ANOTHER HUMANITY.

DOLPHINS

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LESSONS IN DOLPHINISM

Each time we come back from these journeys unable to speak.
The space we have been to transforms our vocabulary that thus far seemed to describe the world quite adequately.
The new language soaks in, re-cultivates us.
This language is so much more genuine, that we are no longer able to speak and think in terms of the past.
We have spent about fifteen hundred hours with them, i.e. approximately five and a half million seconds in the company of dolphins.
We were born in a major city far from the sea. We are neither biologists, nor photographers, and certainly no athlete swimmers or free divers. The only thing we concern ourselves with is the human presence in the current moment. Now.

KINSHIP

Almost every normal human being reacts to an image of a dolphin with an instant outburst of joy. Even those who have never seen dolphins in real life. Even little children who cannot speak yet and don't know the word "dolphin". There are no other creatures quite like that. Dolphins are somehow infused in us from the very beginning. They are built into us on a fundamental level with a gene of dolphinism. It can be dormant in us for decades, but then some event or – for the first time – an encounter occurs, and piles of stereotypes that were so hard to believe in, so tedious to defend, evaporate at once.

The nature of freedom, creativity, love, awareness and happiness is the same. What is daily practice for dolphins, we call peak experiences. Everything about their usual selves is also about possibilities open to us. We have a common address, it's just that they remember it, and we suffer from a tormenting amnesia that leads to never-ending questions and quests. But there arrives the moment of awakening from obliviousness – metanoia, and from there on the human being becomes one with the present.

INTELLIGENT MIND

We have limited our outlook to the concept of Homo sapiens (rational, wise man) for so long, that only now, having arrived at a limit, are starting to understand how helpless our notion of intelligence really is. We have reduced it to social and consumerist competence, and factored out the ability to feel, love, imagine, believe. Social adaptivity and technical knowledge are the two lines of reference in a coordinate system which our civilization imposes on human intelligence, using material indicators to measure it. But in a different coordinate system these concepts may not apply or may be insufficient. If everything is arranged differently, if guideposts for rational life are no longer identified with material gains, if our worldview is not limited to materialistic constraints, what are we to take as evidence of reason, what is its nature and purpose?

Civilization is a means of conscious interaction with the world, based either on conquest and consumption, or on unity and integrity. Which of the two modes is more reasonable? If at some point in the past we had chosen different guideposts we could have a different worldview and civilization. For instance, one based on the assumption that none of us requires a mediator – neither a proxy, nor a technical device – in our interaction with the

Universe. This is because each individual has direct and permanent access to it. A gift that is both a treasure and a calling.
A different humanity. A different kind of mind. Not on some distant planet, but next to us – just beyond the shore.

STRENGTH

They have no natural enemies, except humans.
Hunted by whaling fleets, captured for entertainment, used in military experiments and as processed food, while their habitats are polluted, they endure a worldwide offensive.
"We always have fresh whale meat" – such advertisements are a common sight at upscale Tokyo restaurants. In the north of the enlightened Europe, in the Faroe Islands ritual killings of pilot whales serves as the rite of passage initiating boys into manhood. A Wellsian anti-utopia come true: Martian invaders only interested in humans as a source of gastric juices. The Planet from the earliest times inhabited by a race of living creatures now has new settlers who are busy exploiting the world and constantly seeking new – at best, gustatory – sensations.
This is reality. Earth, XXI century.
Those hunting dangerous marine species have invented many ingenious devices to protect themselves, but, strangely enough, they get hold of dolphins barehanded. Dolphins are the only predators on the Planet that mothers let their children hug and take photos with, never having a second thought. They can bite in half a two meters long barracuda, can instantly drown a shark, but they have a built-in prohibition against harming humans. This taboo on resistance overrides even the most basic of all instincts – that of self-preservation. Taken to an extreme, strength resolves itself into weakness.

They are 50 million years old. We are only one. The difference is like that between a grown up person and a toddler. When little children inadvertently hurt you, do you get even with them? It is deadly to wage war on your own kin. The close distance between us makes it impossible to miss the aim. In one interconnected world, when you shoot at someone you inevitably hit yourself.
Maturity is about manifest universal unity. Changing our attitude towards them would be a true initiation for us, the passage from barbarity to maturity.
If we learn at least not to kill them, we might one day stop killing our own kind.

HOME

If only we were less rigid, less pressed to a flat plane, moved flowingly and freely in three dimensions, we would probably have chosen a different environment to live in. Not as dense, more fluid and responsive, not partitioned with borders and obstacles, indivisible and iridescent, conductive and nourishing …
It is in ample supply on the Planet, and covers 80 percent of its surface. Water. We consist of it ourselves. It is our natural environment and an indispensable condition of life. We spend our first nine months in it.

In terms of physical coordinates it's the place, substance, natural source where life originates from. The best conductor for waves – of sound, ultrasound … Not just a wave conductor, but also a substance (a living being?) that itself consists of waves, lives by wave laws, and yet is tangible. A wave that can be touched. An ideal interface between the material and the immaterial. The obvious and the possible. The visible and the unrevealed. The potential and the fulfilled.

The home you are made of. The one by virtue of which you are alive and connected to everything and everyone. A home that provides material for miracle working.
A place for fulfilling life.
A sentient ocean. The water of life.

DEVELOPMENT

According to all available information they have hardly undergone any change for tenth of millions of years. By all evidence, their body structure, ways of life, the volume and complexity of their brains (significantly exceeding that of human brain), are exactly the same as they were long before the emergence of humans. In short, it means that they do not participate in the evolutionary process. With regal indifference they ignore the theory of evolution we have invented, that forms the basis of so called modern scientific view on life.
Here are these unchanging creatures with the extremely well developed brain, incomparably more powerful than the needs of mere biological survival would require, and showing no signs of degeneration throughout the species' long existence. It looks like we

are dealing with a fundamental constant of the current phase of the Planet's life. According to the same conventional science, nature follows the use-it-or-lose-it rule, i.e. in the long run, the unessential dies off. This means that the dolphins living on Earth all this time are very essential for some purpose that extends beyond our notions of practical necessity.
The species is in itself a condition for sustaining the environment, an indispensable feature of life on a planetary scale, directly related to its foundation.
But what about development, the evolution? It's a different coordinate system. The starting point for action is different. You are a condition for development, a means of it, a channel, an active force, not just an object of evolution. Perhaps, you are not the master, but you are certainly not a servant. Rather a substance, a transmitter. Development comes about through you, by means of you … The whole unfolds through each individual.
What are the criteria for development then? Everything that relates to fragmentation, boundaries and separation – is about death, everything that speaks of integrity and unity is about life.

TRANSITION

When a pilot whale dies, for a period of about ten days the family comprised of twelve to fifteen close relatives turns into a concentrated procession. They stop hunting, playing, diving, and instead move steadily, close to the water's surface, in a wide skein led by the whale who helps to keep the body of the dead one afloat.
At such moments they become an accessible spectacle for tourists on boats. But we have witnessed how such boats full of noisy curious people are suddenly approached by bottlenose dolphins – normally the ocean's biggest snobs. They jump in the wake of the boats and perform acrobatic feats their peers kept captive in dolphinariums could never be sufficiently well trained for. The unexpected show is so vivid, that the tourists switch their attention to it, the boats start following the dolphins, and soon end up quite far from the pilot whales' procession. Once it happens, the dolphins are gone. But shall the need arise, they will reappear just as unexpectedly in front of another intruding boat and lead it away.
We have seen as well the coming to this world, and how a newly born pilot whale, still "corrugated" with circular folds from the birth pangs, makes his first swims, surrounded by the entire family that slowly moves on the water's surface in the same wide skein. They are protecting the baby's mother who keeps him afloat as he cannot dive and swim well. It also resembles an unhurried and jubilant procession.

They know what they are doing, and know how important it is. They do and know things that in our human world are probably only known to religious ministers. The welcome and the farewell. Assisting and honouring the departed. Assisting and honouring the newly arrived.

Conscious of the first breath, they come into this world differently from us, without a need for tenacious awakening of mind. Before leaving it, they make a deliberate decision to stop breathing. To escape through the eye of a needle. Within a hair's breadth from life, just one step, one sigh away – you are already on the other side. It's an instant transition, traversing the mind.

If there were no other lessons, this one alone would suffice.

LIFE

They are the only creatures on Earth that never sleep. When living in water, this is the only way to breathe – otherwise they would drown. Sleeplessness is a means of sustaining life for them – only it's not exasperating, it's about keen involvement.

"Present" may refer to "showing up", a gift, or immediacy in time.

As we observe them, we gradually come to realize that Life is always a verb. Action. Not a given, but a performance, a fulfilment. There are many moralists, gurus, systems, persuasions and rules that outline approved ways of life. But, of course, it only makes sense to heed to the advice of those whose way of life is appealing. We find dolphinism appealing and use it as a frame of reference for our understanding of decency and proper conduct, of seriousness and playfulness, tenderness and friendship, priorities and values, of the fleshly and the spiritual, the genuine and the artificial.

Sometimes they are like children completely absorbed in a fascinating play. Sometimes – like lovers, for whom the entire world has ceased to exist except for the two of them looking at each other. Sometimes they are like shrewd investigators immersed in the subject of their interest, sometimes – like magicians focused on performing a sacrament. One thing is certain: they are always extremely attentive. And hence, unmistakably precise.

From the very first to the last breath. They make a point of each breath being conscious, be it the first or the last one. Otherwise you'll sink to the bottom.

WORK

We remember from physics schoolbook that work and useful effect are related.
What is their work in this world? What happens to the ocean because of their living in it? What do they do to the world with their life? It's been said that if you inscribe words of gratitude and love on a glass of water, the water will acquire healing qualities. Some of us believe it, some don't. But everyone knows that a wave affects the space it is spreading through and gives it new characteristics. The Earth, a planet with the amazing phenomenon of intelligent life, is a sphere covered in water, and we all spin together. If only each of us could impart one word to this sensitive environment … A sound. A thought. An image …
There are two or three places around the globe where whales congregate once a year. We visited Hawaii at the end of winter when thousands of humpback whales come there. For two weeks they stop playing, hardly eat anything, come up to breathe, and disappear again, only to freeze heads down in moderately deep water, and sing.
Thousands of whales separated from each other by tens of meters, are all singing the same song. Once a year it changes a little. Nothing on the Planet compares to this cosmic chorus, polyphony of giant ancient peaceful creatures. Is it the very Word, lost and forgotten, that was in the Beginning?
Marine biologists call them mating songs, aimed at enticing females. We were there, among the whales. May God have mercy on the marine biologists.
Any sound is a concentric pattern of waves. The rhythm, the pattern of their songs is quite unlike any artificial patterns, except for some that emerge in monastic chants preserved in a handful of monasteries where they still remember how to do it. Cloisters and whales seem to be worlds apart … What kind of space is it in which they coincide?
Songs of whales, sounds made by dolphins create waves spreading in the water for thousands of miles and not fading for several weeks. They overlap, extend, complement and strengthen each other. Resonance is a formula for miracles.
But then, haven't we been told: the Earth rests on three whales.

CONTACT

They do not seek contact with us under any circumstances except when we really are in danger and have to be saved. If someone is drowning they will only do what is necessary: save the person and leave. It is similar to the way we treat very young children. If one of

them moved to the edge of a cliff, we'd just carry them out of harm's way. More meaningful communication is hardly possible for some time to come. However, if the little ones were suddenly able to concentrate, to keep attention on things beyond themselves, it would be enough reason to offer immeasurably more.

At the beginning of our acquaintance with cetaceans we made an artificial dolphin that was hard to tell from a real one, and could swim reasonably well. It was supposed to inspire their interest and maybe even stronger feelings. But it was met with utter indifference.

They are not human. There's no diplomacy, affectation, or pretence. They do not socialize out of fear, politeness or boredom. Instead of condescending pity there's compassion, instead of servility there's care. Instead of formal decorum there's genuineness and honesty. Instead of wasteful pastimes there's interest. It's about respect on a different level. It is impossible here to extort what is given in kind. You cannot impose your company, persuade anyone, wheedle out or negotiate some substitute for communication, or ask to stick around before you can take a beautiful photo.

If your mind or your heart is set on something other than this contact, it will not happen. If you look aside it will only take a couple of seconds before they are gone.

Involvement cannot be faked, pretended. When you are x-rayed, it's impossible to pose as someone you are not. It is as uncompromising as that. All or nothing – there's nothing to haggle about.

If you are looking for dolphins in pursuit of idle pleasure, profit, or out of curiosity, don't. At best, it will lead to nothing.

Contact is electricity. For the light to go on, the current must pass through both of us.

COINCIDENCE

We go into the sea and shortly afterwards the dolphins come. Not always, but often. Knowledgeable people on the shore have told us they were nowhere around at present, but here they are.

A coincidence. We've been lucky. We are swimming next to them and an absolutely unambiguous sense of meaningful dialogue with them arises inside us. But who can tell if it's not just an assumption or interpretation? Everyone with a relevant experience KNOWS it to be a fact. It seems impossible, however, to pass this knowledge to those who have not experienced anything of the kind.

Everything what happens is incidental. Wave adventures. People have learned to measure them only digitally, using binary codes and models where wave profiles are square-shaped, as otherwise there would be too many errors, inaccuracies, too much unpredictability. But this unpredictability is what life is about. Chance occurrences are its live mechanism that makes no mistakes.

How does it work? What is not esoteric or some jumbled romantic explanation, but strict physics behind this contact? EEG shows the state of mental activity of a monk at prayer, a child immersed in play, and a free living dolphin to be almost identical. It's not mysticism, it's physics. The ever-evasive NOW, the only force truly generating "happiness", cannot be fixed in one place or repeated, and it doesn't belong to the past or the future.

Today's science has no means to study what is Now. There no appropriate measuring instruments, interpreters or intermediaries. The expression of eyes cannot be digitalized, while it is eyes that see, not binoculars. Having had started out with a whole arsenal of modern devices, we gradually stopped cluttering our boats with this useless junk altogether.

Attention is the only valid currency this side of the universe. If you are fully engaged in this contact you can make no mistake, have nothing to guess or select, even nothing to believe in: you just know. This experience breaks the laws of average man's physics, replacing it with real one, from which we learn to attract, evoke, transmit coincidences, instead of letting them slip away. Focus and opportunity are inseparable as cause and effect, with focus being the secret of all magic. Adjust your attention: things in focus are sharp, the rest is vague.

It's a means of pulling any potentiality out of magician's top hat, in order to present it to the world.

ATTAINMENT

What do they give us?

Not the dolphinariums where they are locked up. Not the prisoners' show. In the ocean they cannot be owned by anyone.

Nothing from a consumerist perspective. Everything you can receive from them pertains to creation, not consumption.

Communicating with us, they actually extend boundaries for us. Our boundaries. Not in some allegorical or mystifyingly esoteric sense, but literally, on the level of sensual, physiological experience – the physical boundaries of our bodies.
It's hardly possible to describe this any other way: you clearly no longer find enough room inside the skin-covered frame you have habitually identified with your own self. You cease to be limited to the insides of your body. Any material gains are burdensome and boring in comparison.

It's a different kind of physics, but it's physics. The one originating in the real makeup of the Universe rather than intellectual constructs. It defines us not as solid material bodies, but as wave events. The change of wave length and frequency, inevitable in interaction with a powerful inductor, transforms us and allows to expend in a differently way.
To be bigger. To be, otherwise.

MATURITY

Interaction with free living dolphins is always a peek experience. It changes the scale of inhabited Universe, transforms your vision of the world and of yourself within it. It plucks you from the constraints of individual personality, and heals from them through unity and freedom from anxiety about your own uniqueness.
What connects us to them and to the World? What is the purpose of this connection? A sentient ocean and neurons – communicating, linked, mirroring each other, transmitting and greatly increasing empathy, aimed at com-passion and con-sciousness. A new practice of communication between neurons forms new synaptic connections within a gigantic brain, which leads to changes in the way the entire body behaves, to a new phase in the existence of planetary consciousness.
Are we neurons in a universal body? An overwhelming realization. A huge blow to ego, but at the same time, an immediate access to a universal level. It's something to congratulate upon: a new address.
It almost always evokes fervent vows to start a new life and sincere hopes that everything will be different from now on. However, without a focused daily practice that transforms the entire way of life, this will not happen. Most people slack off within a month though, and then go to great length to dismiss their initial impulse as a mere episode of involvement in an unusual recreational activity.

Many are called, but few are chosen. For freedom is yours, as is the right to choose, and nothing happens against your will, nor is there any reason to insist on anything.
They have lived in this home fifty times longer than we have. We do some growing up, as best as we can. And when we learn to be ourselves, nothing will be ever denied to us.