

## Information Ages Stupidity

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### Foreword

Today we can easily generate messages and send them to the world through the Internet. Conversely we can input a few key words or questions into the Internet and instantly get answers from the network. People are handling PCs or smart phones everywhere and anytime. It is certainly convenient and helpful. But it has serious side-effects. Some people are addicted to the information network so deeply that they have difficulty to overcome the disease. The information network is so convenient that the users are making less and less thinking, reading, discussions or experiments. In short we are becoming more and more stupid with the advancement of the information technology and applications.

Our information networks are flooded with fake news, many of them for jokes but some with evil intentions. We must be clever enough to tell the fakes, track them and punish those evil users of the network. For this objective let us review the history of our culture and try to find some clues to solve the problems.

### Primitive Ages Wisdom

Our ancestors in primitive ages were wise, honest and democratic. The wisdom was essential to them, because they could not survive without it. The archeology tells the humanoid evolved with enlargement of brains through millions of years to us Homo Sapiens, i.e. intelligent human beings. The remains of the primitive ages tell all the basic tools for living were invented very early. Our primitive ancestors must have been very diligent because they had to be hunters, collectors, builders, tool makers, medical doctors, teachers, farmers, traders, leaders, in short everything in themselves. The knowledge was handed over from generations to generations through life and around the fire in their caves or huts. A trace of wise savages remains in our language. The ancient Japanese language was much more accurate with more sounds, more elegant and better constructed grammatically than our spoken language today. That is why we use classic Japanese in writing poems to express our emotion with most accuracy and elegance.

The primitive society must have been democratic as described in “Ancient Society” written by Lewis Henry Morgan. This is a real observation of Iroquois tribe by the author. USA is the “United States” of America, the first major state without a king in modern history of the world. The political system must have been born modeled after the “Union of five nations” under which the leaders of the five tribes Of Iroquois regularly gathered to discuss mutual problems peacefully. For more details, see

p.243, "American Heritage Book of INDIANS" , American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc. 1982

B. Franklin and T. Jefferson were good friends of the native people. T. Jefferson who drafted the "Declaration of Independence" and later became the 3<sup>rd</sup> president of USA offered a compliment "noble savage" to the native people for their honesty and bravery.

Life in the primitive ages was hard and unstable. The life span of the people was much shorter than today. There must have been many cases children became orphans. The orphans were then raised by the families or clans as described in the family systems of the Iroquois observed by L. H. Morgan.

In Japanese language, Father = titi, Mother = fafa, grandfather = didi, grandmother = vava, uncle = wodi, aunt= wova. Those words show the structure of our family system. An interesting fact is; Japanese children call even strangers by wodi(uncle) or wova(aunt). I think it is the remnant of our ancient expanded family system.

By the way, I was once spoken to by a young man "father" though I am only 76. It does not matter to me because I regard all children my grandchildren. As I showed in other memoranda on my HP, all human beings are brothers and sisters.

In Japan "Kojiki" completed in the 8<sup>th</sup> century collected historical legends all over the country to clarify how the dynasty had been formed. I interpret Kojiki describes the primitive democracy and the following historical processes how Japan was unified by Yamato dynasty.

I guess the universal democracy in primitive ages can be found everywhere in the world. Human beings are born free and equal in the nature.

#### Civilization Ages Ignorance

With the advent of agriculture and domestication of animals were born private properties. Competitions for better lands caused wars among individuals, villages and clans. The winners ruled the losers in the enlarged territories, thus the society was split into ruling and ruled classes. The process continued until formation of the states which were ruled by kings. The ruling classes monopolized not only the wealth and power but also knowledge. The writing systems; letters were monopolized by ruling classes. In ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia there were special social classes "secretaries" who served their states by their writing skills.

In Japan Tokugawa Shogunate set the famous ruling principle "Do not inform the people, let them conform to us" Keeping the people illiterate and ignorant was the basic policy of the feudalistic rulers of Japan. I think it will apply to most other countries. Even today Taliban in Afghanistan

pursues such a policy against their women. They are behind the world by two centuries.

### Advances of Science & Technology

However the rulers try to solidify their rules by limiting education of the people, the society never stops dissemination of knowledge and advancement of science & technologies.

The invention of printing by G.J.Gutenberg in mid-15<sup>th</sup> century opened a new, solid path for dissemination of knowledge to the people. The long dark night of ignorance under feudalism came to dawn by such people as N.Copernicus, J.Kepler and Galileo, etc.

It is noticeable the great people who changed the human society completely by their inventions or enterprises; J.Watt (Steam engine) , G. and R. Stevenson (Locomotives, Trains system ) T.A.Edison ( artificial lighting, audio recording, movies, generators, telegraphy, vacuum tubes, and many others), O. and W. Wright (aviation) and many others were from lower classes without or with very little school education .

Abraham Lincoln who abolished the inhuman slavery system in USA in 19<sup>th</sup> century and clearly defined democracy as “government of the people, by the people and for the people” in his celebrated Gettysburg address, did not get any school education. Because of poverty he could not read many books but he read through a few books many times and pondered about the subjects.

Thus, however the ruling classes try to hinder education of the lower classes, the science & technology never stops advancement because it is the nature of Homo Sapiens who want to know the unknowns in whatever situations. Thus human beings have evolved for millions of years.

### Information Ages Stupidity

I do not need to say anything more as I described the problem in the foreword.

### Solutions of the Problems

Easily given answers do not stay in us to crystalize into knowledge. Discovery of problems is the first step. Here we need sharp sensitivity that can be only sharpened by practices. We do need broad and solid basis of knowledge to discover and pursue the unknowns to open new realm of knowledge.

I recommend the following practices.

#### (1) Reading

Let our children read many good books at young ages. T.A. Edison had no school education. He

was educated by his mother at home. He began working early but he could spend most of the day in Detroit library. He says he read all the books in the library. His extensive reading formed his knowledge basis.

(2) Writing

Let our children do a lot of compositions. That is the best training to sharpen their sensitivities and knowing themselves. Knowing oneself is the gate for one's mental advances.

T. A. Edison was not only a big reader but also a big writer. He left a mountain of writings that takes many years to sort them. I once bought his book from a roadside bookseller in Weymouth, U.K. For more details, read;

The Diary and Sundry Observations of Thomas Alva Edison,

Greenwood Press, Publishers Westport, Conncticut printed in 1968 by Greenwood,  
ISBN0-8371-0067-4

(3) Exchange of transactions

Discuss what you think, read or write with your friends, teachers or parents. With good basis of knowledge, the information network can be very useful. You can obtain knowledge, discuss matters with the people of the world though the information network. Utilize the network and never be utilized by it.