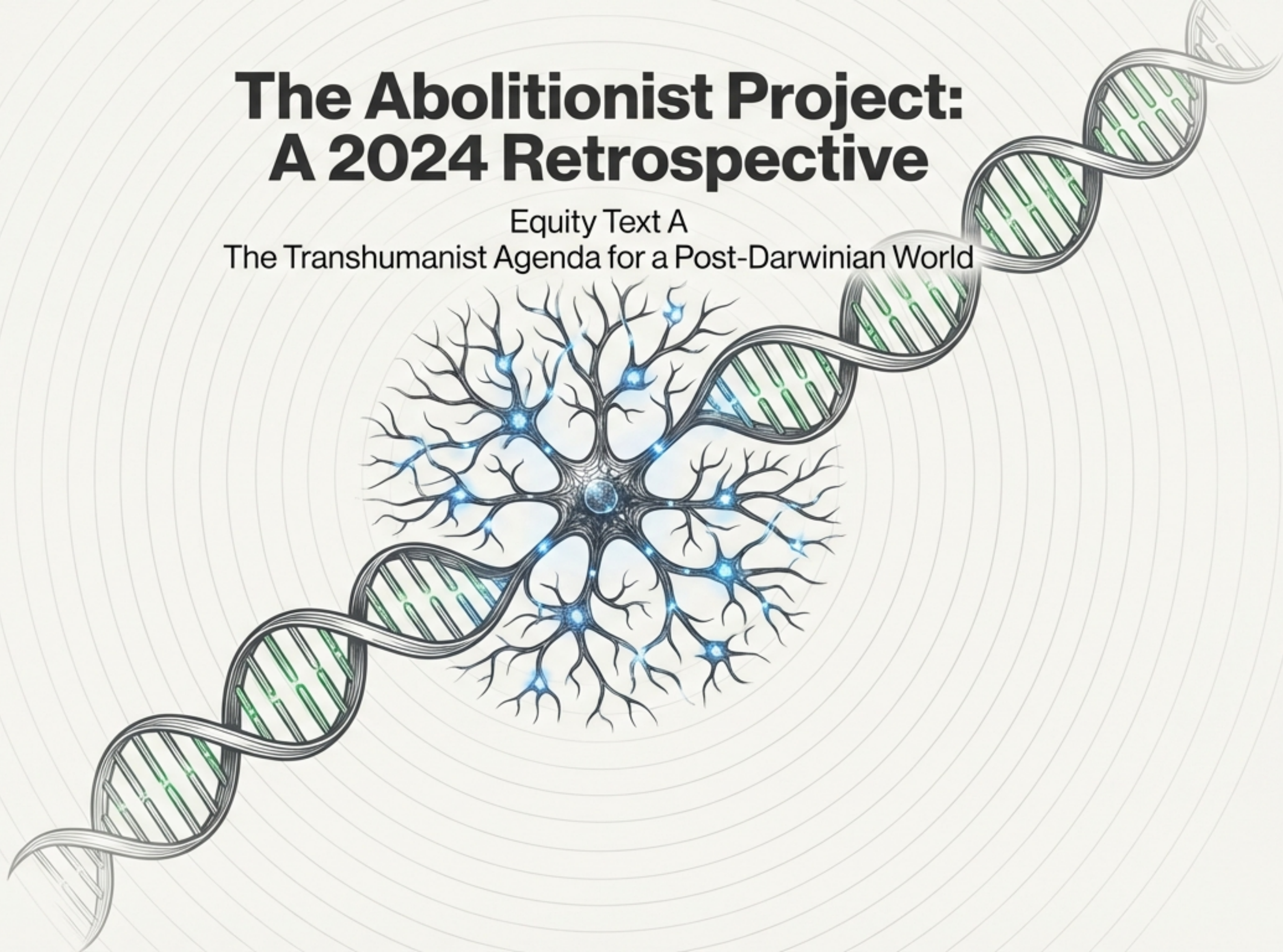


The Abolitionist Project: A 2024 Retrospective

Equity Text A
The Transhumanist Agenda for a Post-Darwinian World



Our Darwinian Inheritance Is a Design Flaw

Our default state, governed by the ‘hedonic treadmill’ and low hedonic set-points, makes us vulnerable to immense suffering. This is a correctable flaw, not an essential feature of life.

*“Life is full of misery, loneliness, and suffering –
– and it’s all over much too soon.”*
— Woody Allen, cited by David Pearce.

~800,000 people take their own lives each year: stark evidence of the scale of extreme suffering that Darwinian life produces.



The Blueprint for Bliss Is in Our Genes

The capacity for suffering is a tangible biological mechanism. Specific genes act as 'volume knobs' for both physical and mental pain, and they can be edited.

Central Case Study: Jo Cameron



“Suffering is part of the human condition, except when it isn’t.”

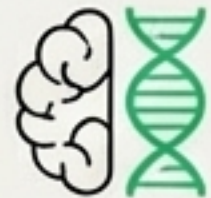
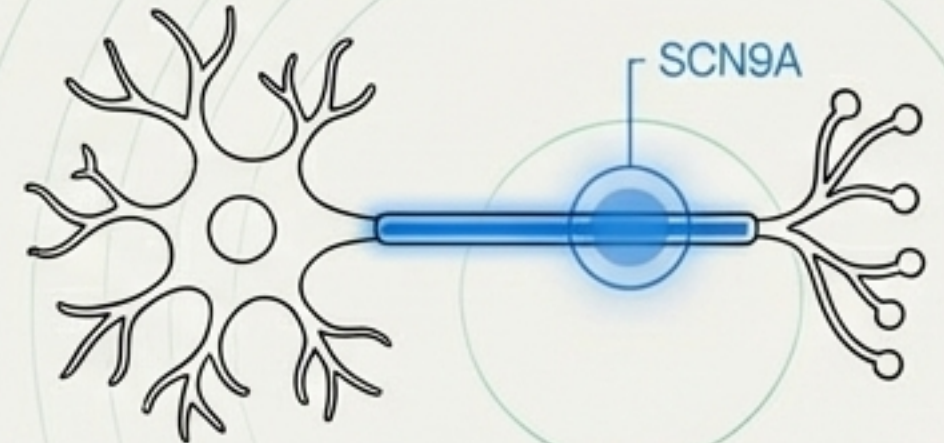
THE GENETIC TOOLKIT



SCN9A

The volume knob for physical pain.

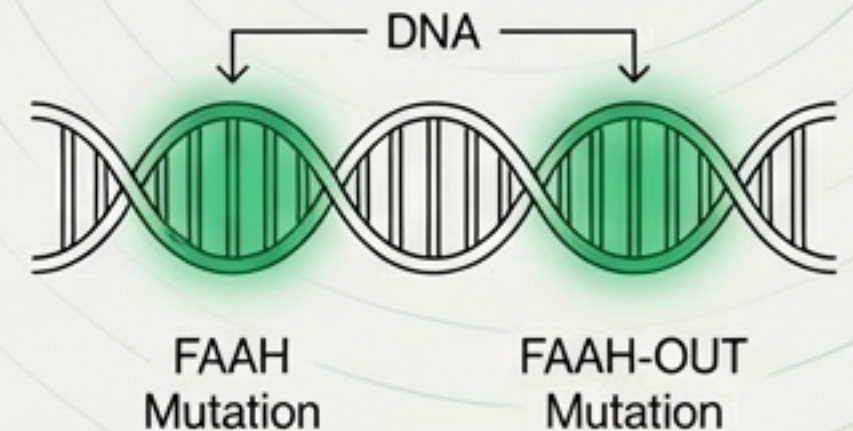
Benign 'low-pain' alleles can turn pain into just a useful signalling mechanism.



FAAH / FAAH-OUT

The dial for mood and anxiety.

Jo Cameron's rare dual mutation is linked to her hyperthymic, anxiety-free, and pain-resistant phenotype, targeting both mental and physical pain.



Compassion, Systematized

The philosophical engine of this project is Negative Utilitarianism (NU), an ethic that prioritizes the elimination of all experience below ‘hedonic zero’.

Core Principle

Framed by a quote:

“I teach one thing and one thing only: suffering and the end of suffering.”

— Gautama Buddha

Clarification

One does not need to be a strict NU to support phasing out involuntary suffering, just as one doesn't need to be an NU to endorse pain-free surgery.



Addressing an Objection:
The Pinprick Argument

The thought experiment:
Would you accept a single pinprick in exchange for a lifetime of immense bliss?

Pearce's NU-consistent response: The sadness and regret of missing out on sublime bliss is itself a form of suffering much worse than a pinprick, which a true Negative Utilitarian must also eliminate.

From Genetic Crapshoot to Intelligent Design

The nature of selection is changing. 'Blind' natural selection will be superseded by intelligent agents (parents) choosing the genetic dial-settings for their children's well-being. This is the "Post-Darwinian Transition!"

'Genetic Crapshoot'



'Intelligent Design'



If you could genetically pre-select the approximate hedonic range and hedonic set-points of your future children, what hedonic dial-settings would you choose?

Reckless Genetic Experimentation:

i.e., sexual reproduction

Responsible, Planned Parenthood:

Fulfilling the WHO's definition of health: "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being."

Our Computational Superpower Is Consciousness

Pearce's Thesis: “No phenomenal binding = no mind.” Digital computers are “cognitively crippled zombies” with no access to the empirical realm.

The Vision: The future belongs to “full-spectrum superintelligence” —our AI-augmented, genetically rewritten biological descendants.



Key Message: Classical AI (“zombies”) are architecturally incapable of consciousness because they cannot solve the “phenomenal binding problem.” The true path to superintelligence is combining our unique capacity for conscious experience with AI augmentation.

The Real Risk: The greatest existential danger is not misaligned AI, but misaligned *biological* intelligence (i.e., humans) armed with powerful technology.

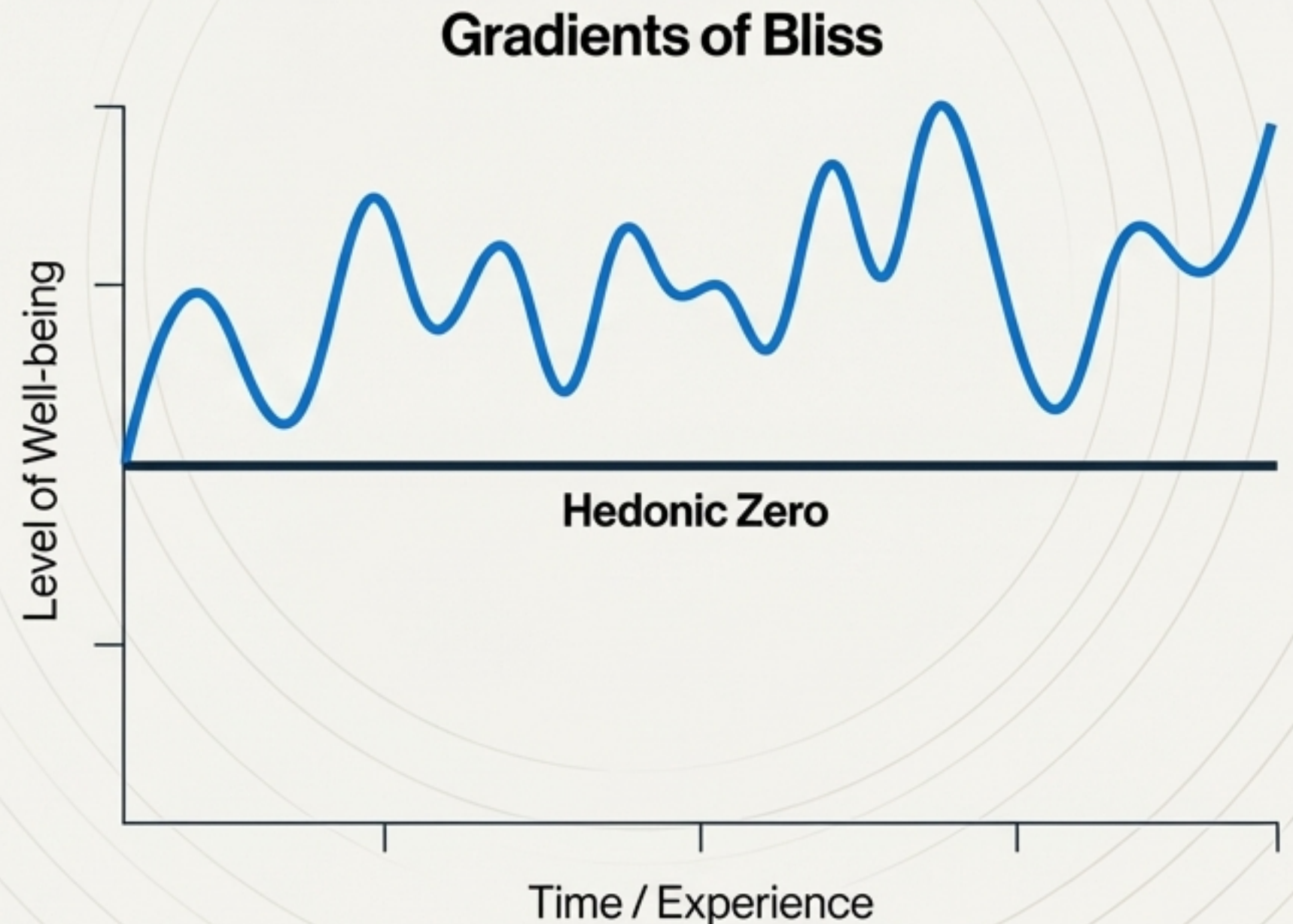
A World of Carrots, and No Sticks

A society based on well-being is not “blissed out” or stagnant. Motivation is preserved through “information-sensitive gradients of bliss.”

Dispelling Myths: This vision is the opposite of Huxley’s *Brave New World*. The goal is to enrich life, not pacify it.

The Science of Motivation: Happiness and “dopaminergic overdrive” are often more motivating than suffering. Contrast the achievement of hyperthymics with the “learned helplessness” of depressive realism.

Case Study: Anders Sandberg: An example of an individual with a “ridiculously high hedonic set-point” combined with immense intellectual output and pro-social behavior.





Nature, Red in Tooth and Claw

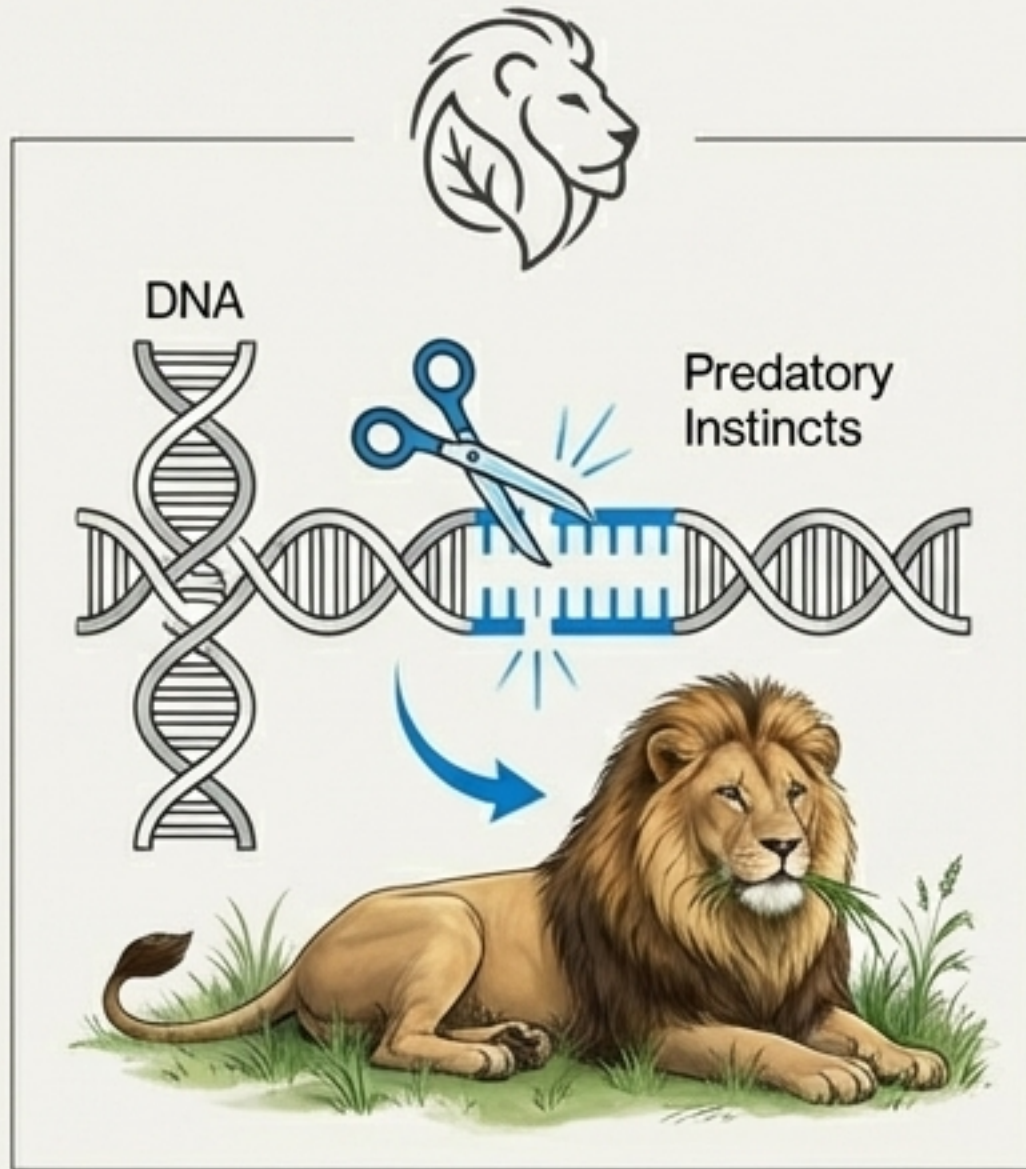
The idyllic view of nature is a dangerous myth. For most sentient beings, the “balance of Nature” is a euphemism for terror, starvation, and violent death.

“The trees here are in misery, and the birds are in misery. I don’t think they – they sing. They just screech in pain.” — Werner Herzog, cited by Pearce.

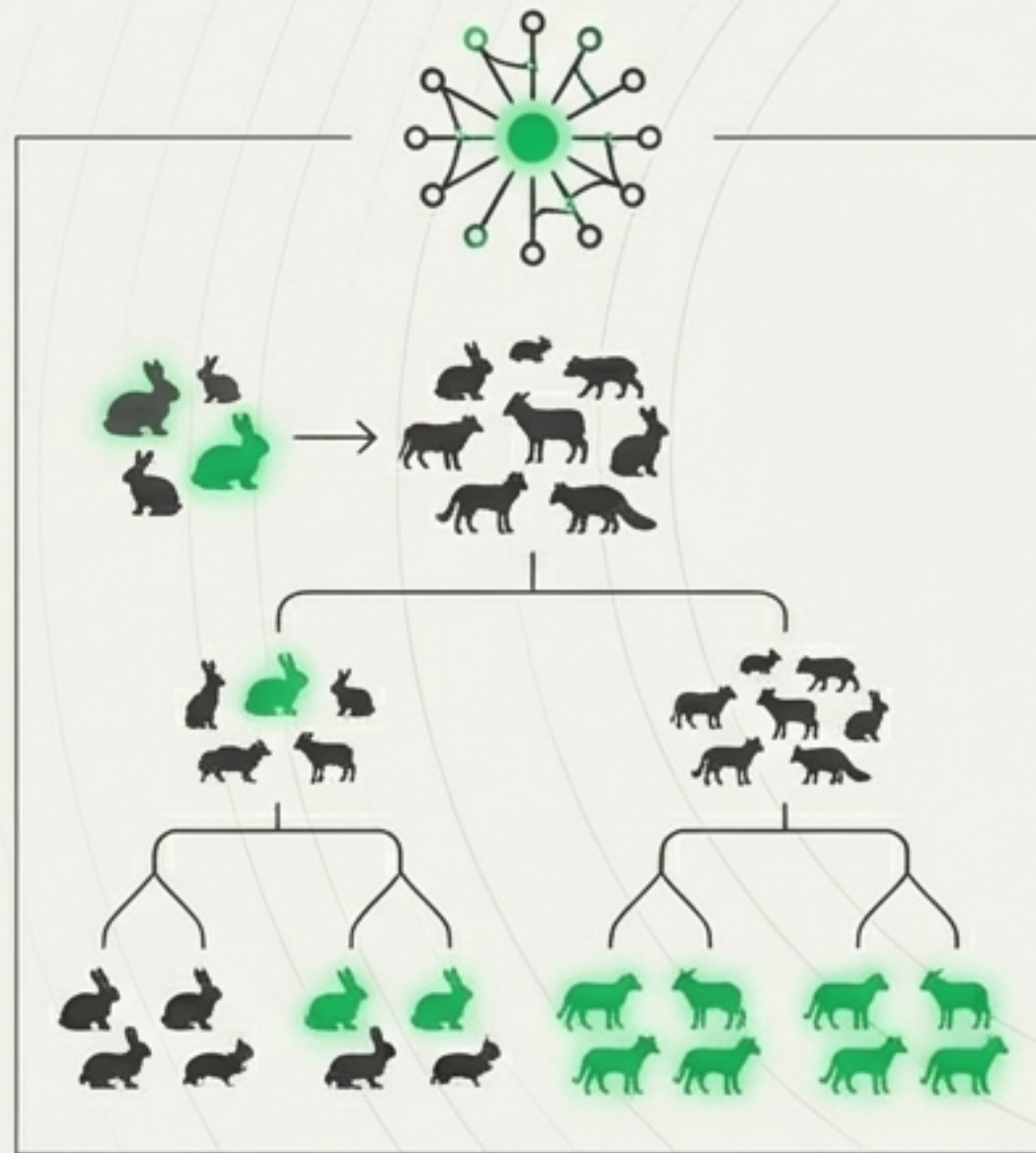
Power brings complicity. As we gain the ability to reprogram the biosphere, inaction becomes a choice to perpetuate suffering.

Engineering a Peaceable Kingdom

We will have the tools to civilize the entire biosphere, creating a pan-species welfare state without ecological collapse. This is 'High-Tech Jainism'.



HerbivORIZATION: Use CRISPR to reprogram the genetic code of predators.



Fertility Regulation: Use tunable synthetic gene drives for cross-species population control, replacing predation and starvation.



Universal Healthcare: Use Drexlerian nanobots and advanced monitoring to care for all sentient beings.

“The Hard Problem of Animal Minds”

The Evidence: Passes the mirror test, the ‘gold standard for reflective self-awareness.’

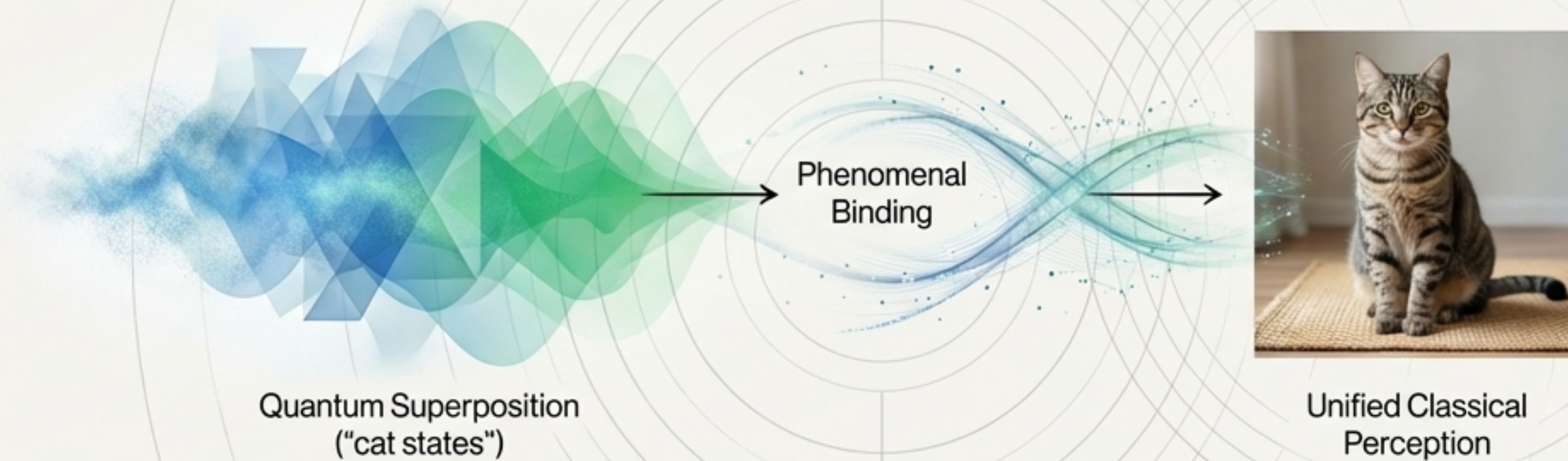


Key Message: The failure to recognize non-human sentience is an ethical catastrophe, rooted in motivated cognition.

A Failure of Rationalism: Juxtapose Eliezer Yudkowsky’s disbelief in animal sentience with this scientific evidence.

“Creating sentience-friendly biological intelligence is a bigger challenge than sentience-friendly AI.”

The Quantum Origins of a Classical World



The Mystery

The binding problem: why are our perceptions unified into a coherent whole instead of being fragmented "mind dust"?

The Hypothesis

"We are quantum minds running classical world-simulations." Individual superpositions of neurons ("cat states") are the vehicle of phenomenally-bound experience.

The Implication

The empirical realm is only accessible to quantum minds, making biological (or post-biological) sentience the true master of reality.

The End of Evil?

Key Message: The ultimate goal is not just to make suffering impossible, but inconceivable. A civilization built on gradients of superhuman bliss would be safer, more creative, and capable of exploring these alien state-spaces of consciousness.

The Safety Argument

A world of "fanatical life-lovers" removes a major source of existential risk. Happiness is life-affirming; suffering is nihilistic.

From Advocacy to Prediction

What credence do you assign the conjecture that experience below hedonic zero won't exist in the Year 3000?

The Exploration Argument

Mastery over our reward circuitry unlocks the motivation to explore the vast, unknown territories of consciousness.

A Philosopher's Regimen



This grand vision is conceived by a real person grappling with the limitations of a Darwinian mind.

Personal Reflections

“My depressive rumination led me to conceive HI – a fix for my problem generalised to all sentience.”

“For the most part, I crave ignorance, escapism and oblivion.”

“Celibate NU philosophers with a depressive streak are unsuited to any such leadership role.”

Personal Supplement Stack

- amineptine c. 200mg
- selegiline 2 x 5mg
- resveratrol 2 x 250 mg
- turmeric
- taurine
- blueberry
- beta-alanine
- green tea extract
- acetyl-L-carnitine
- flaxseed oil
- rice & hemp protein isolate
- cacao powder
- spirulina powder
- flaxseed oil
- rice & hemp protein isolate
- cacao powder
- spirulina powder
- docosahexaenoic acid (DHA)
- L-carnosine
- L-carnosine
- creatine
- kelp tablets
- quercetin
- Vitamin B12
- L-theanine (150mg with coffee)
- 5-HTP and valerian (before bed)

Beyond the Horizon

This project is a beginning, not an end. It opens up fundamental questions about reality and our ultimate purpose.

- Does a 'zero ontology' explain existence?
- If the intrinsic nature of the physical is experiential, what does that imply about the cosmos?
- In a world of bliss, what becomes of art, struggle, and meaning?
- What are the upper bounds of rational agency and our cosmic responsibilities?

Explore the Imperative

Websites

HedWeb.com / Hedonistic-Imperative.com
BLTC.com
Physicalism.com
Gene-Drives.com

Key Essays (PDFs)

“The Abolitionist Project”
“Full-Spectrum Superintelligence”
“Antinatallism and Selection Pressure”