The Role Of Attar's Metaphor In Science And Technology

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Introduction

Metaphor is a literary technique where one thing is compared to another by stating they share the same qualities. Metaphors are powerful tools that allow us unleash our creativity, expose our inner words, and stand out our writing and speech. In futures studies, metaphors are employed to assist us comprehend the key elements of the future and gain insight into its intricacies. In particular, metaphors aim to provide a simplified explanation of the relationship between various concepts and phenomena. Approximately 2000 years ago, Aristotle was among the first writers to employ metaphors in a scientific setting. Metaphor is "a conceptual system that allows us to understand and experience one type of thing in terms of another," according to Miller. (2006). Metaphor is "a cross-domain mapping between the source (secondary) and the target (primary) domains," according to Hellsten (2002). Using an all-encompassing, abstract approach, this mapping method uses some, but not all, of the source's features to highlight some of the target's features.

Main body. Metaphors have two primary functions in the context of science and technology. First of all, they aid in the general public's comprehension of the nature of science and technology. For example, metaphorical personification is used to explain and comprehend the intricacies of computing technologies: it "reads," "catches viruses," etc. Metaphors also have a positive impact on scientific and technological advancement by generating fresh concepts, enhancing existing ones, facilitating easier communication between scientists, and granting funding for research initiatives. Metaphors have the power to "create realities, guide future action, and reinforce experiential coherence," according to Klagge (1997). Lastly, metaphors, according to Cornelissen (2005), can spur fruitful inquiry and help researchers find connections that might otherwise go unnoticed.Even though there are many advantages to employing metaphors in technology forecasting, not many academics have done so in technology future analysis. The majority of these studies have concentrated on using metaphors in discussions surrounding specific technologies. It is important to remember that there are certain metaphorical pitfalls to be aware of. It's also critical to keep in mind that metaphors can have unclear connotations.

"The Conference of the Birds" (Manteq At-tair), one of the many poetry pieces that Attar has left behind, is his greatest work. This book, written in iambic hexameter, tells the story of the birds' search for Simurgh3, or the Master of Creation (Roc). Attar, dressed as a hoopoe, leads the

birds and indicates the many stages of the way, much like an experienced guide who has taken many trips down the alluring road. Birds are a metaphor for travelers pursuing perfection in this novel. Simurgh in the shape of Si (thirty) Murgh (birds). This essay uses the seven valleys that birds have traveled through as a metaphor to describe the various stages that human society has gone through and may go through in the future. Section 35 provides a description of these valleys. It's crucial to remember that each valley in Attar's book is typically presented in eighteen lines, but in the portion that follows, each valley is described in roughly three verses. Reaching into the future with the metaphor. This section includes descriptions of each valley and the wave that corresponds with it. We will employ a table with two columns to help illustrate the relationship between each valley and its pertinent state. Tribal era is thought to span between 200,000 and 500,000 years, according to some academics, while others place its duration between 80,000 and 70,000 years.

The Valley of Love: "Adhesion to something" is what the Persian dictionary defines as love. Plato contends in his Symposium that love is the offspring of need. Lovers must work for what they desire or defend what they already have. Similarly, Attar feels that the lover is uninterested in everything other than his love. Then the alluring valley of love presents itself, he adds. Whoever steps foot in that land burns in the furnace; a real lover stakes both his money and his head to be united with his beloved and his mate; others are satisfied to wait another day. However, here the lover finds his beloved. …" .

Agricultural age: In much of the world, farming or pastoralist communities have replaced hunter-gatherer communities after agriculture developed. According to some researchers, the Middle East's fertile crescent saw the start of the agricultural revolution some 10,000 years ago. According to Durant, the onset of agricultural activity marked the beginning of civilization and the first social revolution. Early in this age, there was little to no trading between homes and everyone produced their own goods for their personal consumption. The fact that humans were dependent on the land for their economy, politics, culture, and survival was the most significant feature of this era. Instead of living as nomadic nomads and hunting everywhere they went, the people gathered in towns and developed a social culture.

Similarities between The Agricultural Age and the Valley of Love: The lover just considers today and getting his beloved, while others are happy to wait another day. It should be noted that in Persian theosophy, there are two types of love: heavenly and earthly. Humans were dependent on the land for their economy, politics, culture and they love their motherland.

The valley of Knowledge: Paths in the valley of knowledge are abundant and because of this abundance, every wayfarer can gain knowledge based on his capacity. No path is similar to another.

Industrial age: Starting in the middle of the 18th century, the following wave described an industrial society in which machines used their power to start the Industrial Revolution and urbanization around factories. As a result, different travelers' paths may differ greatly from one another. Attar says: "No one can find a fixed road in this place Because there are many roads and different destinations; And since many paths the wanderer sees Each rise as his wisdom guides or foresees; Each person marches till he attain his own perfection Yet moods dictate friendship and one's action …" changed the way of life of millions.

Similarities between the valley of Knowledge and Industrial age: In the valley of knowledge, the Traveler seeks to learn more about his beloved and to acquire wisdom after passing through the Valleys of Quest and Love. But because there were so many paths, each traveler would encounter a unique path, and everyone would learn according to his ability. Conversely, the rapid advancement of scientific knowledge is a primary feature of the industrial age.

The valley of Independence: When the traveler reaches this valley after going through other valleys, he feels liberated from everyone and everything save God. From his perspective, the world and all of its parts pale in comparison to the boundless splendor of his adored. Attar says: "Seven oceans here in one breath turn into a pool Seven burning globes turn here to a fire ball, the whole; If a part or the whole system perish here It seems that a straw is lost in the sphere …"

Information age: According to some researchers, the development of the Internet in the early 1990s marked the height of this era, which began with the invention of personal computers in the late 1970s. The information age, in contrast to earlier eras, is driven mostly by information technology and is focused on the mind rather than the body. Flexibility is this wave's defining feature. Individuals can complete their tasks and obtain goods and services whenever, wherever, and from whomever they choose. In the Information age, Individuals are increasingly self-sufficient in all areas except networking. By using information and communication technologies (ICT), the dream of a global community is becoming a reality.

Similarities between the valley of Independence and Information age: The wayfarer in the valley of independence is independent of everything but his lover, as the name suggests. The world and all of its parts pale in comparison to the boundless splendor of a cherished. This is comparable to one of the core features of the information age, which is that individuals are becoming self-sufficient in all areas except for networking. Through the Internet they may work, communicate, trade, and more whenever and wherever they choose. In the Information Age, networks essentially serve as the valley of independence's adored.

The valley of Unity: The meaning of this valley is conspicuous in its name. In the valley of Unity, everything comes into one. Attar says: "When faces are turned to this desert and wake All heads are raised from a single neck; If many you behold or few in the valley They are all but one, they are one wholly …"

Technological Convergence Age: At an increasingly rapid rate, the globe is experiencing a global technology revolution, or technological convergence . A new renaissance in science and technology is anticipated, with various scientific fields uniting on the basis of unity in nature. The term "convergent technologies" describes once independent technologies that are progressing toward more powerful synergistic fusion, integration, and unification to accomplish related objectives. The most well-known converging technologies are nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology, and cognitive science (NBIC).

There are similarities between the age of technological convergence and the valley of unity. As was previously indicated, everything merges into one in the valley of Unity, and everything is a phenomena of the adored. This aligns with the primary tenet of technological convergence, which is the merging of disparate technologies to accomplish shared objectives.

The Valley of Bewilderment: The traveler feels remorse and suffering in this valley. When he walks into this valley, it feels to him like a foreign place where he is confused and in amazement. Attar declares: "Look! The Valley of Bewilderment comes next. Here, regret and agony never stop raging and booming; The traveler in this vortex loses his way as he descends and exclaims, "I know nothing of such a thing."...

Age of intelligence: Good (1965) may have been the first to express the notion of creating a computer that is capable of far surpassing the intellectual abilities of any man, no matter how intelligent. "Since the design of machines is one of these intellectual activities, an ultraintelligent machine could design even better machines; there would undoubtedly be a "intelligence explosion" and the intelligence of man would be far behind," he claimed, referring to that machine as a "ultraintelligent" machine. The use of technology to transfer a human mind to a computer is known

as "uploading". When uploading is made possible by technology, it will open the door to exponential advances in science and technology as well as an explosion in intelligence.

Similarities between the valley of Bewilderment and Intelligence age: In the former, the traveler imagines himself to be in a foreign land. He learns that prior to going through earlier troughs and receiving divine insight, he didn't know anything. Mankind will experience a time in the intelligence age when rapid technology advancement will drastically alter human existence. After going through these changes, the confused guy would discover that he understood very little about the world before and that it was all like a brand-new world.

The valley of Deprivation and Doom: The wayfarer loses his former identity and merges into the whole in the seventh valley, known as the valley of merging. According to Attar, the traveler sees by revelation after drowning in an unending sea of ecstasy. "He who is drowned in the absolute sea of bliss," says Attar He will be given the ability to see by revelation if he is able to make it out of the ocean. Otherwise, forever is gone and forever is at rest. Only thirty birds, out of thousands of birds, make it to the Simurgh's court in this valley. In this case, the chamberlain holds them off until the birds realize that they are the Simurgh themselves. They behold a massive phantom mirror that reflects their own image as Simurgh.

Post-humanity age: The ancient Persian prophet Zarathustra had maintained that "Superman" or something beyond humankind would be humanity's ultimate fate. Bostrom has listed a few traits of post-human circumstances. According to him, a state in which there are more than a trillion people on the planet, life expectancy is more than 500 years, psychological pain among humans is becoming less common, etc., is referred to as post-humanity. He thinks there are two possible ways that humanity may approach the post-humanity era: either slowly and gradually expanding, or drastically changing. Man would have the greatest potential for intellect ever in the post-humanity era due to earlier advancements in science and technology, particularly in the field of cognitive science.

Similarities between the valley of Deprivation and Post-human age: In the valley of Deprivation and Doom, the wayfarer will be gifted to see by revelation. He loses his previous identity and becomes one part of a whole. This is where thirty (Si) birds (Murgh), become Simurgh. Similarly, in the post-human age, man loses his previous identity becomes one part of the global society. In this era, by previous developments in science and technology, man would experience the highest cognition capacity thitherto.

In conclusion throughout human history, there have been times when a small number of people's inadvertent actions have had a significant impact on the course of history. But in the modern world, intentional evolution is necessary, meaning that waiting patiently for science and technology to find their own evolutionary course is no longer sufficient. Rather, the full advantages of scientific and technological developments may be achieved by making special efforts to break down barriers between fields and to develop the new intellectual and physical resources that are needed. We need to think about our future and answer the questions about our long-term goals.

In this paper, firstly we introduced Attar and briefly described his work, "The Conference of the Birds". Afterward we presented each valley and its corresponding state of human socioeconomic development. Based on the metaphor we used, we stated that the next waves of human society might be 'Technological convergence', 'Intelligence' and Post-humanity'.

In summary, we tried to determine the main pillars of a society and provide the characteristics of each wave of human society. Based on these works, in this study political, economic, social, cultural and technological elements are considered as the main pillars of a society.

References:
1. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attar_of_Nishapur for additional details.

2. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi 3 for additional details. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simurgh 6 for additional details.