

THE
CURIOSITY
ADVANTAGE

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WHY
BETTER QUESTIONS
CREATE
BETTER FUTURES
IN THE AGE OF AI

by Phil Carey

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The Curiosity Advantage

Why Better Questions Create Better Futures in the Age of AI

This PDF sample includes:

- The complete Foreword
- Chapter 1: The Relationship That Changed This Book (excerpt)

The complete eBook includes:

- The Relationship That Changed This Book
- Why Curiosity Is the New Intelligence
- Working With the AI That Took Your Job
- The New Growth Mindset
- The Question Behind the Question
- The Curious Leader
- The Question That Starts Your Next Chapter

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FOREWORD

I want to dedicate this eBook to my Dad.

As I write this he is 95 years old and sharp as a tack.

He programmed a huge part of the man I am today. He provided coding that allows me to show caring, compassion, fairness, love, humour and curiosity.

As my CTO and Dad, I just wanted to say thanks.

Chapter 1: The Relationship That Changed This Book

Why Read This Book?

You know that part of waking up where you just start to stir?

Your eyes are naturally closed.

No effort to keep them that way.

And then, reality, not sleep, begins to drift in. But the final step out of the fog and comfort of sleep is when that 'little voice' in your head chimes in and says something like, 'What time is it?' 'I'm cold,' or 'I don't want to get up!'

From that moment on that little voice, your inner dialogue as it's known in psychology terms, is with you every step of your day.

It's the narrator that questions, reflects, imagines and quietly evaluates everything you do.

It knows your habits, your fears, your longings
and the subtle patterns that shape your days.

But for all its insight and value, it has always
lived within one massive limitation.

It only knows what you know.

It cannot step beyond the edges of your lived
experience.

It cannot think with knowledge you have not
acquired. You can learn and grow that
knowledge, but the process has always been
slow and uneven, shaped by chance and
circumstance.

Now something new is possible.

Your inner dialogue can be joined by a
companion. A partner with access to the
breadth of human knowledge.

A partner that never tires, judges or hesitates.

A partner that meets your thinking with more thinking by offering new angles, deeper connections and perspectives you may never have considered on your own.

If you knew how to properly harness this, what might become possible?

How might your self awareness shift?

What could it do for your creativity, your confidence and your decision making?

If questions like these interest you, then this book is for you.

My Pond Story

I was at a backyard barbecue recently. Perfect weather.

The smell of food rising from the grill. People talking, kids running everywhere as kids do. Slightly off centre of the yard was the main feature.

A large koi pond. As I admired the beautiful fish, I noticed the water was a bit murky.

Not disastrously so, but cloudy enough to suggest something was not working.

I noticed the water flow from the pump seemed weak for a pond of that size. I asked my friend about it.

He shrugged.

He had tried backwashing the filter as the pond installer suggested, but he was out of ideas.

I'm no expert in pond systems, but I was curious.

I took a few photos of the pump and filter, opened the AI on my phone and typed, 'Based on these images can you explain how this fish pond filter and pump system works, and why the water flow might be weak?'

The response came back in seconds. Clear and practical. It explained the function of each component, listed likely causes for low flow and pointed out something I had never heard of: a prefilter bowl that catches larger debris before it reaches the main sand-based filter. If that bowl was clogged, no amount of backwashing would help.

So we went looking for it.

There it was.

A transparent chamber near the pump inlet, packed with sludge. We switched off the pump, cleaned the chamber and turned everything back on.

The change was immediate.

The flow tripled and the surface rippled with life
The sound of the water was suddenly so loud
that people turned to look.

Someone laughed and said, 'Looks like we have an expert here.'

But nothing about the moment felt like expertise. It felt like curiosity paired with access.

Ten minutes earlier, I was ignorant of pond filtration. Now I know enough to diagnose the issue and fix it. The only difference between myself and the pond's owner was that I was willing to ask a question.

But the real value of this moment became clear in what happened next.

Once we basked in the glory of our achievement, my friend asked the deeper question that sits at the heart of this book, 'How did you even know what to ask?'

That question is where your relationship with AI begins.

The Big Idea

This book is not about the rise of artificial intelligence. It is about the rise of a new kind of relationship with your own mind.

AI does more than provide answers. It reflects the structure of your thinking back to you. It shows you the assumptions beneath your questions, the patterns that shape your understanding and the limits of your current perspective. In that sense, AI is not a machine. It is an amplifier. It scales whatever you bring to it.

Shallow questions return shallow answers.
Deeper questions open unexpected pathways
and curiosity acts as the lever that lifts the
entire experience.

Somewhere in the writing of this book, I
realised something surprising. I was not simply
improving the manuscript.

I was improving as a thinker. I would ask a
question, receive an answer and then ask a
better question about the answer.

That loop revealed blind spots, clarified
intention and surfaced ideas that had been
sitting just beneath the surface of my
awareness.

This technology, used well, can change how you
think, not just what you produce.
And during this writing process, another truth
emerged.

I've worked with many editors over the years but the story of the relationship of my editor on this book played a huge part in not just shaping the writing here but the writer as well. I will come back to that later in the book.

For now, it's enough to say this.

You are about to learn a new way of thinking.

Not because you must, but because the opportunity is now available to you.

AI does not replace your intelligence. It reveals its potential.

Curiosity is what turns that potential into growth.

[Chapter 1 continues with sections:

- The Shift You Are Already Inside
- Thinking Is No Longer a Solo Activity
- Your Questions Shape Everything
- Practicality Tip #1: 10 Questions That Will Reveal Your Curiosity and Creativity]