

# What will the questions on Quora be like 100 years from now?

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A future digital archeologist will find references to something called Quora.

"We really do not know what 'Quora' is but it seems to have been a very primitive sort of interaction device used in the early days of the social internet that was called Web 2.0. There are scattered references to it in the primitive internet archive, what is left of it, but it is very difficult to picture what it might have been.

"However, we have some hypotheses attempting to extrapolate backwards. It appears it was a failed attempt to extrapolate StackExchange to the masses and amass questions and answers so that Google could respond to complete questions in their searches. But due to its limitations it failed to establish a proper relation between questions and answers and their context and extrapolation potential. So it was eclipsed by something called MetaQuora.net soon after the StartUp Bubble of the early teens of the last century.

"MetaQuora we know more about, because it did not seek to amass myriad random questions and answers, but actually attempted to crowdsource knowledge. MetaQuora was the first dialectical knowledge game based on the idea of Herman Hesse in the Glass Bead Game. And because it produced knowledge outside the standard scientific paradigm for the first time ever, it was heralded as the first means of establishing knowledge in the sea of opinion that was all that existed in the early days of the World Wide Web.

"It appears that Quora was the primitive precursor of MetaQuora commonly known as the Quoram Dialectical Knowledge Generation Game. It seems that the original designers of Quora did not understand the nature of Questions and Answers because they were merely imitating StackExchange and attempting to bring Q&A to the masses, but because all it did was bring out more ungrounded opinion, and had very little grounded opinion, and did not generate any knowledge users soon got tired of it as a reputation boosting device.

"Part of the problem was the backlash against so called "Social Media" which were rapidly realized to be anti-social in their essence. We know that there occurred the first Quora Revolt around 2015 in which Quorans, as they were called in those days, staged a design review of the product by the users. This design review by the users did not go well, because the limitations of the system became obvious to the users who were by that time organizing into a users union. Because the design flaws were so severe they staged a boycott of the product in protest. Soon Quora went the way of Namesake, and Convor and other failed attempts to establishment meaningful "social" interaction platforms. The few posts that appear in the archive show that Quora was a ghost town by 2016 and the attention had moved on to more sophisticated forms of interaction that actually had meaningful outcomes for users, rather than merely generating further nihilism which was endemic to anti-social platforms of that time.

"Many in those days were waiting for the end of the world either because the Mayan calendar ran out or because they hoped computers would eventually become more intelligent than human beings thus making humans obsolete. But what no one saw coming was the MULTIPLICITY foreseen by Badiou

which first appeared in a significant way in the book in Being and Event. Badiou had said that Being was really just Set theory but in order to make that have a little sense he had to add to it the Event and the Multiple, i.e. true heterogeneity prior to Oneness arising. Little did we know at that time that the Multiple was about to become a reality through its advent in the Event. This occurred when there was the first breakthroughs into actual knowledge generation outside the Scientific Establishment that was not controlled by the Military Industrial Complex which Truman warned us against before it went completely out of control. The war with Iran instigated by President Romney was a crucial turning point. It was the third unfunded war in a row and after the financial crisis of those years was generally counted as the straw that broke the back of the American economy especially since the third time congress had passed a tax cut prior to a war. And when nuclear weapons deployed by Iran that they held in secret, unbeknownst to the CIA hit Israel, the United States had to decide whether to strike back as Israel launched a return volley. Since stray nuclear weapons also hit Lebanon and Syria the allies of Iran this put the Middle East in unprecedented turmoil overnight. Jerusalem no longer existed to be contested by the Israelis and Palestinians. And the air and land war that began immediately pitted American technology against Russian technology once again which had not occurred since the Cold War. President Romney attempted to pull back from the brink of a war that began to engulf the Middle East bringing Chinese and Russian interests into the fray. But the Far-right evangelicals pressed for America's full entry into the war because they saw this as the prelude to the Rapture.

"Meanwhile Anonymous which had grown stronger since the Elections in 2012 because there was no redress of the excesses of Wall Street, and we saw the first launch of a nuclear weapon due to hacking. The Russians took this attack on their soil, even if it was an empty ICMB complex in Siberia, as a direct premeditated attack despite assurances that it was a security breach by President Romney. Corporations had hemorrhaged data divulged by their Employees once Anonymous became a powerful international anti-corporatist movement. So the American economy was already in a shambles after many many leaks of conspiratorial information about various global multinational corporations. The American economy had been sucked dry by Petrol Dollars and Walmart Dollars and the question was considered by more moderate conservatives who controlled both Houses of Congress whether America should take an isolationist stance or whether they should throw all their support behind their only remaining ally Israel.

"It was in the midst of this confusion both internally and externally that the Event of the Multiple first occurred as foreseen by Badiou. Little did we know that it was not a Singularity that we had to fear, but rather true heterogeneity that could not be controlled by oneness. Both the State and Corporations were at once called into question as viable entities of Corporatist control, and globalization ground to a halt immediately because the global economy had collapsed with the advent of the Middle Eastern War that threatened to bring World War III even though there was no Soviet Union any more. All countries and corporations were suddenly under attack from within just as the World braced for the attack of America on Iran to support its only real ally ever, Israel. America as not able to hold up the "Peace Process" any longer, and going to war seemed the only solution that would defer the inevitability of a Palestinian state.

"Of course, the occupation of Washington was in its fourth year by the Occupy Everything movement. And it was impossible to dislodge 4 million Occupiers without calling out the Military. President Romney had many hard decisions to make as he tried to negotiate with Žižek who was the generally accepted head of that Occupy Everything movement. Žižek had always supported almost unquestionably the Ontology of Badiou and welcomed the advent of the Event of the Multiple when it began to occur. But he became genuinely worried when language his favorite medium for philosophizing began to diverge as well. Suddenly those who had previously had nostalgia for polytheism had to confront the genuine irreconcilable diversity in every aspect of the worldview which was growing exponentially. Some said it

was partly the effect of the accelerated expansion of the Universe finally having cultural and social effects. Some said it was the degeneration of social and cultural values due to the political war that had been raging since the election of President Romney. Others said it was the backlash against first colonialism and globalism by the third world, due to the fact that American was no longer a first world nation like China and India. What ever the source, which is now a matter of serious debate amongst scholars the the last centuries history, it is clear that when dialects and technical jargons started to diverge along with social and cultural practices something had to be done, because soon families would be effected if their members could not communicate in a common language. Now we know that spontaneous genetic mutations were the ultimate mechanism by which the the divergence began to occur first seen in autism in children. Scientists feared we were on the verge of transforming into a new species that they were beginning to call homo-heterogeneous instead of homo-sapians. Of course, the discovery that time was in fact four dimensional as well as space, rather than two dimensional did not help. The fact that we had slipped from the Metaphysical Era to the Heterochronic Era without knowing it became a real source of divisiveness since PostModernism was truly finally over.

"It was around this time that true knowledge production began on the internet on several peripheral websites like MetaQuora.com. This was seen as a way to fight back against the divergence that was now becoming something of a pandemic in newly third world countries, especially those in Europe and North America after the bond crisis had led to the meltdown of former first world economies and the safe haven of the American economy melted away as China switched out of the dollar denominated Treasury Bonds into a diversified portfolio of bonds based on different newly first world currencies. Suddenly there were no more Walmart Dollars any more, and America began manufacturing again to try to catch up now that labor was cheaper in America than China or India.

"In the midst of this melt down of the world dominant position of the United States there appeared a possibly that out of the heterogeneity expanding everywhere in all sectors of the culture what appeared to be the sudden potential of generating knowledge by people as "Know It Yourselves". Ever since corporations had become bonifide citizens and got the right to vote based on their shareholder, customer and employee bases which was given to them by the Supreme Court in a famous case of Human Beings versus the Imaginary Artificial Citizens Act passed by the Republican dominated congress. Not only could corporations spend as much as they wanted in Elections, they could also vote electronically in proportion to their number of customers / (shareholder stock shares - employee stock shares). The Know It Yourselves (KIY) banded together in small groups and started attempting to work out how genuine dialectical question and answer systems might work. They discovered that if you connected questions to a problematic with an approach articulated then it was possible to frame the context of a question and thus give significance to its answer. Then by going back to Plato and leveraging the whole history of educational institutions in Western history it was soon realized that if people actually asked and answered questions of each other that were related to each other they could hone in on distinctions that were actual bases of knowledge which soon escaped the mire of opinion (grounded or groundless). These breakthroughs allowed the first genuine crowd-sourced "knowls" to be written that identified what was beyond the cutting edge of the tradition based on dialectical discourse which constituted the first knowl-edge produced by crowd-sourcing. Clever social games, that truly were social because they established the participant's reputations in a genuine way were introduced that gave rewards for the generation of stable knowledge packets. This gave some hope that the divergence pandemic might be held at bay at least for a short time by the advent of actual knowledge. Of course, this innovation started to catch on also in the the first world nations of China and India too. However, third world nations recently fallen from first world status, still benefited out of proportion to their economic power, by this discovery and its rapid adoption in society more generally because it made online interaction genuinely social in

some sense because it became exchanges of knowledge rather than merely data or information.

"We only have a few actual questions left from Quora, and we see them now to be something like the questions put to the Delphic Oracles in ancient Greece. One of them for instance says, ironically, What is Existence? However, many examples are so poorly thought out that they are almost unintelligible to us today. Fortunately for us the genuinely social crowd-sourcing of knowledge did have the desired effect of counteracting the divergence to a certain degree. But of course that was only after much of the population was lost. Of course, we are still trying to recover from the Event of the Multiple, i.e. the arising of true heterogeneity in the midst of a politically and socially fragmented culture. But knowledge production by the masses, not just by the scientific establishment was a true turning point in this process of social and cultural degeneration. Like Wikipedia, crowd-sourced knowledge soon began to eclipse the output of the Scientific Establishment. People began to replace the jargon of the Scientific and Technological communities with words with actual meanings. And it was realized that artificial intelligence was not the goal, because AI systems merely reacted to information, to make informed decisions, for instance of the kind that continually crashed the stock market. Artificial Knowers would not exist for many decades yet. Those first artificial knowers were directly modeled on these crowd-sourced knowledge gaming communities such as MetaQuora.com. There was a migration from Entertainment Games to Knowledge Games as people became bored by the limitations of Gaming environments to provide genuine intellectual challenges. Because Language was the medium for the expression of knowledge and opinion could be risen above then divergence had a much more difficult time causing knowledge to diverge due to the meta-stability of knowledge. It was a shock when it was realized that the Web 5.0 was all about Knowledge generation via crowd-sourcing and only that was stable enough to resist divergence of true heterogeneity.

"Eventually it was discovered that we had gone over the tipping point into Anti-Being in which instead of Realty, Truth, Identity, and Presence being foremost in our worldview suddenly Illusion, Fiction, Difference and Absence were beginning to prevail. Only Knowledge could withstand the pressure of that drift, that veering, that Parallax View. Of course, this had been known since the time of Plato and Aristotle. But it had been forgotten along the way through the vicissitudes of history. What little we know about this time has been scavenged from hard drives found in landfills. Thus nothing is certain about that dark era. However, what we can say is that if we had Quora here today, as anachronistic and antiquarian as that might be in a kind of Digital-Punk way then we would see questions like:

"Why was the proto-MetaQuora so poorly designed?

"Why did not the designers of a Question and Answer system know anything about the context of Q&A or the possibilities of dialectical extrapolation toward the limits of knowl-edge?

"Why did they not know about the difference between opinion and knowledge? And a follow up question would be why did they value only opinion and not knowledge?

"Where were their Philosophical Design Architects, anyway?

"It must be that our questions today would make little sense to those Quorans of old prior to the existence of MetaQuora.org and the advent of Knowledge Generation that basically saved out bacon. We only say bacon because since we are engaged in a subsistence economy again Bacon is a very important commodity. Ever since the explosion of the Yosemite mega-Volcano and the asteroid that hit Texas it has been difficult to keep our online presence operating with all these power outages. The earthquake along

the New Madrid fault did not help either since it leveled most Southern and Midwestern cities. But fortunately cool heads prevailed and Tehran was the only city that was leveled by American nuclear warheads. But unfortunately all the Dictatorships that we supported in the Middle East fell though populist uprisings that President Romney did not support. And so the Middle East turned out to become even more profoundly anti-American after the War when the new democracies gained hold of their own natural resources. which we had been plundering for decades with the help of our Saudi allies who were deposed from power during the war. But I must end this report now because the rolling blackouts are about to hit again and I do not want to lose power before I save . . . But I hope this puts to rest the rumors of there being a secrete trove of Quora questions that have been found whose answers predicted the events to come before the fact . . . Now that we have finally transitioned to a knowledge based economy these old Quora questions would not make sense even if we knew what they were, because they would be based on ungrounded assumption that information was the highest level of data organization that the Web could support. Little did they know that the mutations of the higher order Webs 3.0, 4.0 and finally 5.0 would continually converge into knowledge based systems that were real crowd-sourced knowledge generators. This was just a small number of the variety of emergent events that have occurred over the last hundred years since the 'centennial question' was asked on Quora"