Philanthropia

Philanthropy — the love of humanity.

Prometheus and his **brother** Epimetheus were Titans, preceding even the Olympians. Zeus tasked the brothers with **creating life on earth**: Prometheus with **humans**; Epimetheus with **animals**.

Epimetheus gave all the **godly gifts** (strength, speed, & flight) to animals, leaving humans vulnerable. Prometheus pitied the humans and **stole fire**, a divine gift, from Mount Olympus.

Zeus had **forbidden humans** from having fire, fearing that it would make them **too powerful**...

Prime Directive

An overarching theme when it comes to AI in stories is to align the objectives of both AI systems and humans. This is beautifully told and examined in the *Alien* films. The conversations that synthetics and humans have over the course of *Alien* (1979) to *Prometheus* (2012) to *Alien: Romulus* (2024) raise the ethical implications of creating beings designed to serve humans. It gives us a peek into the potential consequences of that relationship. Yet we need to remember that it is their intention, aka their "prime directive", that drives androids to make decisions in the *Alien* franchise. When the intention of the androids aligns with the humans they partner with, the outcome always proves to be a better environment for them both.

The most interesting part of *Alien: Romulus* is the comparison between androids in the film. In a way, it brings the *Alien* story full circle, as Rain ends the film by telling her brother Andy, an android, that his new prime directive is to **"do what is best for us"**, as in Rain and Andy together. This is a very touching moment in *Alien: Romulus*; however it signifies even more than that. Sharing a directive, rooted in their shared intentions, was the best way forward for Rain and her brother. It's a lesson in the age of generative AI: to remember the original intention behind this new tool.

Intention

During WWII, British mathematician Alan Turing was tasked with deciphering the German Enigma code. The German military used an enigma machine to encrypt messages, and cracking this code was crucial for Allied efforts. Turing and his team designed the Bombe machine, an early computing device that automated the deciphering process.

> Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change.
>
> — Stephen Hawking

In his 1936 paper "On Computable Numbers," Turing introduced the concept of the Turing machine, laying the groundwork for modern computer science.

What I love about this story is that the birthplace of the computer is rooted in the best of human intentions. The original intention of the Bombe machine was to enhance human capabilities and improve decision-making in critical situations. In the same manner, we should align and integrate AI with our business objectives to improve human operational efficiency, rather than replace it.

We should partner with artificial intelligence, not fear its implications on human expression. The only limit of artificial intelligence is the **human imagination**; the limiter should be your **intention** itself.