

LABIOMISTA

CHAPTER 1 - FREEDOM

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PRELUDE

What is freedom?

How does the meaning change from one person to another?

Could freedom harm the society?

What is the extent of freedom?

How to develop a society where one's freedom does not become others restriction

Would one classify want/desire as a modality of freedom?

Are we free to define the meaning of the word freedom?

Is Freedom an evolutionary phenomenon where every next generation moves towards a much free society or is it the opposite of that?

Can we compare how freedom was with respect to timescale? Meaning what was its facade 1000 years before as opposed to 100 years and that combined against the last 10 years? Could we enunciate the most important events that happened in history and then talk about freedom? How did it shape society then and how is it shaping society now?

Does freedom have an end?

Does freedom have an effect on our culture? if yes then has it shaped our cultural upbringing in any way? Has the effect been good?

Basic amenities like education and medicine is not evenly accessible to all, does it defy the concept of freedom? what can be done to counteract this?

In a correct sense of freedom should there be borders around the world?

Is it correct to say, where we have choice we have freedom? or is it the opposite?

If tomorrow one would feel free at all levels of freedom, what kind of a society do you envision or would like to live in?

Is there a thin line between absolute self-freedom and selfishness?

Are we born free? the genetics that we are born with is a legacy which we inherit from thousands of our ancestors. Through their experiences they have gathered and modified these genetics which sensitize us or strengthen us to certain aspects of nature. Does that make us free or does that make us slaves of of nature and actions of those that lived before us.

In a literal sense, we also try to defend the principles that we are born with, which yet again is the absolute opposite of freedom. Is that freedom? In particular in some ways we are nationalists, defending the prestige of our nation and taking pride in its achievements? Is that freedom? Is there

any possibility to have a world which is without boundaries and creates an atmosphere of unity and harmony? Will this then be an aspect of freedom?

BALANCE AND BOUNDARIES

What should freedom look like? It is certainly an ideal concept.

Can we categorize freedom at a very basic level? where it could be divided into two kinds of freedom-

positive - who you are and what you want

negative - inhibitions and orthodoxically limitations restricting us to do certain tasks.

Since freedom is an ideal concept therefore, we are not entirely free but we are free in a set of predefined set of limits.

Since freedom is such a deep word could we describe or understand it in various different disciplines?

Discussion about different types of freedom

Economic freedom

physical freedom

Social freedom

Biological freedom

National freedom

personal freedom

political freedom

Even amongst this classification we can sub classify it into man-made freedom and natural freedom

Manmade - Economical, physical, Social, National, Personal, political

Natural - Biological freedom, personal, physical.

What is the definition of freedom for us?

1. BALANCE OF BOUNDARIES

Freedom is not limited. You live without boundaries. Freedom has to have boundaries. To be free you have to have boundaries.

What kind of boundaries - cannot murder a person etc.

Do we as humans need those boundaries? Are people inherently good or naturally bad?

Who should put those boundaries?

Should there be a government which is made from a handful of people or should this be a unanimous decision?

How many people then? Will we restrict or draw boundaries for that?

A danger in this principle - If you consider the freedom of everybody then there is no freedom? Would we lead with such a concept to a selfish society? What is the boundary between selfishness and unanimous freedom?

Do you see this selfishness as an individuality or in a group?

Do you have to be selfish in order to be free?

There must be a way to define a concept where selfishness and freedom co-exist.

Total freedom is harmful.

2. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SELFISHNESS AND FREEDOM - BALANCE BETWEEN YOURSELF AND THE OTHERS, ARE YOU FREE IF THE OTHER IS NOT FREE?

Difference between actions and freedom. Combine individual freedom with discussions and develop the idea of self-freedom in a unison with community freedom.

Are you free if the other is not free?

Can you be free with the structure that we live in? Do we have to be free?

your act influences what you think!!

Is mutual dependence an attribute of a free society? dependence creates like mindedness and creates less polarization and hence you lead to a healthier society. You acknowledge and respect the existence of others and you know their needs and your responsibilities.

Individual freedom in conjunction with other people while creating a comfort zone. A place where everyone is recognized and every one shares equal opportunity.

3. ARE WE BORN FREE? DO WE LEARN TO BE FREE? ARE WE EDUCATED TO BE FREE?

Learn to feel free? → Merge practice and theory for a better understanding.

Do we need to learn from our past limits to understand the meaning of freedom or do we learn it on our way?

Do geological barriers influence the meaning of freedom? Do you think freedom would be just if you have one common language or would it be better to have several languages?

If we could go back in time to where languages started, could we then develop a language of freedom like silence where we could just understand each other based on sign language or facial expression or something different and abstract. If we would have evolved in this way how would the society be now?

Being born in the same language would we be more free? In such a case will we look at diversity with a different perspective? Will the meaning of diversity be more negative in such a case?

How would an emotionally free society work? In order to have a sound society or a free society is it important to be emotionally free? An emotionally sound society would help respect the boundaries to freedom for one another and hence progress at the same time.

Could diversity be the key to freedom?

4. NO ONE IS BORN FREE

Freedom is not about choice.

Do you think if equal resources would be given to each born individual, in such a case do we think the current carrier settings would be the same?

MOVING FORWARD: DEFINING A FREE SOCIETY

Prelude: How does a free society look like?

What kind of boundaries do you want to set up in a free society?

Modalities of a free society

1. Emotion and thought; Imagination vs Reality
2. equality; self and others
3. Justice; Thinking vs action
4. culture; language vs communication
5. Interaction with Nature; Nature vs culture

1. INDIVIDUAL VS SOCIETY

- privacy - People should choose to share their privacy and be educated what could be the side effects upon sharing it.

- protection of human rights

- Geological demarcation and/or national/continental boundaries

we do not want borders because it limits connections, thinking, development etc.

At the same time absence of boundaries will bring together people from all walks of life and this could potentially create conflicts.

We want a government but organizing it is essential

2. CULTURE VS NATURE

Culture - everything that is man-made and man-organized.

This would include - technology, religion, science, art, politics, economics

Nature - anything that has life

Limit of science to interfere in the concept of life

Pollution areas which are not inhabited by humans? Massive consumption

Agriculture?

Domestication?

Hunting?

Should we breed animals ourselves and kill them for nutrition or can we bring in artificial meat and use it for our nutrition?

Boundaries are leading to basically concentration of inbreeding where in the progeny population is a bit more inbred than the parent generation and this when given a significant timescale leads to populations that are significantly inbred which could potentially lead to extinction.

Conclusion - To protect ourselves and our biodiversity we should change our production, our consumption, and the utilization and management of resources.

3. THINKING VS ACTION

Thinking - freedom of thought, making decisions,

Action - execution and implementation of decisions.

Should we look into our personal roles in our society and introspect about our responsibility in our society?

Are we doing enough in our society as individuals? Do we have a vision for our society and are we working for it?

Supporting and developing organizations that help spread awareness about the consequences of various interests in order to lead to a free and sustainable society.

4. LANGUAGE VS COMMUNICATION

language - Speaking, reading and writing, Emotion, sensing

Communication - Nonverbal communication, Music, Body language, rituals, Media

Is language essential to learn about freedom? or experience freedom?

Acceptance and acknowledgement of others - includes physical freedom, sexual freedom, emotional freedom, freedom of speech, thought, etc.

We should not transmit information which is non-essential for an individual growth.

Should there be words like good and bad in our dictionary? We could be moral or un-moral or ethical and non-ethical.

Free yourself from a stigmatized perspective so our next generation is free of thought and action.

5. IMAGINATION VS REALITY

Reality has boundaries while imagination doesn't have boundaries.

Redefining our education system where currently we are trying to be very real (which is just) but at the same time trying to inculcate a creative method where we can eventually have a freedom of thinking and imagination.

Upon observing the current academic curriculum, it seems that the current fundamentals of education are based on rote learning/ memory-based learning and/or a copy paste kind of learning which is based on facts and deep understanding of most of the subjects and topics that would be

essential to embark on various disciplines. However, this creates an environment where imaginative thinking does not prosper.

With such an academic setting we are leading ourselves to a society which is unequal and is based on a quantitative criterion like memory which is certainly suited for certain career paths but unfortunately does not drive innovation. In order to boost innovative thinking, we should think of alternative ways/ innovative ways of imparting education as we do not need people who are jack of all trades but masters of none.

Extra Ideas:

- **Freedom across the ages**
 - **150000 BC: Making fire**
 - **21st Century: Thinking Boxes in LaBiomista**
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T.T. Suggestions / questions

- provide a toolbox (for all the future groups to be used)
- can G5 develop case studies where they can express their vulnerability
- helpdesk: they can call Tom Leenaerts?
- Jury was very triggered by the approach, the kind of toolbox provided to the society even discussing the impact, positive or negative, on a society. Freedom is proposed here as a learning process/learning space, challenging our education system.
- You created an interesting art space also (a magic space)... wherein the society moves in, but is it real or imagination/thoughts, be aware such leaning space with modalities can be fragile... how do you apply it and how do you bring love, imagination, feeling in it? Your space is constantly growing when you evolve...
- But what is this learning space? How can this learning space evolve... ONTOGENESIS
- Strong point: freedom is a trade off, but is it quantifiable? How to apply your optimization tool (case studies)? What can be the consequence?
- Where will we grow next?
- Is freedom the same as rights ?

Toolbox

- Artwork KVM: Breaking the Cage (incubator)
- Movie: Licht van Stijn Coninx
- Dance work of Rosas: fase
- Book: The Economics of Freedom
- A sense of Home (Narendra)
- On Connection (Kae Tempest)
- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.3758/s13421-018-0804-x> or <https://bestgedclasses.org/false-dichotomy/>
- Bruno Latour “ou suis je” - https://www.editionsladecouverte.fr/ou_suis_je_-9782359252019
- Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication
- John Dewey on Freedom: http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/PPP/FP_PS23.pdf
- Evolution and freedom
 - <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/ch7-evolution-and-freedom.pdf>
 - <https://pratt.duke.edu/about/news/freedom-and-evolution>
- Quantifying freedom:
 - <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/ch4-measuring-individual-freedom.pdf>
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_World_Liberty_Index
 - <https://www.cato.org/human-freedom-index/2020>
 - <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world>

Pieter Ballon video