

rabkA uhallA, rabkA uhallA!

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Shafi'i muslim man praying east.



7Oct16—Rosetta spacecraft mission 16 km from comet.

THE CURRENT TERRORIST THREAT¹ imposed upon us by the Islamic fanatic group known as ISIS intends us to wear 7th century robes and sandals, to kiss the grubby ground while facing east, and apparently to commit any atrocity we please so long as we say, “Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar,” while doing so.

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And, the **Rosetta** spacecraft, equipped with an outstretched photo-voltaic cell, packed with modern electronics, 500 million kilometers away, slowly maneouvering its way to land on a strange object—a comet—coming from the Kuiper Belt.² The Kuiper Belt, so unimaginably huge compared to us, and yet so small compared to the wider cosmos. Allahu Akbar on our Carl Sagan “Pale Blue Dot”?

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Imagine our (hopefully) inevitable future evolution. The boundaries between our organic selves and our digital selves are gone. Our intelligence and insights are far superior to what they once were, albeit “artificial.” Our artificial selves are travelling to the stars, held in digital suspension for the duration of the long trips. And our living electronic substrates allow us to build very small ultra-fast spacecrafts to get there.

A connected global consciousness prevails. Significantly, our egos are no longer singular. Digital teleporting of consciousnesses is commonplace, making physical travel largely redundant. Our emergent attributes, such as our minds, are not subject to aging and decay of the physical and organic parts on which they are built.

All our social systems have changed. Our past legal and religious systems rendered largely irrelevant. Strife and loneliness as we once understood and experienced them are gone. The need for conquest of neighbour and environment has given way to a need for coherence and sympathy. Am I looking forward to such a future? You bet!

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But I don't think we'll get there if we as human persons continue to think and live like we are the centre of everything. That we are important and special. That God made the Universe just for us and me, or for us to worship It, or It us, or us Him or Her. That out of the many religious world views, both past and present, amazingly, mine happens to be the correct one. And that we can continue to allow subjective and equivocal belief to trump objective observation and rational thought.

¹I declare this to be my own work, entirely. In particular, no AI was used in any research, analysis, synthesis, writing, nor typesetting of this work. In short, AI was not recruited at any time in this work. Errors and inaccuracies are therefore proudly my own.

²See https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2014/10/Rosetta_mission_selfie_at_16_km and <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap141016.html>.

Am I looking forward to a future where the predominant preoccupation of consciousness is to sympathetically and objectively observe reality, and be wholly immersed in it, without wanting to exploit or subjugate it, but rather to celebrate a deep connectedness with it? Yes, I am looking forward to it... but not enough to terrorise others for it.

So sorry, no Allahu Akbar on our Carl Sagan "Pale Blue Dot."

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