

## **Light-hearted Interview with Vyvyan Evans (at The Key of Love) 11 May 2023**

### **1. How did you choose your genre? What made you write this book?**

VE: My background is in linguistics and cognitive science, having worked as a university professor for many years. Being an expert in language I wanted to explore emerging technologies that, in the near future, will enable us to stream language direct to neural implants in our heads. Science fiction provides a natural genre to explore scientific ideas that have not yet come to pass but are at the very least plausible. Hence, I chose science fiction.

The novel, *The Babel Apocalypse* was conceived as a warning. Today humanity is on the brink of a Fourth Industrial Revolution, sometimes abbreviated to 4IR. This is where, through automation and internet connectivity, our lives will be transformed by AI.

The rise of AI leads to the prospect of smart automation taking over many tasks that humans once performed, leading to the possibility of 'smart' neuro-prosthetics (aka microcomputers for brains) being implanted in human heads. Such a step would enable a "transhuman" to also become connected to our internet-of-things landscape. Such a development raises the prospect of language learning becoming obsolete. Which leads to further consequences: what happens when big tech corporations control language?

### **2. Writers write what they know, and must observe the world. Are you a first born, middle or last child and how does this shape your view of the world?**

VE: I am the first born. This made me curious, bold and a confident observer.

### **3. Where is your favorite place to write?**

VE: An indie coffeeshop where contemporary jazz is played by my favorite groups.

### **4. How do you feel about killing your darlings, and what do you do with the remains?**

VE: None of my darlings have yet been killed...but sometimes I'm tempted.

### **5. You are introduced to your favorite author. Who is it, and what is that one burning question you must ask them?**

VE: Douglas Adams: "What was the reason for selecting the number 42 as the meaning of life, the universe and everything?"

### **6. Inquiring minds want to know...tell readers something about you that no one knows.**

VE: I used to be a serious juggler. Five ball juggling is nothing.

### **7. You are stranded on a deserted island with only a back pack for company. What three items are in your survival pack?**

VE: A single volume complete works of Shakespeare, a shaving razor (for keeping up appearances), and my reading glasses.

### **8. If you could have one superpower in your existence, what would it be?**

VE: To travel through time.

**9. Favorite snack?**

VE: Bounty chocolate bars—I love all the coconut.

**10. Indy 500 - Do you know how to get where you're going or do you drive the speed limit?**

VE: I know how to get where I'm going: pushing to the limit and beyond is the only way to achieve.