

# **FEELING COMPUTERS? DO THEY EXIST?** **HOW TO HANDLE THEM?**

## **The “First” and the “Latest” Family of Computers**

### **Intent of the Story**

- ✓ *Man is a thinking and feeling being.*
- ✓ *Thoughts are replicable, feelings unique*
- ✓ *Thoughts make human beings, feelings make us human individuals*
- ✓ *It’s easy to interact with others at the level of thoughts and concepts.*
- ✓ *It’s difficult, even dangerous to interact with others in the sphere of feelings.*
- ✓ *To deal with “feeling beings” we need be sympathetic, intuitive, concerned and tactful.*
- ✓ *Man created thinking and smart machines which we can interact with.*
- ✓ *He cannot create feeling machines capable of interacting with us at the emotional level.*
- ✓ *“Feeling humans” are potential friends and/ or enemies.*
- ✓ *Feeling machines would be dangerous and destructive, sort of Frankensteins*

## **The Story**

With the passing of time, computer science and technology unstopably, has advanced. Every day, newer and more sophisticated machines are invented. By now, scientists have built such computers that they can compete with our human brains. They collect all sorts of information, combine it, transfer it to other fields of knowledge, investigate on their own and even find new inventions!

Yet, not satisfied, some scientists; have been working to build not only "man-like thinking" machines, but also "man-like feeling" computers. Machines that could feel as humans do.

At last, after many years of hard work, they managed to develop the latest family of computers. Machines that were able to feel like humans! At the pressing of a key the machine could feel angry, loving, friendly, resentful, passionate and even lustful!

It was fun to deal with such machines. Men could play with their feelings at will. Those computers – as pastimes - became wonderful substitutes for friends and companions. It was a pleasure to handle them.

But, unfortunately, one day things went awry! Those “feeling computers” got out of hand. . They could not be controlled any more! They became unpredictable, capricious

even dangerous as “feeling humans” are. Very often, men became victims of their computers’ anger, jealousy, hate, revengefulness and even lust.

Their inventors now, unable to keep their creations under control, perplexed and frightened conferred among themselves on how to tackle that problem. Their final report was:

**To save yourself from your computers emotional rage and emotional outbursts, we suggest you three possible solutions.**

- One. Destroy the machines**
- Two. Keep away from them.**
- Three. Handle them with utmost care, sensitivity empathy**

### POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

#### 1 About Thinking and Feeling;

- Purely rational thinking is good, and necessary.
- Yet, abstract thinking alone is not enough to lead a meaningful life.
- Thinking by itself does not motivate us
- Many a great thinker led a miserable life!!
- Feelings influence our thinking more than what we can guess.
- In fact, we grasp that much of truth and reality that our feelings and emotions allow us to grasp. Feelings act as filters of our perception of truth and reality. .
- In the last instance, the world is moved by man’s “guts”, not by his brains.
- It is feelings and emotions that motivate us to act.
- It is easy for us humans to communicate with our fellow humans at the level of pure thinking, of facts, of information and knowledge.
- It becomes dangerous when we try to communicate at the level of feelings.
- By doing so, we become vulnerable, we give others control over us.
- By communicating at the level of feelings, we may easily feel hurt and hurt others as well.
- Any “feeling being” is always a potential enemy.
- To deal with him, involves real risk.

#### 2. The "Latest" Family of computers Thinking and Feeling" Machines Will they ever be???

- Man has built already sort of thinking computers and smart machines.
- It is easy to deal with them, make calculations and retrieve information.

- Thinking computers are "inert" machines at the service of man; they are predictable in their reactions. There is nothing to be afraid of them.
- Will man ever be able to build "feeling computers"? Why?
- Would a "feeling" machine be as harmless as a thinking one? Why?
- Will ever a "feeling machine" be a substitute for a true friend and companion? Why?
- Could a "feeling machine" ever become your personal enemy and destroy you? Why?
- Will ever any human being be able to marry a computer? Why?

### 3. The "First" Family of Computers

"Yet, Feeling Computers" existed ever since God's Creation.

- Who or what are they?
- Where are they?
- How have we to deal with them?

#### Epilogue

Keeping in mind the story above, in order to save yourself from the emotional rage and outbursts of the existing "feeling computers" in our world, what means would you adopt and why?

1. **First, destroy them all.**  
*Discuss the pros and cons*
2. **Second, keep away from them**  
*Discuss the pros and cons*
3. **Third, handle them with utmost care, sensitivity and empathy -**  
*Discuss the pros and cons*  
*And on how to go about it*