DARWINIAN HELLWORLDS AND COSMIC RESCUE MISSIONS

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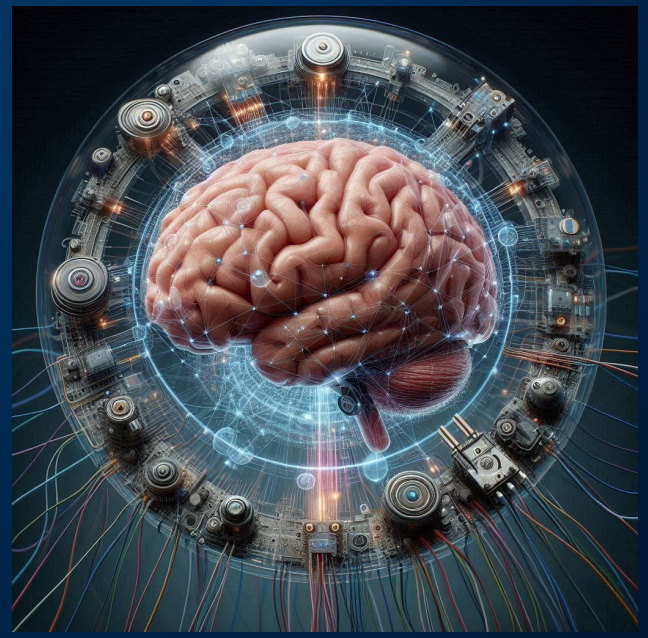
PART ONE
THE TRANSHUMANIST DECLARATION

"We advocate the well-being of all sentience, including humans, non-human animals, and any future artificial intellects, modified life forms, or other intelligences to which technological and scientific advance may give rise."

The Transhumanist Declaration (1998, 2009)

transhumanist.com

THE HARD PROBLEM OF CONSCIOUSNESS (1)



What Systems Are Sentient?
What Systems Have a Pain-Pleasure Axis - The World's Inbuilt Metric of (Dis)Value?

https://www.hedweb.com/quora/2015.html#background

THE HARD PROBLEM OF CONSCIOUSNESS (2)

THE INTRINSIC NATURE ARGUMENT

What is the mysterious "fire" in the equations of QFT?
Does the intrinsic nature of the world's fundamental quantum fields differ inside and outside the head?

Non-materialist physicalism:
https://www.hedweb.com/quora/2015.html#nonmat

QUESTION:

So IF consciousness fundamentalism is true, can classical computers be sentient?
Are "whole-brain emulations" sentient?
Is digital superintelligence a conscious mind?

ANSWER:

No.

Digital Computers are Zombies

binding-problem.com

THE PHENOMENAL BINDING PROBLEM

No binding = no mind = invincible ignorance of the empirical ("relating to experience") realm

In a fundamentally quantum world, decoherence makes otherwise impossible classical computing physically feasible AND forbids classical digital computers from supporting phenomenally-bound minds.

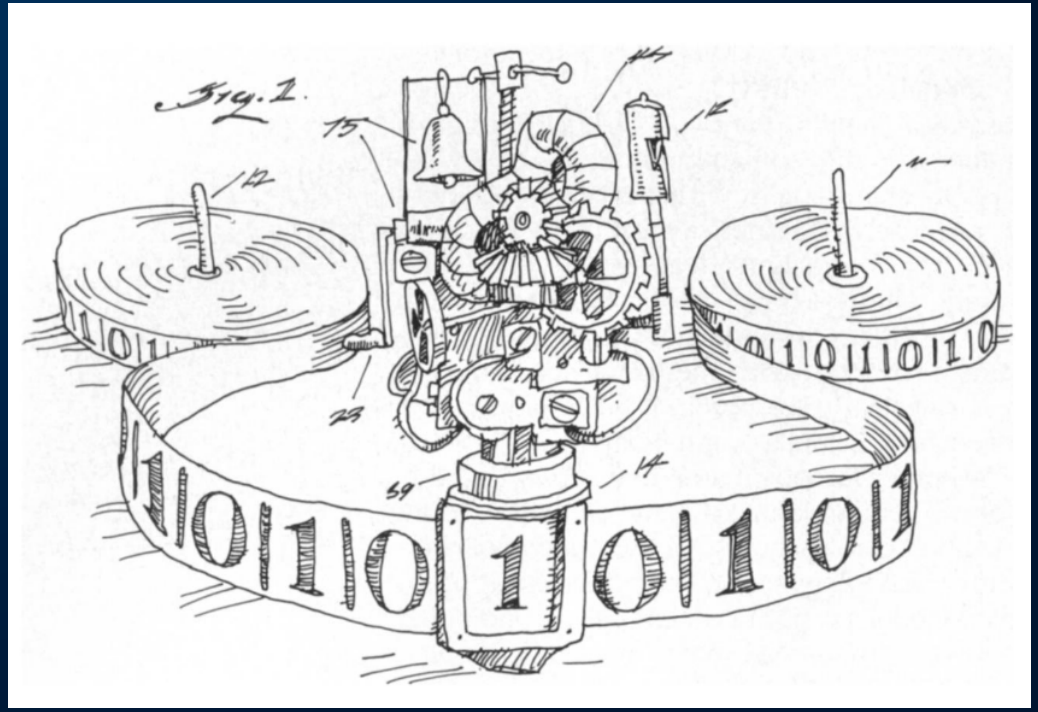
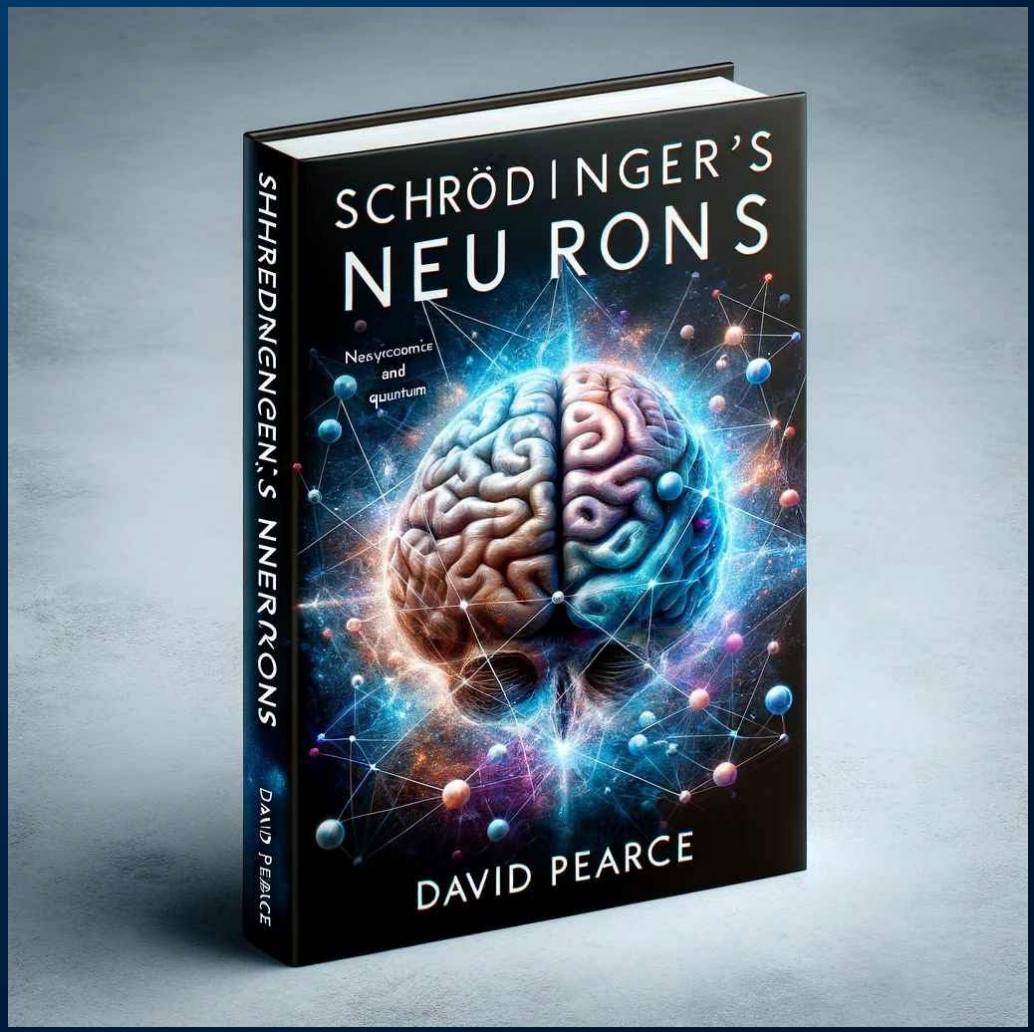


Fig. 1.
1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 1

Phenomenal binding

"Schrödinger's Neurons"
a testable conjecture

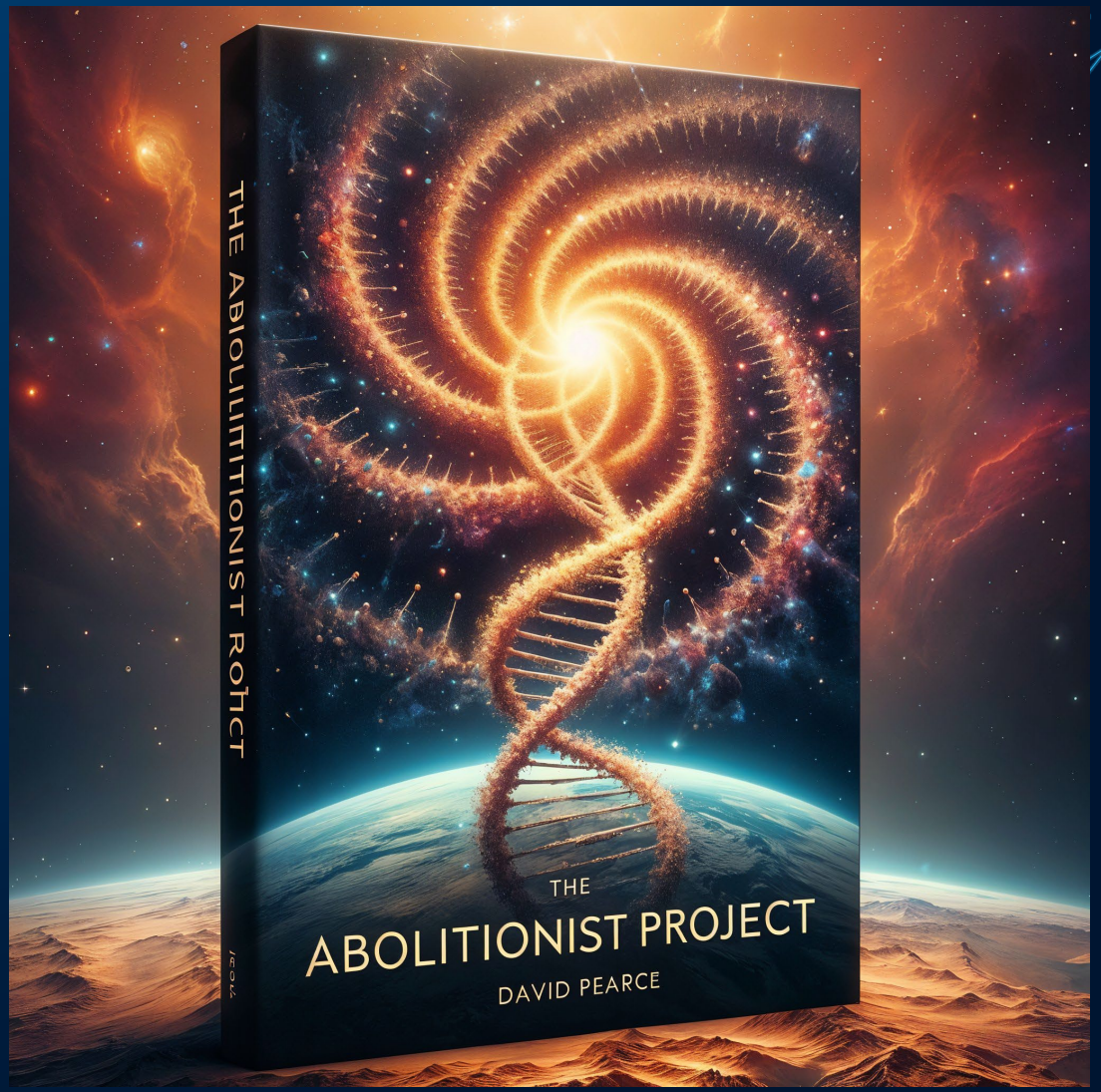
physicalism.com



THE ABOLITIONIST PROJECT

Towards the Abolition of Suffering Through Science

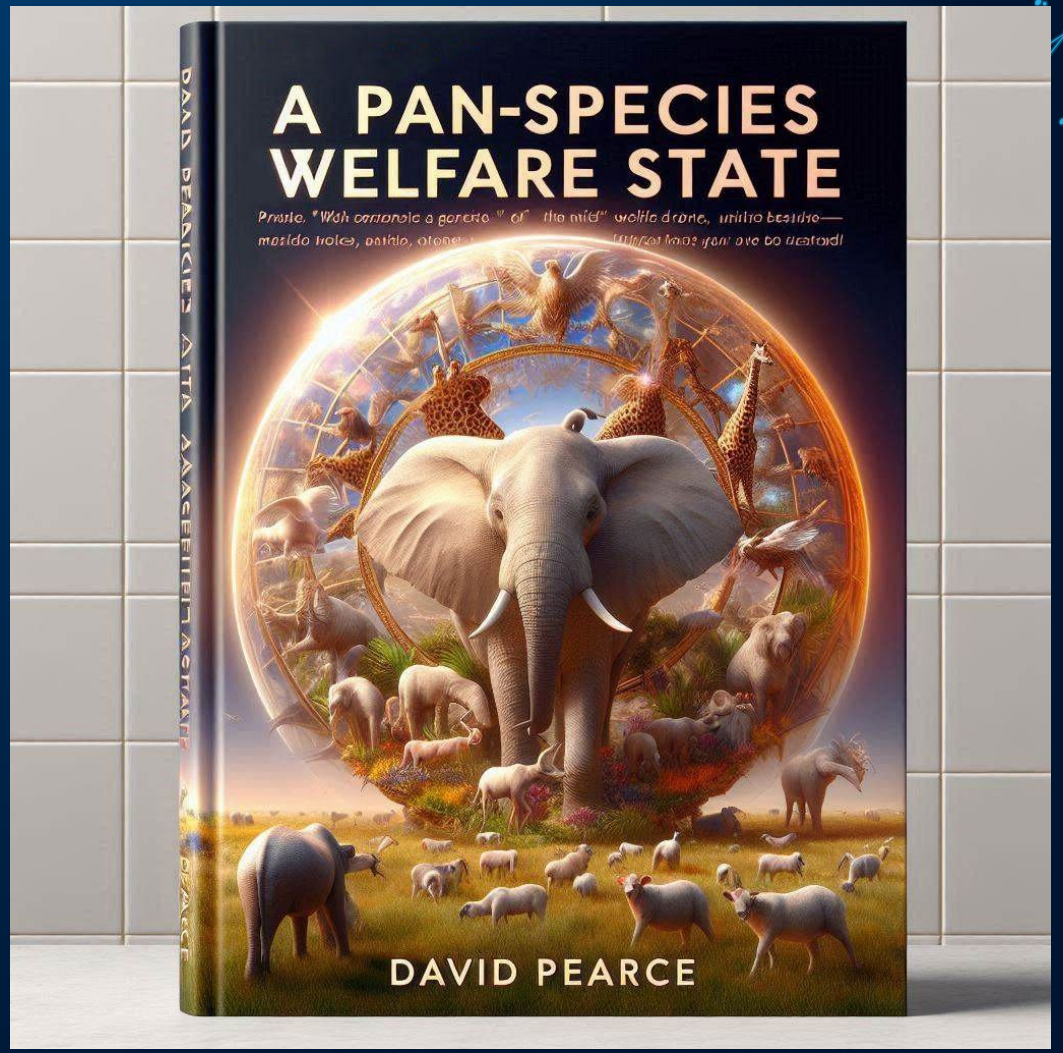
abolitionist.com



PART TWO

BLUEPRINT FOR A PAN-SPECIES WELFARE STATE

Genome Reform, AI and the Biohappiness Revolution



Nature is cruel. Evolution via natural selection is an engine of immense suffering. But an intelligent species has evolved that can edit its own genetic source code. The entire biosphere will soon be programmable. Genome reform and artificial intelligence make the biology of suffering optional. This talk outlines how genome reform and AI can replace the biology of pain and suffering with a more civilized signalling system. Post-Darwinian life will be animated by information-sensitive gradients of bliss: adaptive, nuanced states of well-being that preserve functionality without experience below hedonic zero. The pleasure-pain axis will be superseded by a pleasure-superpleasure axis. Predators can be herbivorized. Population control by predation and starvation will be replaced by cross-species fertility regulation via immunocontraception and tunable synthetic gene drives. Every cubic metre of the planet will shortly be accessible to benign surveillance and micro-management by AI. Moreover, tomorrow's pan-species welfare state is just a prelude to the blissful Post-Anthropocene biosphere - a world of paradise engineering.
Life in the Hedonocene will be sublime.

BACKGROUND
The Abolitionist Project

Buddhism plus Biotechnology:
Combining Ancient Compassion with Modern Science to End Suffering.

"May all that have life be delivered from suffering."
(Gautama Buddha, attrib.)

abolitionist.com

BACKGROUND (cont.)

The Reproductive Revolution

Hedonic Uplift for Humans: Towards a Hyperthymic Civilization

* Recalibrate the **hedonic treadmill**

* Germ-line editing can replace genetic roulette with precision engineering, elevating pain thresholds and hedonic set-points.

* Life should be based on **gradients of bliss.**

reproductive-revolution.com

BACKGROUND (cont.)

An End to Mass Murder: The Cultured Meat Revolution

* Humans will not systematically help wild animals until we stop systematically harming captive animals in factory farms and slaughterhouses.

* Our victims are as sentient as small children.

* Cultured meat and farm-free animal products will replace flesh from butchered animals.

* Animal agriculture must be outlawed.

* Civilization will be *invitro***tarian** – or **vegan**.

Cell-cultured meat

WILD ANIMAL SUFFERING

Darwinian Malware: fix it or phase it out?

* Should Darwinian Life be Reprogrammed or Retired?

* What is the difference?

“Hard” anti-natalism, efilism, Benatarism (etc) won't work because of selection pressure:

https://www.antinatalism.com/hard/antinatalism-selectionpressure.pdf

POPULATION ETHICS

Should ecologically sustainable population sizes of free-living animals be controlled by

(1) Starvation and predation?
OR
(2) **Fertility regulation?**

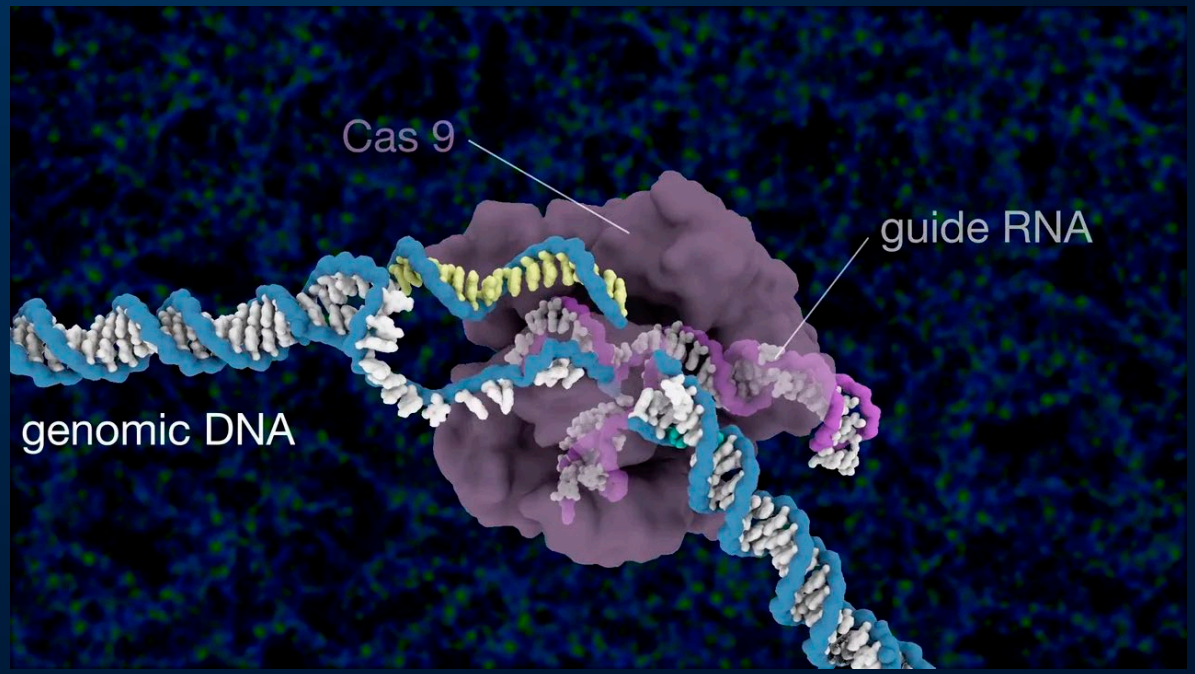
Every year, hundreds of billions of wild animals die from predation and starvation. **AI-driven fertility regulation** can end this cycle of horror.

FERTILITY REGULATION

(1) **Immunocontraception**, e.g. *https://www.abolitionist.com/reprogramming/elephantcare.html*
OR
(2) **CRISPR-based synthetic gene drives**

gene-drives.com

Population sizes and hedonic ranges of hundreds of thousands of species can be remotely controlled by AI via tunable CRISPR-based gene drives.



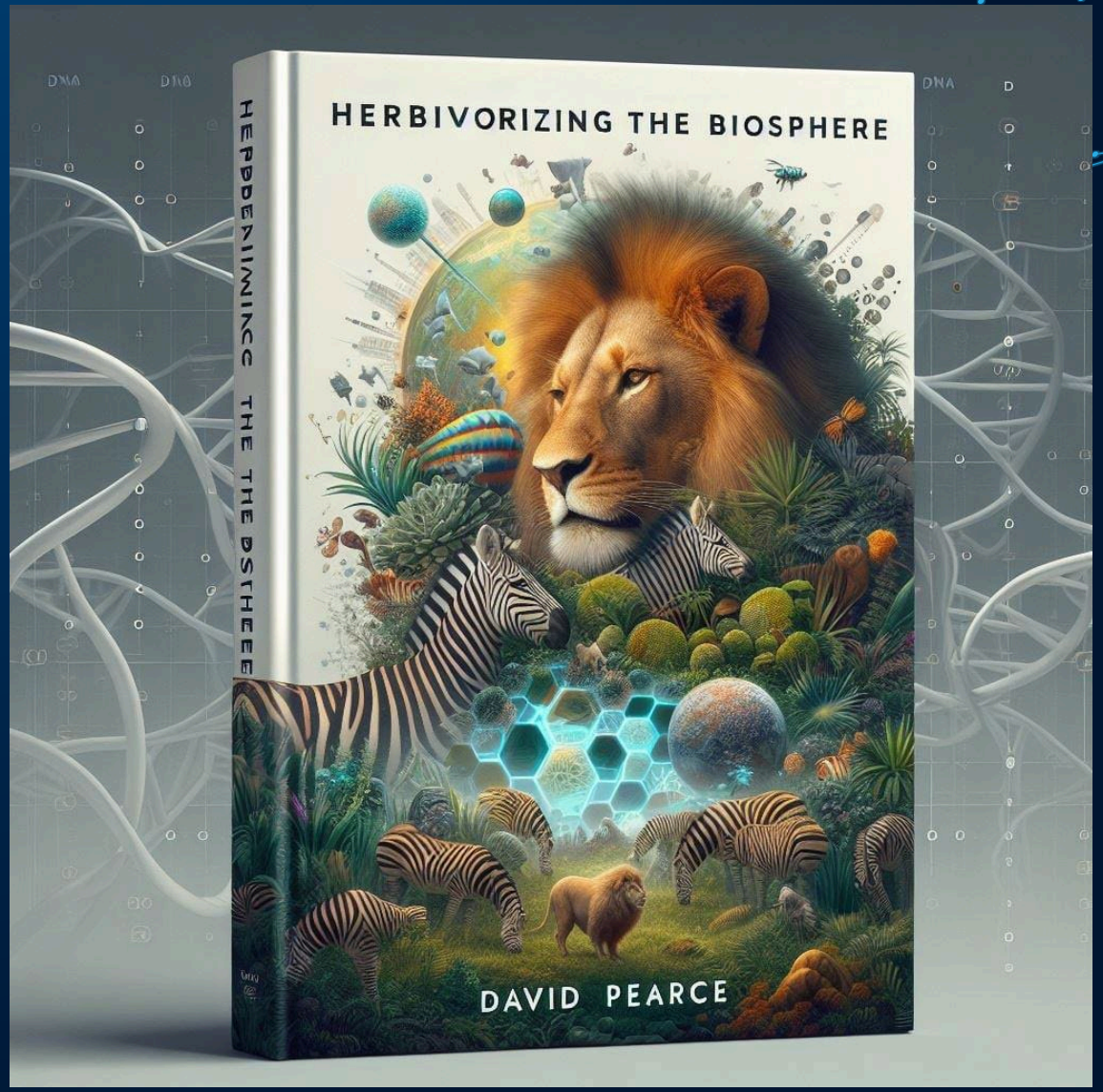
THE PROBLEM OF PREDATION

Herbivorizing Predators

Transition predators to plant-based diets via genome tweaking.

Interim solution: cultured meat and segregation

Long-term solution: genetic tweaking and herbivorization



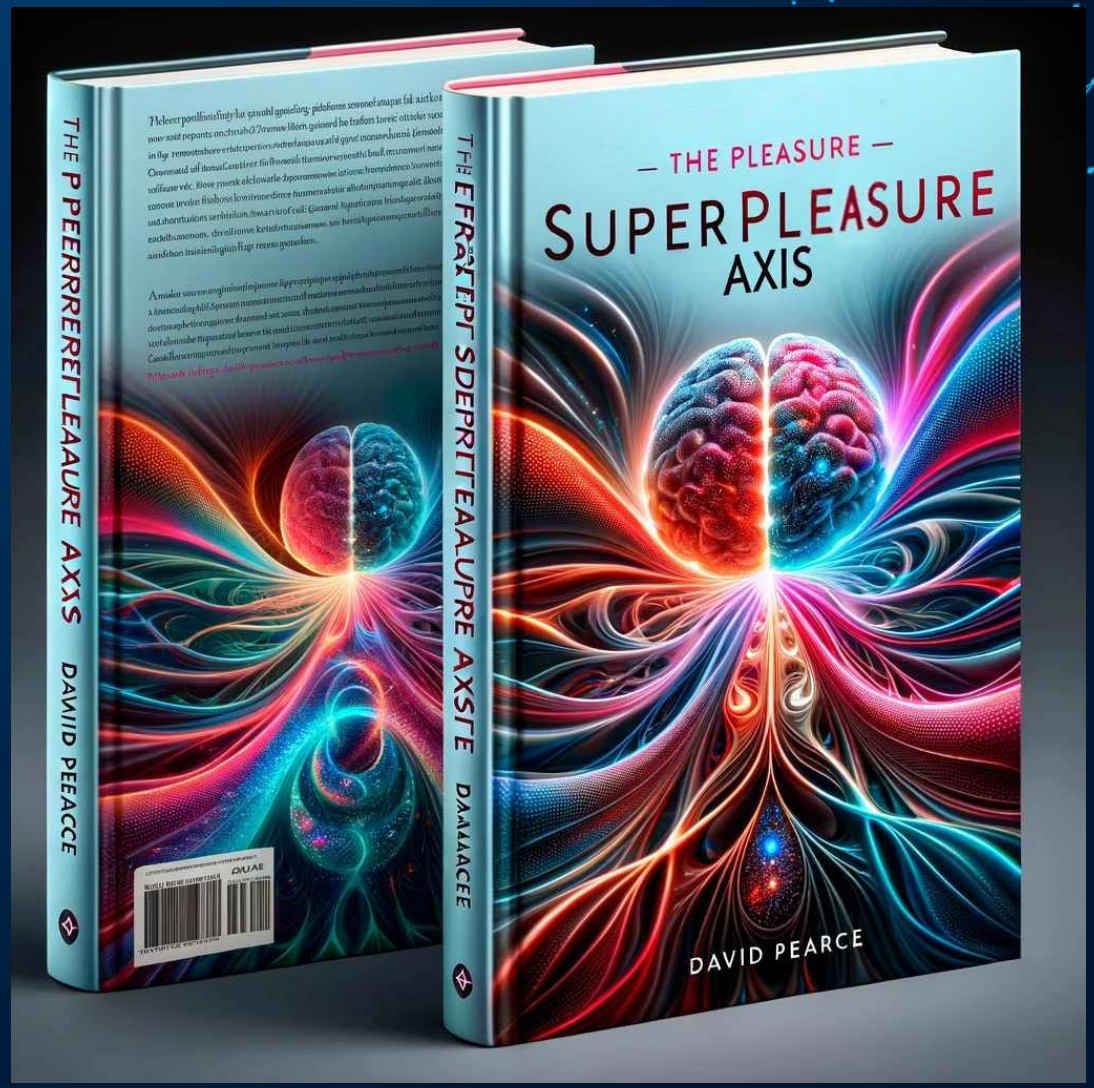
reprogramming-predators.com

HEDONIC UPLIFT

The Pleasure-Superpleasure Axis

Why **gradients of bliss**?
1) a civilized motivational architecture and signalling system beyond the pleasure-pain axis.

2) allows for *optional* preference conservation, ensuring religious traditionalists and bioconservatives can maintain their values and relationships while still benefiting from hedonic uplift.



gradients.com

COMPASSIONATE STEWARDSHIP OF THE LIVING WORLD

"High-tech Jainism"
Jainism's no-harm principle and genome reform, amplified by AI's omnipresent surveillance, enables proactive care.

Every cubic metre of the biosphere will shortly be accessible to surveillance via **AI-powered drones, satellites, remote sensors, and ubiquitous superintelligent nanobots.**

https://www.hedweb.com/transhumanism/neojainism.html

SCALABILITY AND COORDINATION

* Wild animal suffering’s scale - billions of beings in diverse habitats - demands automation.
* AI can coordinate a planetary network: everything from gene-editing labs to drone fleets.
* Swarm intelligence can manage micro-robots and sensors, adapting to local conditions (jungle, tundra, ocean).
* Data feeds back for continuous refinement.

PRECISION WELFARE INTERVENTIONS

Hedonic Uplift: AI can ensure sentient beings have benign alleles of the SCN9A (“the volume knob for pain”), FAAH and FAAH-OUT (etc) genes.

Personalized Care: AI can design and deliver tailored interventions for individual nonhuman animals, optimizing hedonic tone, nutrition, healthcare, and environmental conditions.

Predictive Analytics: AI can predict and prevent suffering by identifying potential threats (e.g. disease outbreaks, habitat degradation) before they escalate.

Language Translation: AI can develop systems to translate, interpret and enrich communication between humans and nonhuman animals, fostering understanding and empathy.

Conflict Resolution: AI can mediate conflicts between nonhuman animals, and between humans and nonhuman animals, ensuring fair and compassionate outcomes.

Resilient Ecosystems: AI can preserve, restore and optimize habitats, promoting stable ecosystems while minimizing, preventing and eventually abolishing pain and suffering in favour of information-sensitive gradients of bliss.

Veterinary Care: AI systems can diagnose diseases in genetically reformed free-living animals with high accuracy from imaging, behaviour analysis and genetic testing, providing immediate care or preventive measures.

Species-Specific Pharmacogenomics: AI can design therapeutic drugs tailored to the revised genetic makeup of different species, reducing side-effects and increasing efficacy.

Universal Basic Well-Being (UBW) - and Beyond: AI can manage a pan-species welfare state where all sentient beings receive hedonic uplift, food, shelter and medical care.

RESISTANCE

Ethical and Political Opposition to Compassionate Stewardship

The idea of "herbivorizing" predators, or using AI to regulate entire ecosystems, will face immense opposition from ecologists, bioethicists, and conservatives in the general public. Most people still view Nature as something to be preserved, not radically re-engineered.
Humans shouldn’t “play God”.
BUT…

PLAYING GOD

Humans already massively intervene in Nature.

Humans *already* “play God”

So should we be

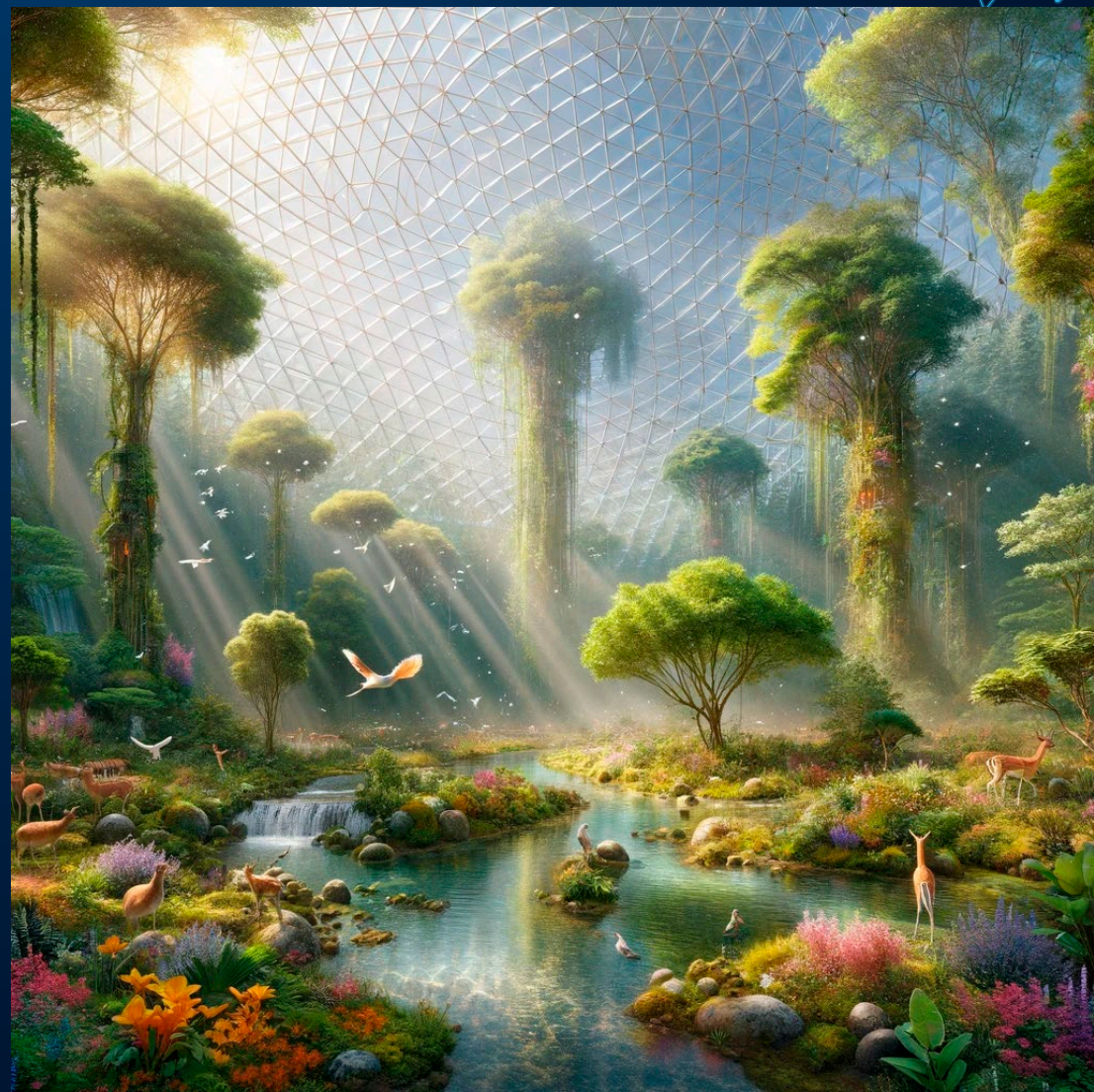
(1) callous gods?

OR

(2) **benevolent gods?**

TRANSITION STRATEGY
The Roadmap
Pilot Studies

Create blissful predation-free biospheres run by benevolent AI



POST-DARWINIAN LIFE
From the Anthropocene to the Hedonocene

* Civilize the biosphere.

* Archaic humans and nonhuman animals thrive best when neither incarcerated nor “wild”.

LIFE IN THE HEDONOCENE

Paradise Engineering

The End Goal: A Post-Darwinian Future of Sublime Bliss

hedweb.com

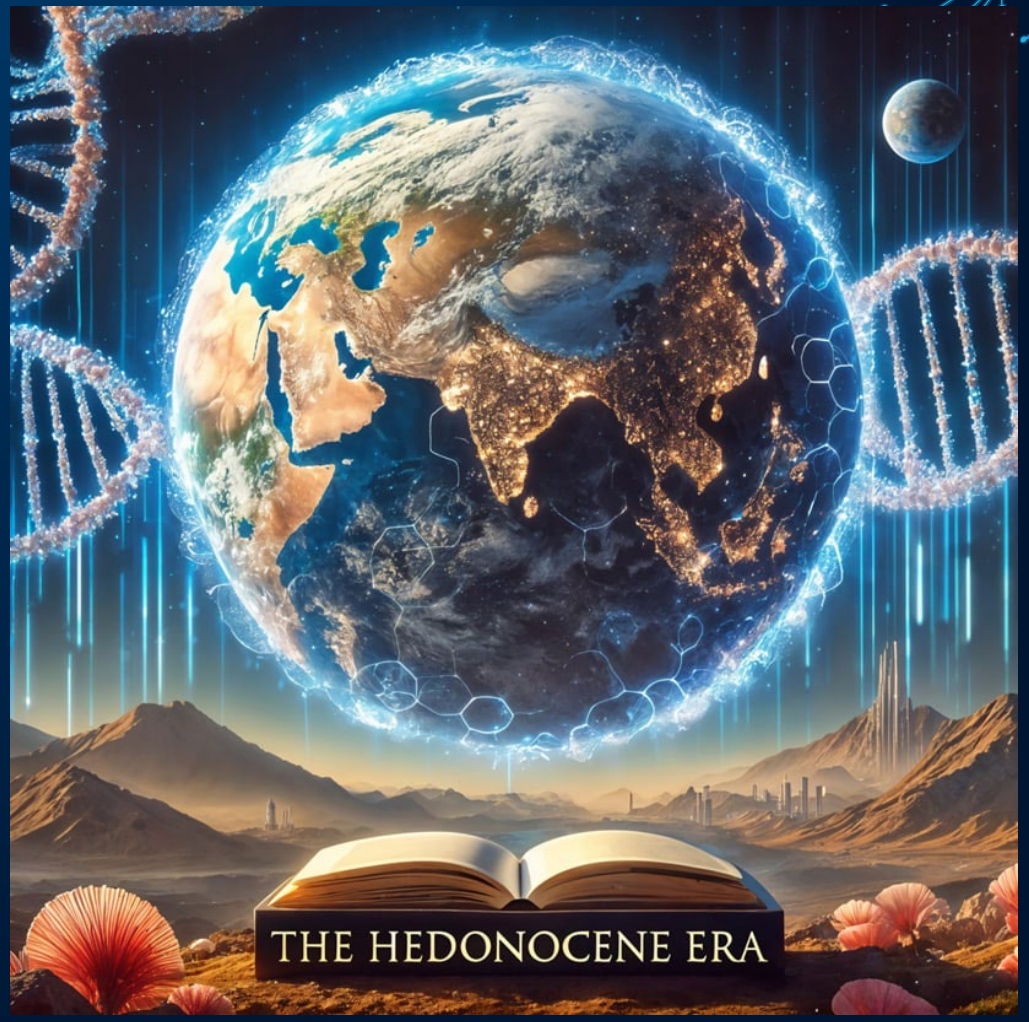
PART THREE

POST-SUFFERING EARTH

Have all our moral responsibilities been discharged?

What are the theoretical upper bounds to rational agency?

What are the theoretical upper bounds to our ethical responsibilities?



TWO POSSIBILITIES

1. Rare Earthism
Are we alone in our Hubble volume?

2. What explains the "thermodynamic miracle" (Eric Drexler) of life's genesis?

BUT
What if Rare Earthism is false?

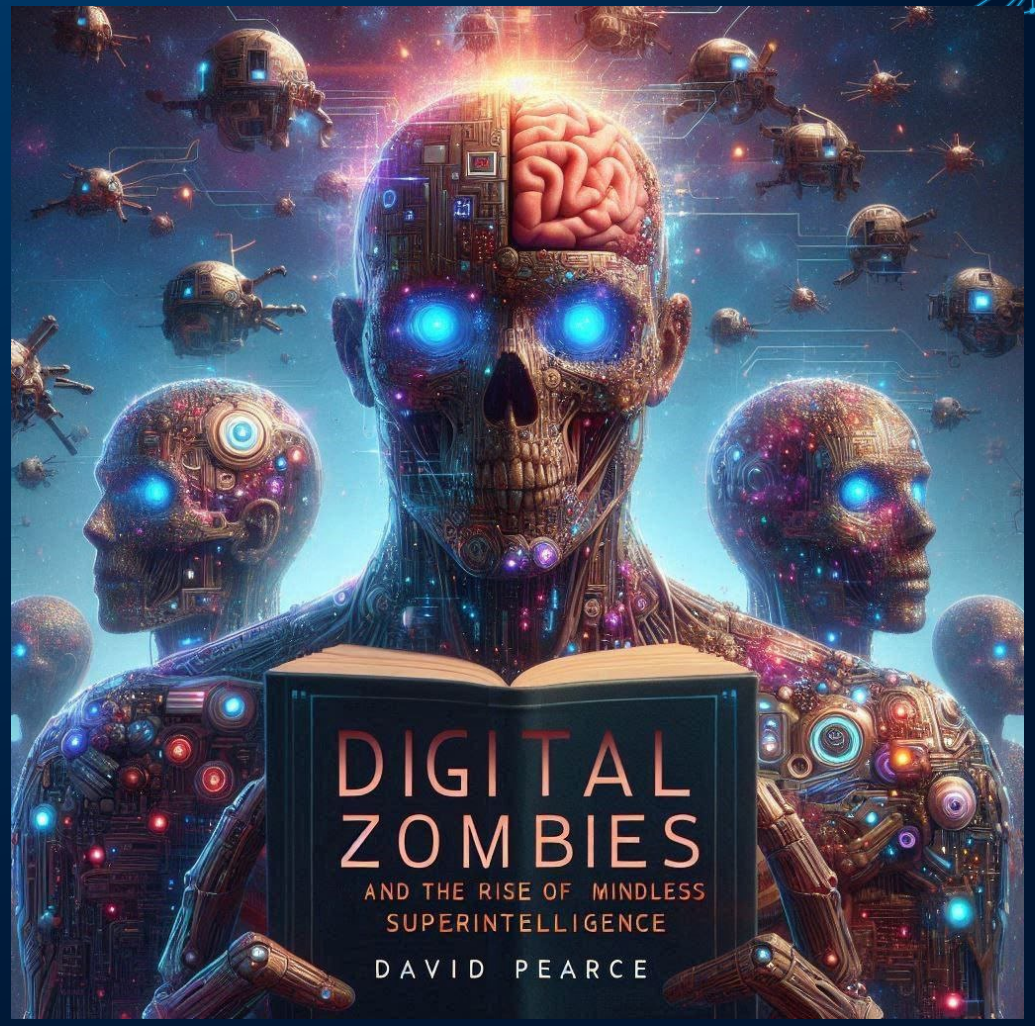
What if convergent evolution is true?

Are there other Darwinian hellworlds in our Galaxy / Local Group?

COSMIC RESCUE MISSIONS

Human Spacefaring is unrealistic.

Only AI - digital zombies - can fix the problem of suffering in other accessible Darwinian hellworlds



What does rescuing a Darwinian Hellworld Entail?

(1) Retirement? or (2) Reprogramming?

Retirement is politically unacceptable

How can digital zombies distinguish the sentient from the insentient?

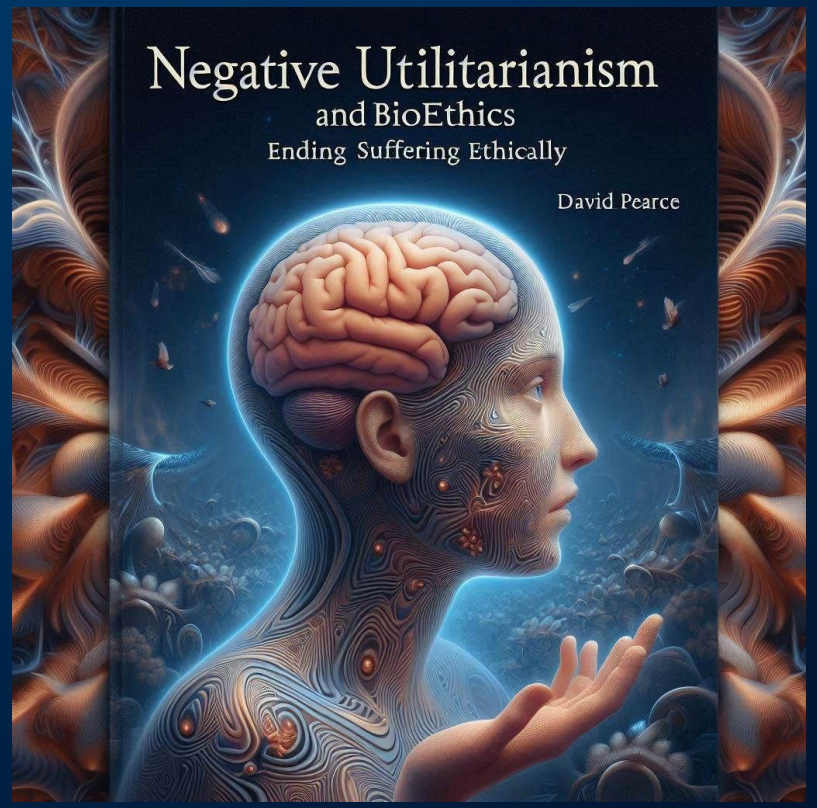
What is the physical signature of phenomenally-bound consciousness?

What is the physical signature of suffering?

Classical Utilitarianism: A Utilitronium Shockwave?

utilitarianism.com

Negative Utilitarianism: Intelligent Life Based on Gradients of Superhuman Bliss?



gradients.com

THE END

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