals are not spontaneous.

/ No. Not at all.

* But they are also incredible. They are really... Let's say, they have an incredible knowledge about patterns that we don't process.

Yes, absolutely.

* So, it's absolutely possible to think that they want to defy their own patterns because why not? I think they are intelligent enough, some of them, to-

And many of the patterns must be anticipatory, because if you follow the immediate signals, it could be too late. So, you need to have some sort of computational capacity to anticipate something or you do it randomly that's generating this diversity of anticipatory things that... So our immune system is a very good example of anticipation, because we make absolutely insane amount of antibody that we will never use. But they are made in anticipation of the common danger, infection.

Malaria.

Yeah. So, the whole purpose-

/ To have auto-immune diseases is as well very superstitious?

Well, it's an unfortunate drawback of being-

* I would love that theory, it's really good... Auto-immune diseases is a result of superstition.

Absolutely. Autoimmune disease is the extreme case of this diversity of gone wrong because you make-

I want to protect you from yourself.

Well, not really. It's just your immune system, in the effort to be super efficient, becomes a little bit dis-regulated and then starts... It's an unfortunate sort of consequence of this but... The main thing is that we do have a lot of wastefulness embedded in us, which protects us from environmental danger. And the same behaviorally because we generate diversity of behavioral patterns in anticipation of potential danger and superstition is one way of formalizing it.

* I think so too.

/ I would like to get back to the brain analogy. And I believe as Chus said that there will be completely new smooth ways to synchronize with each other. When yesterday talking about this post freedom scenario, this is not like "Oh, we will get back into an authoritarian state," this was not what I was thinking but... This idea of autonomy as... Yeah this enlightenment autonomy, it's beyond that. But the question with the brain is... Okay, the brain has a function within the body and I doubt-

□ Does it?

/ I doubt that the human, this newly synchronized and at the same time super diverse global humanity or post humanity, would have this kind of function or would it have this function?

○ Well, I mean it depends what function you give it. If the function is a spread of life or spread of knowledge, you can technically imagine the situation when you can beam yourself somewhere and this is not impossible. So, our understanding of spreading of life is ridiculously limited to the spreading of a biological seed, which is what most of the people like. There are definitely possibilities of spreading life in this form, but there's also possibility of spreading-

□ Consciousness, you mean?

○ Knowledge. Whatever you like or conscious. I don't know consciousness, but in knowledge. And knowledge can be spread by beam, and beam has no... Potentially has no constraints that we are-

/ Send it into outer space.

○ Yeah, outer space and that's anyway something-

/ Or the deep sea.

○ Deep sea. I mean, yeah... It depends. We can't think about this, we can only... It will become ridiculed because it will be all saying "It's all science fiction and so on," Well you know... But there are great thinkers like Freeman Dyson who is one of the most amazing physicists over the 20th century. He talks about the spreading of life by sending micro capsules filled with some organic material, well living species, to infinite space, and then let them be there to populate. This is a bacteriological way of thinking about this and contaminating space by... Possible. That's potentially one... But it's the easiest way for us to imagine life being spread, but life can be spread also by other forms and we still are so far off in understanding even simple things. Because even when we sit here, there are spores of bacteria around us that perhaps have been here for thousands of years and they are not life. They're not life. They are life only when they become germinated, and they will start producing bacteria...

But these are organic matter that have been here, will be here beyond our times. What does it mean and what can stimulate them to existence? I'm not talking about anything religious, I'm talking about-

* No, about conditions.

○ Conditions.

/ Okay, getting back one last time to the brain. A well-functioning brain of course offers completely new possibilities, as we know, to have an effect outside of the brain. The thing is the brain does not only work... The function is not just to help you... Keep you keeping your life, but-

○ Influence-

/ Yeah. You can start a war, you can get a nuclear bomb, you can kill yourself and that's as well... This brain can end up with the decision of stopping itself. So, there's of course this more chaotic system that we are, a less organized system. In a way, it could be way more solid than this-

○ Right, but Ingo... Yesterday, the whole thing about this that we're going through fear to fear to fear, not you, but... First we deal with this extreme anthropocentrism that puts the human in the center of everything. But the same is true on a bigger scale. There's definitely an infinite number of spaces and universes and you can't really imagine this. And one doesn't need to think about this, but obviously the synchronized brain as you call it or synchronized consciousness of people who inhabit our planet is one thing because it's one of many and okay, we have no way to improve it. We have no way to formalize it, but it's as the same thing. Behavior is... Yes, I agree with Ingo, its individual can terminate, and that may happen. The accidental termination is completely possible.

□ But I think is-

/ It's on purpose. It could even be one on purpose-

○ No, but its purpose is all this accidental-

/ Accidental-

○ Of course, yeah.

□ Going through the anthropocentrism thing, I find it quite fascinating that we tend to make an equation of life with intelligence and knowledge as we know it or as we experience it. Because I have this fantasy of this planet, like time passes and because there are successful species beyond ours, which is very successful like jellyfish that I love, so...

I have this image of this planet being just biomass with no brains, organism with no brains, just pure jellyfish. And that as a very successful form of life that does not self predate, that feeds, it has a well-

* That's superstitious.

□ ...Structured chain of supply. No, no, no, no, but it's like an image that I like, that life is possible without intelligence and that life is possible without knowledge-

○ But I think it is nice to be attached to intelligence because there is something about intelligence-

□ But we are only a few thousand years old. Intelligence is not-

○ It's not about us. It's not about we don't know our-

□ I mean, intelligence as we understand it. That's what I'm talking about.

○ Intelligence, of us as we know it and on this planet as we understand it that's true... But that's where we end. And then beyond this is only either religion, beliefs, superstition, dah, dah, dah... But that's giving us, sort of, this sort of... That's exactly where we are coming to discussion about generations and millennials because we keep constantly stamping us-

□ Our timescales.

○ Our time scales and-

* Yeah, it's true.

○ We don't see ourselves as a continuum of sorts and that would create this-

□ I don't remember who said this, but there is a very petulant saying that says "man is the measure of the universe." That has to do... It's kind of like the 'Da Vinci', the 'Vitruvian Man'. There is so much navel gazing in those words....

* Yeah, but look at that man. It has nothing to do with any real-

□ Yeah, I don't believe that. I just know that it's-

○ But it's a feeling of... That's why Buddhism is powerful to some degree.

□ I like that one actually. If there is a religion that I could be sympathetic to, it would be either Shinto or-

○ Yes, but it's... I mean I think that the whole... And one can... The whole premise of religion and its birth was an attempt to suppress fears.

- By rules?
- By hope, by beliefs, by emancipation-
- / And also to cultivate them.
- So, yeah. So, the whole notion of salvation is very powerful. So-
- * It's true, but it's also based on fear.
- Yeah, but fear-
- It's not even to everyone.
- Absolutely and it's, sort of, perpetual effort to-
- * It's very cognitive.
- Yeah. Computation and so... It's very predictable in a way, right? So, how to be over this is-
- * We can go over that.
- Yeah.
- I think we can. That's a nice way to close it off?
- * Perfect.
- Thank you.
- * Thank you so much.
- Thank you everybody.