

# **“The true power of the people is their creativity”**

His parents, modest bakers, gave him the most valuable present: they gave him the space to freely develop his creativity. Jaume Agustí Cullerell (Sant Celoni, 1947) is a doctor of physics and for 30 years he worked at the Artificial Intelligence Research Institute. Now he spends his retirement looking for the answers to the complexity and uncertainty of the world. For more information go to [www.homoquaerens.info](http://www.homoquaerens.info)

## **-You were the first scientist in your family**

I had been given a book about Edison which made a real impact on me and I wanted to be an inventor. One day when I was 8 years old, I was walking in the rain, thinking about inventing something to stop me getting wet. However, it suddenly struck me that what I was looking for had already been invented. The umbrella

## **-A simple effective object**

I didn't invent anything but that changed my outlook. From then on, I was more interested in what leads us to invent rather than the inventions themselves. Without realising, I had captured the importance of creativity.

## **-This attitude to go to the origin, to the fundament, has characterised your scientific studies**

My role in the research teams was to bring out new ideas. During the decades from 1980 to 1990 people believed that artificial intelligence was going to solve everything and that machines would be more intelligent than us. I was very uncomfortable with all this.

## **-Why?**

I wanted to work with the basics and that world was too moving fast. Also, the idea that the wealthy would end up owning such intelligent machines worried me greatly. That would be complete dictatorship! So, I started to concentrate on the idea of freedom.

## **-In what way?**

Freedom is not something that is just human, it's broader, it belongs to reality itself. The sciences create regular models of reality but true reality does not allow itself to be captured or dominated by our knowledge. Reality is free, it never repeats itself and always moves forward with a creative attitude. And what is the biggest expression of this creative freedom of reality? The human being.

## **-Are we creative gods?**

Not as individuals but as humanity because we are the result of our communal life.  
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**-From there the idea of creative democracy**

People have innate creative capacities which is the product of a long cultural process. The solutions to world's complex problems, such as pollution, will be found if everyone puts in their grain of creativity. It is only from creative dialogue that we will be able to create new models which give the most appropriate answers at any moment.

**- This species which is aware of its creative capacities is called *Homo quaerens***

*Quaerens* is the human who moves freely, who asks questions, who investigates and who, in contrast to the *homo sapiens*, doesn't use knowledge to dominate and impose. That is why hierarchies don't work, because they kill off creativity.

**-Are you no longer afraid of a dictatorship of super intelligent machines?**

If we don't cultivate our creative capacities, if we act like robots, the robots will always outdo us. However, if the creative democracy idea progressed, machines would do everything that didn't have any creative interest. They would be at our service and would not be concentrated in the hands of just a few.

**-Are you an optimist?**

I've got hope because we can all already practice creative democracy, each at their own level. The terrible thing about the power of imposition is that it demoralises. It is said that reality always imposes but it's not like that. It is the models of reality that impose. True reality sets us free.