

THOUGHTS OF A CHILD

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The realer it gets, the more emotional it becomes. This is not a personal statement about a personal discovery. It is a description of the neural connectivity of humans.

Reality, out there, is known to be a swarming sea of information. Our sense organs provide physical filters on this information, to protect the stability mechanisms in our brains from overloading. (Stability of perception has proven to be a beneficial evolutionary adaptation; it has given us such things as objects, commitment, and mathematics.) Our central nervous system also imposes filters on what we perceive. We literally see what we want to see. The main idea is:

The more we lower the filters of perception, the more emotion we feel.

Perception of the entirety of reality, being without filters, is known as enlightenment. The danger of abandoning filters without guidance is that mental tragedy can result when we screen out positivity and let in negativity. The classic Bum Trip.

The more we open our filters, the more reality gets in, and the more our emotions respond. The emotional cortex is designed to respond to sensory input, to assign classes of sensory information to feelings that are highly motivating. Fear, lust, love.

The experience of Cyberspace is inordinately compelling. It seems to bypass our negative interpretations, permitting a continuous flow of pleasant associations. Most everyone loved it. Maybe because it is safe, you can fly without risk. Maybe because it is dreamlike, you can construct your experiences. Maybe because it is unique, you could explore virgin territory. Maybe because it is like being a child, you are learning again how to reach and to walk. Maybe because it is practical, revealing new ways to look at CAD. Maybe because it is profound, permitting us to transcend the physical. Maybe because the software is more sophisticated than the hardware, treating people as more important than programs. Maybe because it is a video game.

The hardware will be improving drastically and rapidly. It will provide richer and richer perspectives, more and more perceptual cues, deeper and deeper support for visual abstraction. It will provide more realism. And the realer it gets, the more emotional it becomes.

We are at the center of a revolution. We are reaching beyond the analytic, beyond the cerebral cortex, into the emotional core, into the hearts of the patrons. We have been empowered by a mighty force and a grave responsibility. We have been given the right to begin again.