

Khodzadegi (Self-Toxication) And The Nature of Non-Matter

Mohsen BANAN

E-mail: <http://mohsen.banan.1.byname.net/ContactMe>

An Iranian Software Engineer

2009

Varbatim Copying Permitted

This is a Draft.

- It reflects work in progress.
- It is half baked.
- It is also quite incomplete. Lots is missing.
- It is inappropriate to cite this draft document in other documents.
- For the most part what is in here are notes for myself.
- However, there is enough in here for some to be able to read in between the lines. I would like to hear your comments and criticism. Contact me.

Wrong Ownership Rules

Summary

- Horrible things happen when a society gets its ownership rules wrong. (e.g., Slavery).
- Americans/Westerners have gotten rules of ownership and restriction of non-matter wrong.
- The so called western Intellectual Property Rights regime is a big mistake.
- Americans/Westerners are a self-oriented (individual-orientged). Easterners are society oriented.
- Americans/Westerners are imposing these mistaken views on the East.
- The Western Self-Toxication model is spreading through the world in large part through IPR model.

Mis Understanding of Non-Matter

Summary

- Intellectual Property is the westerner's extension of capitalism into realm of non-matter.
- In contrast to matter that exists in singular, Non-matter exists in multiples and can therefore not be owned.
- Non-Matter (multi-existential) Examples: Software, Knowledge, Process, Music, Film, Books.
- Matter(single-existential) Examples: Pen, Spoon, House, Land, Goat, Spectrum.
- Economic justifications of IPR are bogus. Look at Linux vs Microsoft.

Cure

Summary

- The East needs to reject IPR and formulate its own independent model for bringing non-matter into the society.
- IPR is fundamentally wrong. Can not be re-adjusted. Must be rejected.
- Full rejection by the East. Iranian style. Start with new vocabulary.
- Software is a special form of non-matter that best illustrates how non-matter prospers when not owned. Build on that.
- Revisit the economic model. Example, Software into Service. <http://www.neda.com/>
- Beyond the free software movement. Towards formulation of free software national policy.
- Beyond national policy for Libre Software. Notional policy for all Libre non-matter (Pharmaceuticals, Music, Film, ...)

My Perspective

Summary

- I am not anti-Technology. I am software Engineer. I live inside of Emacs.
- I am not anti-Property. Matter should be owned. Ownership of non-matter is in conflict with nature.
- I am not anti-Business. A business plan is proposed.
- I am not a Westerner. I analyze West from outside of it. As an Iranian, I can see what the American character has become. Iranians are uniquely fit to reject the West.
- I am not concerned with curing the American, Brit, German, French, ... The Westerner may well not be salvageable.
- These thoughts are for Easterners: The one in Tehran, Isfahan, Ghom, Mashahad, Cairo, Riyad, Jakarta, Beijing, Mumbai, Tokyo, Boinesarus, Havana, ...

Outline

- Part I: Contours of a Disease
- Part II: Self and Society – West and East
- Part III: Technological Context
- Part IV: Nature of Non-Matter
- Part V: Learning from Death of Humanity in America
- Part VI: Cure: Non Ownership of Non-Matter

Part I: Contours of a Disease

- 1 The Disease
- 2 Health of a Society
- 3 Disease: Self-Toxication
 - Health of the Society
 - America/West Is Sick
 - After Gharbzadegi
 - Republication of Gharbzadegi
 - Criticality of Today

formation of a society.

the bigger pieces that form and are formed by society include:

- Societal Values – Morality, Religion, Custom, Art, Culture, ...
- Technological Environment – Agricultural, Mercantile, Industrial, Information
- Economic Model – Feudal, Communist, Capitalist, Socialist, Non-Material Capitalism. Mixed.
- Professions – Journalism, Medicine, Teachers/Academic, Clergy, Lawyer, ...
- Societal Governance – Dictatorship, Democracy, Theocracy, ...
- Inter Societal Relations – Colonialism, Neo-Colonialism, Globalization, WTO, Professions sans frontier, ...

Health of the Society.

Key Factors.

- Balance Between Self and Society
- Proper Introduction of new Technology into the society
- Right rules of ownership
- Right relationship with the world

Health of the Society.

Key Factors.

In the West in general and in America in particular the economic model has become the societal model. The forces at work are propagating this as a trend to the rest of the world. The Self-toxication disease is spreading.

- Selfishness framed as rugged individualism. Society viewed as economy.
- Introduction of new Technology into the society purely based on economy.
- Laws of ownership (IPR) at the service of finance.
- Imperialist – imposing its values on the world – labeling resistance as terror.

After Gharbzadegi.

- Introduce Gharbzadegi

Republication of Gharbzadegi.

- URL pointers – Prerequisite.

Criticality of Today.

A rare inflection point of technological environment.

- What we do or don't has long lasting impact.

Part II: Self and Society – East and West

- 4 Self and Society
- 5 East and West
 - East vs West
- 6 Capitalism and Self-Toxication
- 7 Corporation: The Psychopath

East and West.

what is east? and what is west?

In Gharbzadegi, Al-E Ahamad provides his rough definitions.

Let's consider that, prerequisite reading.

Empasis on the relationship of Self and Society is the fundamental difference between East and West. It is the balance that is important.

East vs West.

Bring in those pictures.

Capitalism and Self-Toxication.

Capitalism is deeply rooted and promotes the following concepts:

- Selfishness
- Ownership
- Competition
- Dominance and Exploitation

Corporation: The Psychopath.

Came with Capitalism the concept of the “Corporation”. A legitimate entity parallel to humans whose only purpose is to be profitable. And to accumulate assets. The bulk of those assets are non-tangibles taking the form of “Intellectual Property”. Western rules. They create frenkensteins.

- On large scale – A western construct
- Made to Profit – All else after profit
- No conscience
- The perfect vessel to gather and carry assets (IPR)
- frenkenstein

Part III: Technology and Society

- 8 Context

- 9 Technological Inflection Points and Ownership
 - Information Age
 - Information Age

Technological Inflection Points and Ownership.

Many technological inflection points introduce new entities. These new entities are then to be owned. That ownership analysis has multiple dimensions. Business and self-interest are the first reactions and usually get it wrong.

- Agriculture: Animals
- Mercantile: Slavery
- Industrial: Oil
- Information: Copyright/Patent

Where We Are.

Key Factors.

- Technological Dominance of the West
- Transition From Manufacturing to Information Age

Part IV: Nature of Non-Matter

- 10 Properties of Non-Matter
 - Private and Public Non-Matter
 - Forms of Non-Matter
 - Software: A Special Form of Non-Matter
 - Manifestation of Non-Matter as Service
- 11 Intellectual Property
 - Rejection of the so called Intellectual Property Rights Regime
 - Intellectual Property: A Failed Economic Model
 - Intellectual Property: A Rigged Misnomer
 - Intellectual Property and Religions
 - Copying is not Stealing
 - IPR: A Western Construct
- 12 Theological Positions
 - Islam

Matter vs Non-Matter.

Definition of Matter: That which exists in nature in singular.

Definition of Non-Matter: That which exists in nature in plural.

Examples of Matter: A Pen, A Pencil, A Car, A Tree, A Dog, Spectrum, Cocaine

Examples of Non-Matter: Knowledge, Processes, Ideas, Software, Recorded Music, Content of a Book, Porn, Pfizer Viagra

Generally Speaking, Matter: Is touchable. Is not recordable. Is not transmittable.

Generally Speaking, Non-Matter: Is not touchable. Is recordable. Is transmittable.

Ownership of Matter: Real Property. Thou shall not steal (in all religions)

Ownership of Non-Matter: Libre. Copyright and Patent are against nature. (so called Intellectual Property)

Mixed Up Matter.

Primarily Non-Matter – Software

The CD (media) containing Libre Software is matter.

Libre Software is non-matter.

The License that goes with Proprietary Software is not part of nature. Current western law has resulted into the concept of CD, Software and License as Mixed Up Matter.

Mixed Up Matter.

Primarily Non-Matter – Pharmaceuticals

Sildenafil citrate is matter.

The knowledge of its formula “C₂₂H₃₀N₆O₄S” is non-matter.

Pfizer’s Viagra revolves around a patent and a trademark. Not part of nature. Mixed Up Matter. Today when you buy Viagra, you are primarily getting non-matter.

Millions are dying in Africa and India, even though the matter for their medicine costs almost nothing. That non-matter (subject to western patent rules) is killing millions.

Each drug advertisement that you see in American TV (and only in American TV) is for a patent and a trademark.

Mixed Up Matter.

Primarily Matter.

A car is made of matter.

Some processes (non-matter) used in making a car may be patented.

Today when you buy a car, the patent costs are included.

Properties of Non-Matter.

The fundamental difference between Matter and Non-Matter is that Matter exists in singular and non-matter exists in multiple.

Knowledge, ideas, software, recorded music exist in multiples. Copying does no harm to the original.

You can't touch it, you can't feel it.

Because matter exists in singular, it is natural for it to have an owner.

Private and Public Non-Matter.

Because non-matter exists in multiples it is not natural for it to have an owner. But non-matter can be private non-matter or public non-matter. Private non-matter is secret. Public non-matter is knowledge. Neither is ownable.

Matter is ownable. A House is Private Property. A National Park is public property.

Forms of Non-Matter.

- Software
- Books
- Music
- Movies

Software: A Special Form of Non-Matter.

- Utilitarian / Useful
- Lends itself well to collaborative development
- Accumulates development (cumulative)
- Free Software/Tools facilitate development of more Software

Rejection of the so called Intellectual Property Rights Regime.

- Reject the so called Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime.
- Preserve communication freedoms of Internet.
- Introduce new business models that are copyleft and anti-patent based.

Islam.

Pajoohesh Fegghi Dar Babe Malekiat Fekri

- Khomeini:
- Teleghani:

Catholicism.

Pajooresh Fegghi Dar Babe Malekiat Fekri

- Concentration of wealth in Corporations

Catholicism.

Not much

- Khomeini:
- Teleghani:

Part V: Capitalism Kills Professions

- 13 Responsibilities of Professions
- 14 How Capitalism Kills Professions
- 15 Perhaps Too Late for America and Americans
- 16 Inter Societal Relations

- 13 Responsibilities of Professions
- 14 How Capitalism Kills Professions
- 15 Perhaps Too Late for America and Americans
- 16 Inter Societal Relations

Responsibilities of Professions.

Proper functioning of a society depends on professions fulfilling their responsibilities. When professions fail their responsibility, the society falls apart.

- Journalism
- Medicine
- Academic
- Software Engineering

- 13 Responsibilities of Professions
- 14 How Capitalism Kills Professions**
- 15 Perhaps Too Late for America and Americans
- 16 Inter Societal Relations

Perhaps Too Late for America and Americans.

Many symptoms of the rotting of the American society have become more clear in the past several years. The absolute total failure of health care, lack of truth in mainstream American media, bogus invasions of sovereign land are some such symptoms. These in turn signal failures of the professions of Journalism, Medicine and Politics in America.

Part VI: Cure: Non Ownership of Non-Matter

- 17 Cure: Non-Material Capitalism
- 18 Formulation of National Policy
 - Society Oriented Norms for Non-Matter

Cure: Non-Material Capitalism

- 1 The Iranian Revolution
- 2 Free Software Movement and the Internet

Formulation of National Policy

Non-Matter will dominate the future. Many crucial national policies need to be made to deal with non-matter.

Society Oriented Norms for Non-Matter

Consensus on rejection of Western style Patents and Copyright.