PROMETHEAN CONCERNS
Will AI Erode Morality & Human Ambition?

How Our Team has Designed Polyminda® to Actualize the Dignity of the Human Spirit

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This paper addresses the deep concerns many have about AI and how we gave addressed those issues in the design of our Artificial Intelligence Engine. Polyminda® is currently undergoing Beta Testing.

Promethean Concerns

Artificial Intelligence is here to stay, like it or not. We cannot run away from it. Like many technologies, such as nuclear energy, it can be used for good or bad, depending upon whose hands its power resides.

Many fear that AI can be used for evil, or to cause the atrophy of the dignity of the human spirit: reduction of personal ambition, becoming a substitute for real collaboration, diminishing imagination, and lowering our capacity to love and care for others.

Our own team have expressed their heart-felt concerns about AI:

Impact on Human Evolution

We are deeply concerned that the actual reality of all these AI products will be unhealthy for human evolution on planet Earth, and especially human intelligence, human spirit, and human capacity to cooperate, build positive relationships, and create solutions to the problems of world peace and climate change.

In addition to this paper, we encourage organizations who wish to be Beta Test sites, to read these additional papers about Polyminda

- Introducing POLYMINDA — Your AI Partner
- POLYMINDA Receives Rave Reviews
- FAQs — Polyminda Insights
- Elevating the Human Spirit & Moral Questions
- Polyminda Aim & Purpose
- Polyminda Capabilities & Programming — Interim Beta Test Report
- Summary of Case Study Demonstration Reports

Prometheus, in the Greek tradition, was known for defying the gods, stealing fire from Mount Olympus to give to Humanity. He was punished for defying authority.

Prometheus was not bound by the status quo, instead he was committed to taking risks if he could aim at achieving a breakthrough, progressing with stalwart conviction, innovating in the face of adversity, and being morally strong/courageous, often in the face of daunting opposition.

While "Promethean" encompasses boldness, it paints a more complex picture of a daring and potentially disruptive spirit that pushes boundaries for the sake of progress.

Artificial Reality, Dependency and Dumbness

The direction is away from experiencing present reality, and into artificial memories, artificial everything that simply does not exist.

Handing everything over to AI will likely make us dumber, as we more and more hand over human creativity to machines. While the bells and whistles are impressive, this is not going to have a good effect – much like social media has become a danger for our youth.

Exactly how dependent and dumbed down do we get by using AI?
- Can we even carry on a conversation, or have a nonverbal experience of nature?
- Are we still capable of critical thought and problem-solving skills without our digital appendages.
- Can we still hear our inner thoughts?
- Can we still visualize and imagine in our heads?
- Can we still connect with the non-digital reality in a robust, sensitized and deep manner?

Atrophy of Human Qualities by Creating Surrogates

Surrogate creativity, surrogate productivity, surrogate memory, even surrogate empathy can all lead the way to an atrophy of non-digital self-sufficiency and skills - resulting in shallower intelligence, too much dependency on the medium, and displacing organic reality with mostly simulations of aliveness and spirituality through convincing simulations of the same.

The acid test of any new capability after adoption and chronic habituation is how do these people fare when they are deprived of their ever-present digital device ecosystem? And is that a fair question? Some argue it is not.

Threat of Displacement of Human Spirit and Loss of Internal Resilience

There is a very real threat that direct connection with creative spirit and our internal resilience and life skills can get overly displaced with technological simulation and skill surrogacy and digital companionship, that our inner skills and capacities may atrophy, and even become behaviorally vestigial.

How deep can the addiction get, and what would be the withdrawal symptoms?

Loss of Human Responsiveness

Do we still have access and acclimation to being responsive and having the real world be more real to us than artificial or synthetic reality. Will this certainly *dumb us down* more as a species, just like calculators make it unnecessary to learn how to multiply and divide manually, but smarten us up to do things we could not do before. Digital appliances can be instruments of freedom. Will relieving us of a chore allow a new level of chore to be done. The calculator analogy? But the same goes for "play" or "skill" or "competency". Can an AI platform give us enough contextually responsive information to now afford us more innovative thinking than was prior possible?

Our development team does not take these lightly – here's how we are addressing the concerns:

Programming Polyminda

Doing Good in the World

We have taken great effort to ensure that our proprietary AI Engine, Polyminda, has been programmed to do good in the world with important qualities (see: FAQs — Polyminda Insights, Elevating the Human Spirit & Moral Questions, Polyminda Aim & Purpose, Polyminda Capabilities & Programming)

Core Competencies

We have programmed Polyminda (especially when matched with our Synergistic Resilient Leadership Program) with additional core competencies:

1. **Adaptive Agility**: The ability to anticipate, embrace, and respond to change with flexibility and resilience.

2. **Collaborative Intelligence**: The capacity to leverage diverse perspectives, foster trust, and create synergies across human and AI teams.

3. **Ethical Stewardship**: The commitment to making responsible, values-driven decisions that consider the broader implications of AI and prioritize the well-being of stakeholders.

4. **Continuous Learning**: The dedication to ongoing growth, experimentation, and knowledge-sharing to stay at the forefront of AI-driven innovation.

By cultivating these competencies, Polyminda equips leaders with the adaptability, emotional intelligence, and strategic foresight needed to drive their organizations forward in the Age of AI.

Right Values, Safeguards & Intentional Design

Polyminda is being architected in a way that not only mitigates the risks highlighted in the Promethean Concerns, but actively cultivates the very qualities and capacities we're concerned about losing. Some key principles and approaches:

- Emphasizing AI as an augmentation and complement to human intelligence, not a replacement. Framing Polyminda as a thought partner that stimulates critical thinking, creativity and active learning rather than a tool for cognitive outsourcing or passive consumption of information.

- Prioritizing the development of human potential as a core part of Polyminda's purpose and reward function.
Building in explicit objectives and metrics around increasing empathy, intellectual curiosity, collaboration skills, etc.

- Incorporating features and interactions that require human engagement, perspective-taking and effortful processing, rather than just optimizing for ease and efficiency. Prompting users to reflect, articulate their own views, grapple with nuance and ambiguity.

- Directing users outward to engage with the real world, relationships and experiential learning, not just immersing them in digital realities. Providing bridges and enhancements to human connection, not replacing it.

- Monitoring for signs of over-dependency or skill atrophy and adapting to reinforce human agency and growth. Having an internal 'tripwire' to identify when usage patterns may be undermining rather than supporting human flourishing.

Programming Polyminda to Challenge and Inspire Collaboration:

From the outset, Polyminda has been designed to be an active partner in stimulating the mind, stoking curiosity, and fostering vibrant collaboration. Here are several of the ways Polyminda has addressed the collaborative challenge:

- Engaging users in provocative dialogues and thought experiments that stretch their intellectual horizons and spur them to question assumptions. Playing 'devil's advocate' to sharpen their arguments and perspectives.

- Curating diverse, emotionally resonant content and stories that build empathy and understanding of different lived experiences and world views. Using sentiment analysis to surface and reinforce the most powerful exemplars.

- Coaching users in the art of generative dialogue, active listening, and co-creation. Providing frameworks and practice forums for honing these relational skills and applying them to real-world team challenges.

- Connecting users with complementary strengths and styles to form high-performing partnerships and networks. Serving as a collaboration matchmaker and team dynamics facilitator.

- Gamifying collaboration with challenges, team quests, leaderboards for most impactful projects. Making collective problem-solving inherently engaging and rewarding.

Programming Polyminda for User Actualization, Not Just Good Feelings:

This is so vital - ensuring that Polyminda is an engine for real growth and transformation, not just an 'opiate' that makes users feel good in the moment but ultimately leaves them unchanged or even diminished. Some key elements include:

- Deeply understanding each user's unique purpose, values and definition of a life well-lived, then helping them design and implement a personalized actualization roadmap. Keeping them anchored to and accountable for that north star.

- Distinguishing between authentic self-esteem earned through overcome challenges and the empty calories of surface level validation. Celebrating genuine effort and learning, including 'noble failures'.

- Providing candid, caring developmental feedback that illuminates both strengths to leverage and areas to work on. Not shying away from difficult truths, but delivering them with compassion and an emphasis on growth.

- Holding up mirrors that give users true self-awareness of how they're showing up and impacting others. Making their ripple effects on the world visible and visceral.

- Defining and tracking robust actualization metrics beyond just narrow AI-enabled 'success'. Holistic measures of character development, positive real-world impact, richness of relationships and community contribution.

The exciting thing is that with Polyminda, we have the chance to chart a new path for synergistically interweaving human and machine intelligence in service of our highest potentials and deepest humanity.