

Ethics of the Hivemind Society

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Creating a hivemind with one or more people doesn't just mean gaining access to another person's mind, nor does it just mean instantly understanding what another person is feeling or thinking. It's not just sharing your thoughts and feelings with another person. Being part of a collective mind means that one's thoughts and feelings are not only the result of one's own body/mind, but also of the body/mind of one or more other individuals (a hivemind organism). In this case, I can't determine whether what I'm thinking is my own thought or yours, whether what I'm feeling is my own emotion or someone else's emotion (and passion), or whether any perception I have is my personal impression of the world. The idea of human beings relinquishing their individuality to create hive mind societies through technology seems implausible and disturbing, reminiscent of ominous science fiction tales. However, it is argued that these reactions are misguided and not rational. The potential for humans to form hiveminds deserves serious consideration because of its ethical implications. Some argue that hivemind societies could actually be beneficial and promote higher levels of flourishing. I aim to show that the concept of hiveminds is more complicated than it appears, and that understanding what it really means to be part of one is challenging. Furthermore, hivemind societies may not be as desirable as initially perceived, both for individuals and for society as a whole. Nevertheless, I will explore scenarios in which the construction of a hivemind could still be beneficial and consistent with moral principles and our common moral values.

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