

“Oh dear, I got my smartphone taken away by my mother again.” My mother often confiscates my phone, but why? That’s because I often break the rules of my phone usage time limit. But she’s worried about something else too. For example, I could become a victim of cybercrime or cyberbullying, because there are so many things we “can” do, or others “can” do with a smartphone. Now, I’m going to talk about what I thought after I got my smartphone taken away from me. That is about “can” or “cannot” which is better for us?

As well as the development of smartphone or internet technology, in various fields, it has made many things possible, and it will make more unexpected things possible in the future. For example, many companies are developing “Cars that flies in the sky.” That might solve some problems, not only traffic jam. It also could change our usage of land because there might be no need to make roads for cars. It might save forests and help reduce CO2. It also might be useful to respond quickly when a disaster happens.

And also, clone technology has many possibilities to save our lives. The technology could solve the problems of food supply or medical usage. And then, AI technology holds great potential for our better future too. Thanks to those technologies, our future seems to be bright!

But wait a minute! I’m wondering if it’s really good. Will it lead our future to a better direction? I guess many people think “can” is better than “cannot” because we feel happy when we “can” do something. We could develop our technology because we have been pursuing “can” both in our own lives and through our history. But I feel like “can” is making other problems that tangled and can't get it out. So, I think we need to consider well what we are trying to achieve now.

Let’s think about extreme examples. If medical science or biology develop far more advanced and we can live forever, what would happen? It could cause not only an aging society problem but also, we might have to make an extreme law that forces us to graduate from our lives when we turn some age. What if clone technology is applied for making clone-humans and if we don’t give them human rights, they could be used for military purposes, doing a dangerous job like working in atomic power plants or medical experiments. What would you think?

But I think it is impossible for us to halt technological progress and we can’t give up the technology we already have now. I don’t think we can choose to go back to a society where it is like the Stone Age to avoid the disadvantages that might be caused by innovation. And then, as you know, developing technology has helped us and will help us live well.

“Can” and “cannot” which is better? I think both can be helpful and harmful. Whichever you like, things keep changing. So, we should be smart enough to be able to imagine what kind of benefit the technology can make and what disadvantages can be considered.

Well, this is what I considered after my mom confiscated my smartphone. See mom, I think I’ve become mature enough to be able to think about this much. So don’t worry mom, give me back my smartphone!

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A Message to My Mom