

ON OPENING HIS COMPUTER, OVER HIS BREAKFAST CORNFLAKES, OUR LOCKED-DOWN HUMAN FRIEND CHECKS HIS INBOX:

(1) Dear Human, You are a tiny speck dwarfed by even the tiniest object in the heavens. Sincerely, The Universe.

(replies) Well, that's sad. You mean, like, I'm insignificant?

(2) Dear Human, Your slightest actions can cause chain reactions that propagate forward, like the butterfly flapping up a hurricane, eventually reaching all of space and time. Sincerely, Chaos Theory.

That's really cool!! I can change the universe...here goes...

(3) Dear Human, Your "actions" are merely the result of your brain's chemical structure and its neurons firing or not firing at any given time. Sincerely, Causality.

You mean...I'm not in charge??? Oh no, that cannot be.....

(4) Dear Human, Causality is LYING. Also NOT LYING. Also an entangled superposition of lying and not-lying states. Just like Schrodinger's alive/dead pussycat. Sincerely, Quantum Mechanics.

Okay. Huh???

(5) Dear Human, We've invented lots of neat things to distract you from the void of meaning that is your existence. Sincerely, Art.

Oooh....sounds much more promising...let's get started...

(6) Dear Human, ALL EXISTENCE IS VOID OF MEANING. Sincerely, Postmodernism.

Okay, so what's the point...I'm gonna end it all...

(7) Dear Human, Your selfish genes program you to live . Sincerely, Evolution.

Okay. Then I'll descend into hedonism...

(8) Dear Human, You can't afford it. Sincerely, Economics.

Okay, that does it. Dear Reality, I'm computing a new simulated reality program where I'm in charge and everything works the way I like...

(9) Dear Human, Welcome to the Club. Sincerely, God.

Er...oh??? Thanks, but, um, er...look at Your mess...too much responsibility...think I'll just stay locked down... (Deletes all messages, concentrates on the cornflakes.)

And so say all of us prisoners of misfortune, aka the dreaded coronavirus. Cheerio, can't last forever...Be like I, hold our heads on high, somewhere there's a bluebird of happiness. We may find, greater peace of mind, knowing there's a bluebird of happiness. Best regards to all cosmic colleagues, John O'C.