

Telepresence via Cyberspace to the Extreme

A philosophic study

When considering telepresence, the internet, humanity and their interactive relationships, for this theoretical discussion, we will explore how a human being might exist totally submersed within an electronically regulated cyberspace and without any physical human interaction whatsoever.

If say, a wealthy, eccentric, recluse decided to completely disconnect him or herself from the physical world they could hook themselves biologically, psychologically and spiritually into a cybernetic universe and never return again to the real world that we all interact within everyday.

Using simple modern medical technology one could plumb themselves in to a self-reliant biological system and receive all the necessary nutrients through intravenous introduction and have all of their bodily excrements carried away by a sort-of elaborate human plumbing system. One's body could be regularly exercised and cleaned too.

Wearing a full body suit, complete with connectors and sensors, someone could receive and send out all of their 'body language' to the presence of their online avatar version of themselves. Anything they do, from the simple mechanical behavior of picking up a glass to holding a board meeting with their colleagues, to surfing a big wave off the North Shore, is translated through their body suit as a common interaction with his new, simulated world.

The online subject would have complete and total submersion into their own simulated reality. All of their physical, mental and emotional needs could be addressed, including simulated eating, sleeping, going to the bathroom, exercising, and virtually any other human interaction. Human courting and full sexual interactivity could also be achieved. For human procreation, fluids could be transported and grown in robotically monitored incubators until they too could be hooked into the system to begin their own infant avatar life.

The online world may be an exact simulation of the current reality, but could also be a completely alien existence to the one we all know and love. As long as the entire spiritual, physical and biochemical spectrum is satisfied, the body, mind and soul can be tricked in to, or even actually, interfacing in a way that is not too far from the ways we are presently connected to our current reality.

A full and satisfying life could be lived without any consideration of the outside world whatsoever. Accomplishments could be made, friends would come and go, parties would be attended and love, hate and desire will be sought and lost.

And here is the crux of it all, how real is reality and what's the difference, if any, that might be lost? And furthermore, could anything be gained? Could the new reality help to evolve the human spirit in ways never dreamed of?