Diamonds and "the Golden Flute": from the Golden Age of prodigies and geniuses to the Knowledge Based Digital Economy

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Diamonds and "the Golden Flute"[1]: From the Golden Age of Prodigies and Geniuses to the Knowledge Based Digital Economy

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Abstract

Information sharing, as a means of resource generating capabilities – as well as mitigating information gaps which present challenges to the development of innovative techniques, has also been facilitated through information technology, the rise of the digital economy and resources which avail from the rapidly advancing era of information technology.

To what extent are our creative abilities still motivated and stimulated? Can an unhealthy balance and level of competition serve as a deterrent to constructive innovation? This paper attempts to investigate – as well as appreciate the role of information technology in generating economic stimulus and development – particularly in a world where budding entrepreneurs and innovation constitute key elements in addressing poverty alleviating concerns and initiatives. It also aims to highlight why, whilst certain geniuses may still exist, it is certainly evident that the current environment does not really stimulate or generate the same enthusiasm or kind of magical revolution that took place during the Golden Age.

[1] Termed coined by author to accentuate the era of Mozart's golden age – as well as innovative resources which music and art continue to generate and to inspire – even centuries after their creation. Innovative and inspirational resources from music and art not only evidenced by their ever priceless and timeless relevance across the ages, but also inherent in their generative capabilities to create even more ground breaking inventions – notably within the sciences, and whose contributory values to scientists who have made their marks, will never and probably cannot be measured monetarily. Also see reference section which highlights W.A Mozart's masterpieces – including "the Magic Flute".

The Magic Flute is not only presented to Tamino who is declared to have been sent by Pamina's mother to rescue Pamina, but also considered to possess the ability to "change sorrow into joy". It also offers protection to Pamina and Tamino, the two lovers and protagonists in the opera, through their trials - whereby Pamina, not only declares her intention to undergo the remaining trials with Tamino, but also hands him the magic flute to help them through the trials. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Magic_Flute

"Protected by the music of the magic flute, they pass unscathed through chambers of fire and water. Three child-spirits lead Tamino to Sarastro's temple, promising that if he remains patient, wise and steadfast, he will succeed in rescuing Pamina. As well as other settings, the background to the opera also includes the temples of Wisdom, Reason, and Nature."

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Key words: Competition, innovation, information technology, digital economy, the Magic Flute, the knowledge based economy

Introduction

Since the trend of creative uniqueness and the ingenuity and magic of music and art, the past decades and centuries have been characterized by increased and shared innovativeness through knowledge and information sharing platforms which have been facilitated by partnerships, collaborations, which in a sense, cannot be criticized where objectives and aims all focus on the common goal and initiative of eliminating information gaps as a means of generating ground breaking ideas and solutions.

Information sharing, as a means of resource generating capabilities – as well as mitigating information gaps which present challenges to the development of innovative techniques, has also been facilitated through information technology, the rise of the digital economy and resources which avail from the rapidly advancing era of information technology.

Diamonds and prodigies are not only gifts which are distinguishable on the basis of the depth of knowledge and efforts required to reveal the true potential of such phenomena, they are also evidential of the changing nature of purposes for which endowed knowledge, resources and transferable/non transferable skills are implemented.

Indeed a diamond could remain the raw product of carbon till essential scientific and technological know-how is incorporated to extract, refine and manufacture the finished product. In other words, it could lie dormant, undiscovered for years or even, eternity. Prodigies however, cannot evade discovery because they live and breathe the essence of their being. Even with scientific geniuses, certain years may evolve before ground breaking discoveries are made – if ever the necessary scientific knowledge, technological facilities, or even the inspiration, exist to facilitate such discoveries.

Literature Review and Background to the Topic

According to the OECD,

- "New growth theory" reflects the attempt to understand the role of knowledge and technology in driving productivity and economic growth. In this view, investments in research and development, education and training and new managerial work structures are key (1996:7).

Further, it is added that "in addition to knowledge investments, knowledge distribution through formal and informal networks is essential to economic performance - knowledge increasingly being codified and transmitted through computer and communications networks in the emerging "information society" - with tacit knowledge (including the skills to use and adapt codified knowledge, which underlines the importance of continuous learning by individuals and firms) also constituting a vital and essential requirement.

Prodigies, Inventions and Discoveries

Whilst these are also distinguishable in the sense that ground breaking discoveries and inventions, synonymous with scientific breakthroughs have required investments of time, knowledge and innovation, innovation (as well as creativity), is more synonymous with modern technology and information resources which have served to bolster more modern technological breakthroughs and advancements.

How much already inherent knowledge or "transferable skills" a prodigy or genius requires in other to demonstrate such infinite measure of unparalleled resources can be best illustrated through the works of musical geniuses such as Mozart – who from the age of three, not only performed and composed for single, but multiple instruments.

Indeed with prodigies, their natural endowed potential, inherent exceptional capabilities and "gifts", to a larger extent, are principally and primarily often non transferable.

Whilst prodigies still exist in the modern world – notably in sports like tennis and golf, there is also a growing trend and realization that inventions and discoveries through which many "non geniuses" made record Nobel winning breakthroughs, are also being matched by technological advancements which are not targeted at preventing an epidemic, but rather at securing national defenses.

With many innovative, technological advancements – also coupled with increased generation of wealth through such informational resources, it would be expected that many of the world's problems – synonymous with poverty and lack of education – as well as 'so called problems" of more ancient times, namely lack of technological and medical facilities, would gradually be resolved. Whilst progress has been made in several respects and areas, one of which includes Corporate Social Responsibility, it appears that further initiatives, focus and driving forces behind certain technological advancements have more competitive based goals and agenda.

Which is why modern inventions and discoveries still targeting poverty eradication – as well as peace promoting initiatives, continue to serve as the most valuable sources of innovation in a current global climate which is most in need of such resources.

Technological advancements are indeed worthy of praise for having made the lives of many, much more comfortable. However, some would also argue that such comfort has given rise to a level of unconscious complacency and a lax attitude in facilitating and stimulating certain areas which would otherwise have been compelled to reason and undertake certain tasks on their own.

Conclusion

Is the modern environment to blame for encouraging certain social attitudes? In certain highly advanced economies, and information knowledge based economies for that matter, many talents (musical, sport-oriented and technological wise) are still, to a very large extent, being supported, encouraged and stimulated. Further, information technology is also being harnessed as a tool to sustain the development of potential and hidden talents. However, can the current environment and culture adequately control our reliance on certain accustomed and more comfortable habits? In some years to come, we may not even have to drive our own cars…… And as long as cars are certified as safe enough to drive themselves, no one is complaining about the potential comfort and convenience this may generate.

To what extent are our creative abilities still motivated? Whilst musical geniuses may still exist, it certainly evident that the current environment does not really stimulate or generate the same enthusiasm or kind of magical revolution that took place during the Golden Age. And it is highly unlikely that such geniuses may ever be replicated.

References and Further Suggested References for Research

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