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Topic: Looking back at 2028

Abstract: The organizers of EUNIS 2048 has asked me to look back on those good old days when we humans were still smarter than our creations and the human individual was considered the seat of the mind. But please do remember: 2028 was not at all a year of festivities. It was the time when it suddenly and dramatically dawned on humans what robot scientists had been talking about for three decades: 2028 was to become the last year before that phase transition where the sudden superiority of artificial information processing led to the merging of all individual human minds into one universal mind. The disappearance of the ego was a consequence of the many changes in the organization of human knowledge that happened in the years up to 2028: The merging of all texts into one searchable unit, the linking of all learned and educational institutions into one grand networked lecture bazaar, the appearance of instant translation between disciplines of knowledge and the acknowledgement of the complexity of everyday knowledge as compared to the abstract, formal knowledge of the old scientific disciplines. But perhaps most of all the appearance of art as the prime engine of knowledge and the flow of relationships in networks as the prime mover of the mind was the forerunner of that great achievement of 2028 for which we are still thankful: The University of Utopia. And for its wonderfully deep slogan: *All humans are students, all students are teachers, no teacher is human anymore.*

Biography: Tor Nørretranders is a non-fiction writer dealing with many issues of the modern scientific and technological culture. He has published 20 books and been translated into 10 languages. His best known books are on consciousness (*The User Illusion*, 1999) and creativity (*The Generous Man*, 2005) but he has dealt with many other issues such as network technology, the environment, quantum mechanics, joy and childrens questions about the world. Tor Nørretranders has a M.Sc. in environmental planning from Roskilde University and is honorary professor at Department of Management, Politics and Philosophy, Copenhagen Business School. In 2048 he will be 93 and plans to devote his time to kayaking with robots.