

ANOTHER HUMANITY

TEDx talk



Dear inhabitants of the planet TEDx!

The aim of our expedition to Planet Earth was a search for Intelligence. Essentially, we were only interested in one question: are the inhabitants of this distant world intelligent? Today, we're going to look at the results of our journey to the Solar System.

70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water. And for over 50 million Earth years, this planetary ocean has been inhabited by cetaceans – from here on, we will simply refer to them as dolphins.

At various locations in this ocean, there are islands that cover less than a third of the planet's surface. There, over the course of the last million years, another species of life appeared and multiplied at an astonishing rate – humanoids. From here on, we will simply refer to them as people. In a short time frame, they created a technologically developed civilization, the presence of which, unlike the presence of dolphins, can be seen from space. It would seem that our goal has been achieved: Intelligence has been found.

If it wasn't for one odd factor: Why did it choose for its habitat, rather than water, which feeds life, dry land? Not a three-dimensional, flowing environment, but a hard, flat plane? Answering this question made it worth

our while to stay a little longer.

The level of development of dolphins and people is far beyond other species. They have much in common. They have the largest and most highly organized brains on the planet (dolphins are in first place, followed by people, and then, a long way back, come the rest).

Both are viviparous mammals – they give birth to live young which have developed within the body of the parent. They both only breathe on the surface, holding their breath when they dive into the water. The body temperature of both species is 36.6 degrees Celsius, the result of the thermal capacity of water, of which they are both, for the most part, formed.

Both are individuals with personal characteristics and unique features. Dolphins and people are the only inhabitants of this planet that make love face to face, and do it not only to continue their line, but for joy.

Both pass the mirror test, proving the possession of self-awareness. Dolphins pass it immediately after birth, people only pass it when they reach the age of about a year and a half.

Both species possess one of the key signs of intelligence – an ability to undertake non-reactive behavior. They can be guided not by external factors, but by an internal code of behavior that can sometimes even overcome the instinct for self-preservation – in the name of love, friendship and empathy, or for some other reason that goes beyond their own personal, momentary interests.

Despite all these similarities, they have chosen fundamentally different ways of life and values. The Cetaceans have chosen direct interaction with nature, humanoids have decided to master nature.

People's everyday culture is, for the most part, orientated towards the creation and consumption of material objects. The culture of dolphins is a practice of direct interaction with one another and with the universe. It is clear that the main instruments for this dialogue are not their limbs and appendages, they are their brains, hearts and organs of perception, which are capable not only of perceiving, but also of transmitting information.

The skills required for such varied tasks have little in common, but in both cases they form the basis for the complex social interaction that both species demonstrate, and for the content of both schools. Among the dolphins, continuity in the passing on of knowledge is entirely stable. Among people, particularly at turning points in history, fundamental knowledge is subordinated to a temporary social contract, which is why it is lost or reexamined by subsequent generations.

Almost any activity undertaken by dolphins comprises three main components: Play as a creative modeling of a situation, Love as a source for

every action, and, in essence, Doing as a delicate interaction with the surrounding environment. They are the only beings on the planet that are never entirely asleep, and even when resting they always maintain an awareness. All of these elements are present in people's lives, but they are predominantly marginal and exceptional, rather than basic.

People's time, roughly speaking, is allocated evenly between three activities: sleep, so-called business, and recreation. Business, an activity that is specific to people, has the receipt of material profit as its goal. It heads the hierarchy of human concerns. A direct correlation between business and happiness or health has not been identified.

In view of this activity's disconnection from natural spheres of life, it causes personal weariness among people. That forces them to give themselves over to so-called recreation – pastimes that are, for the most part, packed with external sensory irritants that engender a condition of forgetfulness that is capable of blocking out the deficit of answers to existential issues concerning one's personal calling and criteria for intelligence.

With such a way of life, it's only natural that the majority of people are bewildered, repressed, lonely and unhealthy. About 20 million suicide attempts are recorded every year.

Conditions of this kind (depression in particular) are also evident in the lives of dolphins. For them, however, they are the exception, and are for the most part brought on by events such as the loss of those close to them, or the loss of freedom. Suicide among dolphins, including mass suicides, which have become more frequent in recent years, are the result of technogenic (which is to say anthropogenic) factors, such as unbearable (first and foremost acoustic) pollution of their environment.

A crucial attribute of intelligence is the possession of a language not only as a means for communication within the species, but also as a way (or practice) for interaction with the world. The language of people, for the most part, is a selection of codes, of symbols, that in themselves are lifeless and can only provisionally convey information, irrespective of the condition of the consciousness of the speaker (this allows, for example, systematic lying).

The language of dolphins assumes a perfect psychological and mental congruence of the speaker and is inseparably linked with his emotional condition and his sincere intentions. Such a language is intended for direct influence on the surrounding environment.

People once had elements of such a language, but now they have either been lost, or cordoned off in the realm of entertainment (such as music) or the realm of alternative practices (such as prayer).

The photo shows a visualization of those linguistic patterns of dolphins and humans that are closest.

Today, mankind is the determining factor for the planet's equilibrium. Mankind's scientists have themselves identified this epoch in the Earth's life as the Anthropocene. People spend the bulk of their resources on the creation of means of destruction. Over half the total number of species has been destroyed, nine tenths of the planet has been polluted, non-renewable resources have for the most part been exhausted.

Dolphins, on the contrary, are the strongest stabilizing factor on the planet, and, first and foremost, for the two resources that are most crucial for life: water and air. As a result of their vital activity, chemical elements and compounds that are necessary for the formation of air are brought to the surface from the depths of the oceans. Almost two thirds of the planet's air is formed in this way (people call it the "big biological pump").

At the same time, the songs of the whales, which represent the most powerful and harmonically organized sound vibrations in living nature, have a therapeutic influence on polluted and "deformed" water, even on a molecular level. Annual meetings of thousands of whales at several points on the planet are key events for the planet's equilibrium.

Such varied results from the activities of dolphins and people are a direct consequence of the differences in these two pictures of the world. People's worldview is to this day founded on conceptions of the self-sufficiency of the material. On that basis, all cause-and-effect links are only recognized in the material plane. In this deprived picture of the world, questions as to the nature of happiness and one's purpose, of course, remain unanswered. The main components of physical formulas remain time (which engenders fear), space (engendering isolation) and mass (which is to say, objects). Conceptions of the non-locality and non-linearity of interaction to this day remain unclear, and the idea of their inclusion in physical formulas as an active force are rejected as unscientific.

It's obvious that with such conceptions of the capabilities of dolphins (for example, their capacity to use the energy of the surrounding space, or therapeutic abilities), they are deemed inexplicable by people. For the scientific community, they are a taboo subject, as they entirely refute the existing reductionist paradigm.

Even the simple act of dolphins swimming is one of these mysteries, as the accepted formulas don't account for them swimming with such speed with the energy resources that they are assumed to possess.

It's difficult to believe, but dolphins are for the most part studied by biologists alone, and what's more, this is done in conditions of captivity, or as corpses, when life has departed them, which, of course, provides nothing.

In the circumstances of such a colossal rupture, contact between people and dolphins is almost entirely absent. People cannot recognize Intelligence in

dolphins – that recognition would lead to an inevitable revision of their own fundamental values and way of life. Mankind prefers, expending vast resources in the process, to search for technologically developed civilizations that are similar to its own, far away in space, failing to notice developed intelligence within arm's reach.

Dolphins have no reason to insist. They don't have any answers to questions as to the best way for the consumer to behave, and mankind, as a species, and at the present time, doesn't have any other clearly formulated questions.

Nevertheless, on an individual, naïve level, contacts between them do occur. This by no means ranks as inter-species interaction, as at present just a few thousand people swim with dolphins, which is to say a maximum of one in a million.

But nevertheless, it's still something, because for each of them this contact is transformative. It irreversibly changes their normal conceptions of the world as a whole and of their own lives, it massively increases the scale and values of the person's reference points, and in essence takes that person outside of the confines of the accepted consensus.

According to one of the definitions of Intelligence, it is an ability to use the strength of the world without destroying that world.

It would seem that the verdict is clear. But we were prevented from reaching a final conclusion by one paradox. Suffering from unbearable pollution, whale-hunting flotillas, imprisonment, and being forced to participate in entertainments shows and military experiments, DOLPHINS DON'T AVENGE THEMSELVES ON PEOPLE. In each of these creatures, which rank among the most powerful predators on the planet, there is a taboo against harming people – they are even prepared to pay for this with their own lives. They CANNOT KILL PEOPLE. Why?

Having spent 5,000 Earth hours with dolphins, we are convinced that this is the answer: They see in people what people themselves, today, can't even see.

This can be compared with the attitude of a mature creature to a newborn child which doesn't know what it is doing. There is no reason to interact with it, there is only the absolute value of its life, because within it lies possibility.

If you asked us to discuss Earth's inhabitants in just a few words, we would say that dolphins are about love. And people are about a search. A search is always movement off the beaten track, and mistakes are unavoidable. But if you know who you are and where you're coming from, and you can see some sense in that path, mistakes are merely feedback, they are not a route.

Dolphins are about the maintenance of the stability of the living planet, of life in general. People are about the creation of ideas that transform the world.

What those ideas will be, and what the coming world will be like – all this depends on the world outlook.

Turning people to another system of coordinates, to another position that is proposed by cetaceans, can not only lead mankind out of its civilizational dead end, it can also open up the colossal potential of true development that mankind possesses.

Dolphins are a conserving Intelligence. People are the capability of a creative Intelligence.

Thank you for your attention.