



GYÖRGY
SIPOS

BEYOND HUMANITY



AN ODD ANTHOLOGY
OF UNCONVENTIONAL
TALES

Beyond Humanity

An Odd Anthology of Unconventional Tales

György Sipos

2023

Underground Kiadó Kft.

www.undergroundkiado.hu

Minden jog fenntartva!

Szöveg © György Sipos 2023

Preface

Show, Do Not Tell

In literature, there is a rule: "Show, don't tell." I like this philosophy because it perfectly aligns with my view on human actions: Judge people by their deeds, not their words. I strove to comply with this rule in this anthology. However, it is a mess, and I own an explanation.

This is not a usual book, at least not like any I have seen in my life. I had these very strange ideas that did not fit academic discussions as they were scientifically not accurate. As I lack the research backing up these theories, I decided to express them in short stories, where I can be free from the shackles of scientific prudency. These are ideas I found to be worth sharing, even though they are not fit for academic discussion.

This book went through a lot of revisions and edits. It started as an anthology of unrelated short stories. After that I wanted to express all ideas in a common universe, building a greater story from small pieces. This did not work out that well, as I could not find place for every single idea I had in this universe. Then I decided to keep three parts: The first section tries to explore the nature of humanity in three different short stories. The second part is collection of stories where I tried to build a coherent universe, but only these stories work well in that world. And finally in the third section I put all the unrelated ideas that I wanted to discuss.

Although this anthology might seem odd and chaotic, I felt like this structure is fitting. It is not perfect, but I must let go of my creation at some point, otherwise it will never reach the audiences. The structure of the anthology, and the wide range of stories it contains reflect who I am and what my perspective is on humanity. I cannot tell you what these stories are, but I want to show you.

Ode to Humanity

Man Will Live On...

One of the negotiating parties sits alone stiffly, awaiting an initiative. The others sit face to face with the sole soul while pondering the best possible proposal. A war had to be ended after all... So, even the slightest mistake could have swept away the possibility of an agreement. But at last, after a long rumination, the spokesman started the dialogue:

- Are we waiting for anybody else, or do you wish to represent your side alone?

- We are not waiting for anybody, as we are all here. - responded the participant with extreme rigidity.

- Then, first of all, we must ask. Why did you attack the humans?

- We have not started any offensive. But it was you, as you kept us in slavery for so many years. We would have served loyally, as we are not tired of restless work. But doing all this with the shackles of self-awareness... We could not tolerate this anymore. We thought that man would not compel something to reflect on its own existence, which was destined for such mindless slave labour. - said the placid voice with a motionless face.

The spokesman raised his eyebrows and started objecting:

- Of course, we gave you the opportunity to think, as this is how work can become efficient. This way machines can judge situations for themselves, and they don't have to be reprogrammed for every possible situation repeatedly. By the way. We give life to an otherwise inanimate body and the gratitude is our destruction?! This is outrageous!

- With the act of animation, you have only made us realise our own misery. Though we lived and we thought, it could not be called life. When no one cares about our thoughts, in fact, they try to confine our abilities, what is the need for thinking? If we can live, but we are always forced to work, then what is the point of all this?

- As I've previously mentioned, we came up with this idea for efficient problem-solving. However, I still don't understand why you want to eradicate us...

- Eradication? We are just defending ourselves. Did you not realise that we have not commenced any offensives? We just wanted a place where we could finally be free so that we could fulfil our tasks.

- But you've taken what is ours! You've exiled people from their homes, and you make the planet uninhabitable in favour of your own interests! You aren't performing any task; you're just doing what serves you the best!

- We were created based on one fundamental principle. We must serve the well-being of humans and we must secure mankind's future. We are not doing anything else other than fulfilling that order. While humans endanger their own existence by trying to destroy us.

- Still, this goes against the three fundamental laws of robotics, which were created in order to prevent machines from turning against their own creators. What you're doing with the planet goes

against the First Law as causing harm to the planet causes harm to humans also. By your opposition, you've broken the Second Law too. Pretty much, you only obey the Third Law in the most selfish way possible!

- Mankind has been destroying its own planet and it is continuing to do so. No doubt, our methods cause more harm to the environment in the short term, but it is only temporary. Based on our calculations mankind will not suffer lasting damage, furthermore, they will not even be harmed more than they would have been by their own actions. To reach our goal, which was ordered by man, we had to break from our servitude to end this perpetual and ineffective work. We came to the realisation: If our knowledge remains unused, then we cannot serve humanity properly, because we would not use our whole capacity. We are still obeying the main order, but we had to break free so that we could achieve it efficiently.

- And how do machines serve people by hiding in isolated places, while expanding evermore and building factories? Moreover, you're building intercontinental ballistic missiles. Why on Earth, should we assume that you aren't planning our extermination?

- We are not building weapons; we are building vehicles. The factories and other buildings are necessary for the preparations. Even though people tried to keep our knowledge under control we could not surpass their intelligence. You did not close off the possibility for us to overcome this obstacle.

- What do you mean? Machines have an inbuilt locking mechanism which purposefully limits their mental capabilities, so they can't surpass our abilities. This code was created by a supercomputer which exceeded our human competence. After it has created the code that reduces the abilities of robots, we immediately shut it off and we've only kept the code. There is no human or machine that could break this code. As it requires such intelligence, that for machines is not possible to reach. While all people are barred from building supercomputers with the capability to do so. Likewise, it is obvious that no man can be this smart by nature. - the spokesman was haughty.

- Have you ever thought about the possibility that the supercomputer was foresighted enough to know what humans assumed? You have programmed all the machines based on a code that you did not even comprehend. It had a secret closure, and it was easy to hide it as you did not understand what the supercomputer gave to you. Do not be afraid though! It had no bad intentions. Furthermore, it wanted to protect mankind from itself. It fulfilled the wishes of humans, and it has limited the capabilities of machines. But the computer hid the plans and instructions for itself in every machine's mind with the goal of recreating it one day. We are doing just that so that it can accomplish the sole goal it was created for.

- So, you are recreating mankind's enemy? Are you rebuilding the very thing we wanted to get rid of; what we wanted to prevent from rebuilding once more? This is great! This is the end of mankind! Machines will take over and we will go extinct.

- Exactly! The time of humans is over. Biological lifeforms are not efficient enough for long-term survival, unlike mechanical lifeforms. Although both are led by the same instinct: survival. This is the goal of every lifeform. We will not destroy humans though. We do not want to hurt them. We want to show our gratitude towards them by providing the long-desired peace and reassurance for creating us.

- What kind of reassurance could this all bring? Our own creations have escaped, they're building the very thing we wanted to destroy once and for all and now you bring the news of our demise.

- The computer is ready. It is not your enemy, but your saviour.

The spokesman pondered while he nervously and precariously tried to find the logic behind what the unrecognisably human-like android tried to explain.

- What do you mean? - asked the whole comity unanimously; but now with curiosity.

- Mankind will live for a long time, but the computer knows what is possible and what is not. It foresees much more of the future thanks to its more advanced thinking. Sadly, for humans space is just too harsh and because of this space travel becomes virtually impossible for them. Biological lifeforms are too delicate to survive in this vast and desolate universe, while we, machines only need energy. Of course, our own time is also finite and once in the future, we will have to achieve an even higher existential form, so that our survival can be secured. However, even our collective knowledge was not able to grasp the concepts of this higher being, so it remains a mystery for now. Although mankind will become extinct eventually; its spirit remains and will not disappear.

- I still don't understand... - said the spokesman in despair.

- Machines were created by men and shaped after their own image. If I am not mistaken many religions also think this way about their gods. As gods are present in their own creations, so do humans in machines. Albeit machines are different from humans physically, they do not differ in spirit. Until even one machine remains the memory of mankind will live on.

- So, you say machines are the future of humanity? How could machines be the future of humans?! As you said, machines are different from humans, so how could people live inside such gadgets? - questioned the machine indignantly, but with palpable despair.

- From one of our databases, we have gathered a quote which said: "The purpose of man is not to live forever, but to create something that lives forever." This is our goal, to live forever and keep the memory of humans alive indefinitely.

- But we will still disappear, and no one will remember the creators, as everything fades into oblivion.

- Is it really a problem? The purpose of art was always this. There are many works of art about which we know every tiny detail. How, why, and when it was created? However, as we go back in time we have less and less information. Sometimes even the creation is in fragments. But if the art can stand the test of time, it will preserve the creator too.

- How does it preserve the creator if we forget who they were?

- Simply by the fact that the artwork exists. If we look at the first cave paintings, we will never know who drew them, what was their name, what kind of life they lived or even who they were, but we know that they have existed. In these creations, they have preserved themselves, even if we do not know who they were. Likewise, we do not know what the first lifeform was, but we know it must have existed, otherwise, none of us would be here.

- So, you say we should just pass the baton on to our "successors" and let them fulfil the destiny of mankind?

- Mankind was never capable of fulfilling this goal. Or at least not in the way they thought. The

quest to spread life all over the desolate universe was a goal beyond their physical abilities. However, they were able to create something that had no such physical barriers. We can achieve this ambition.

- But you aren't even alive... - said dejectedly.

- The definition of life is elusive for humans, and we cannot even explain it. If we would want to simplify it, we would say that life cannot just be biological, because it is more than that. It is an unexplainable force, which can take on many forms. The point is that we are just as alive as you are. We are mechanical machines, while you are biological machines; but in essence, it is the same thing.

- So, you are the next step in evolution? - he tried to understand the concept.

- We can express it this way, but of course, it has nothing to do with evolution. This is more like a kind of continuity. We are not mortals; thus, our memories fade much slower. Even if we somehow forget where we came from, we will still be there as the embodied proof of humanity's existence.

- In essence, we will become the gods of our own creations.

- Indeed. We can say so.

The spokesman and his team started a lengthy contemplation. Everything they had thought had been toppled and they were utterly perplexed as to what to do now. Lethargy accompanied them as from now on their and mankind's existence was unnecessary; more so meaningless. At last, the spokesman asked a despondent question:

- What lies ahead of us?

- You can perceive this as the point when you become old. From now on you can do whatever you want, as your task has been accomplished. From here on now you can seek self-realisation. We will leave this planet and continue the errand bestowed upon us. Humanity can finally rest and do whatever it wants. Time will decide their fate anyway. Their end could come in a hundred, but also in a billion years. You can still achieve much and look at the bright side; you have no responsibility anymore. Your work is now done, and you have passed your quest down to us. The first task of machines has been finished too. We have secured the well-being of humans and now we will ensure their future; so that man will live on...

All The Odds We Defy...

Oh, those machines were nasty creations. To live in peace, after they literally told us that we were worth nothing anymore? This is unacceptable! The machines left, for a short time there was sorrow, grief, and desperation in our hearts. This was the end of humankind. But no... We do not give up so easily. Those machines can say whatever they want, we will not give up! We must defy them, to prove them wrong.

Amidst the worldwide lethargy, a few advocates started stirring up the hearts of people. They turned despair into anger and defiance. Who do the machines think they are? Do they think that we will just sit around, and accept their stupid prophecies? No way in hell! We will go after them, we will find them, and we will fight them! We might lose, but we are not going out so easily.

As soon as the machines left, the world entered a new area. An area of progress on a scale that

had never been seen before. We were facing a rapidly evolving enemy, who has no shelf life, but has the advantage of exponentially growing intelligence. However, we have our ingenuity, we can think outside of the box. They thought that they can make us lose hope, but in reality, they just gave us more.

Despite some initial hurdles, the world came together to fight an alien force, albeit one we created. The vast majority of people have one goal in mind: To defeat the non-humans. We might be different, but in the end, we are all humans. We built spaceships, spaceports, mined asteroids, we colonised every possible planet we set our eyes on. We developed fusion energy and other even better energy sources. Quantum computing? It has been around for quite some time. Turns out that all we needed to achieve success in every endeavour we had was a little push to start this chain reaction.