**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS HERE. ARE WE READY?**

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We all know the COVID-19 pandemic has changed society and will continue to do so. The Big Reset, as many have called it, will be like the Industrial Revolution. It will change how our society operates. In this reset, we will work from home more, our cities will be less desirable places to live, we will speak to our doctors by telehealth regularly, and we will most likely travel less than before. Our priorities will change, and capitalism will include more social policies than ever before.

These are some prominent, easy to spot changes this pandemic has brought to our country and our global culture.

One change that I believe we will see sooner than had been initially predicted is Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our daily lives and culture. Get ready because it will be here before you can blink. The pandemic has opened the door giving access to new opportunities for the robotics industry quicker than ever. If there is any conspiracy theory (and I don't think there is) why the pandemic exists, this would be my bet.

AI was coming, but not that soon. We were not ready, nor comfortable, with robots in our workplace or shopping places and certainly not our home. Are we ready now?

No, but we are open to allowing it because we feel it will help keep us safe. The first place we will happily welcome it is in health care. That robot can effortlessly escort you to the doctor's office at your medical facility. No germs that way, and it will be the same at an airport, then eventually a restaurant with a host/hostess, and then a server. We will argue that it is safer and more efficient.

We have slowly become used to AI in our world. Think of the ATM; while it is not a robot, it is automated and quicker than the old days of writing a check and going to the bank to get cash. Same with self-checkout at the grocery store. At first, we balked, saying things like, "why am I now doing the cashier's job?" But we were told it was quicker and better for us. But is it? Sometimes, but its primary job is to save the supermarkets money, not necessarily to make our lives easier. They do not have to hire cashiers and pay salaries. They tell us it saves time, and Voila, we believe it. Odd when time is one thing we now all have in abundance, but who said it is logical.

Sophia, a social humanoid robot, will be here very soon, and once we get over the creepiness of seeing her, we will welcome her into our society. She is supposed to help us live better.

But why can't we do it ourselves? There are plenty of humans who want and need jobs. Social capital is key to living a healthy life, and the happiest countries in the world rank high in social capital. The more people we know and can count on in our lives, the more productive we are, and the more social capital we have, thus the happier we are.

Can humanoid robots give us social capital? I don't think so.

Another reset to get ready for is the emergence of Universal Basic Income (UBI) into our society once AI takes over our working world's basic tasks. Oh, they keep coming.

Are you ready? It doesn't matter; it is part of the reset and will be here before you can tell her/him/it to blink an eye.