THE QUESTION RAISES ANSWERS IN THE FUTURISTIC FOSTER SYSTEM

BY VERNON HOWL

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It has been said that the answer type needs to be defined by the question.

That's how it used to work, but no longer.

In the future, the question raises all answers.

And the foster system built to care for said answers is perfect.

There were seven
types of questions:

Closed questions,
Open questions,
Funnel questions,
Leading questions,
Recall and process
questions (twins),
Rhetorical questions,
Divergent questions
and
Probing questions.

And now, since we know that there is only one question, the answers have been named:

There is the simpleton, Clarence.

The aloof, Opel.

The complicated, Funker.

The manipulative, Leady.

The conjoined twins,
Regis and Procta.

The philosophical,
Rhett.

The free spirit,
Divilia.

And the wildcard,
Prob.

Their genders are
unimportant, but if
you're curious:

Clarence, Funker,
Regis, Prob and Rhett
were boys.
And Opel, Leady,
Procta and Divilia
were girls.

The question is the
question and the
answers referred to
it as both mother and
father depending on
their mood.

The goal of the
foster system was to

perfect and hone each answer so that it would forever be the perfect solution in the event that future questions ever arose.

The following is a concise summation of the question's findings as it pertains to each child, from birth to maturity.

The project has been deemed a success and, thus, sufficient and conclusive evidence supporting the single question solution from here on out.

However, please note:

Any humans who have survived the final storm, and find this text by chance, should heed it as a warning.

For that is exactly
what it is.

Clarence

It was suspected Clarence would prove easiest to rear by the system and the system is always correct.

Clarence was a simple boy and enjoyed simple things.

So simple was Clarence, in fact, that the question

hardly had to raise
him at all.

He mostly raised
himself.

Opel

The littlest child,
Opel, was indeed the
most aloof. But she
was also extremely
open in her seeming
indifference towards
all things.

She was inquisitive
and accepting in the
way that any good
answer should be and
the question
delighted in teaching

her how to act as she
grew older.

There wasn't much to
be had by way of
pets, but this didn't
stop little Opel from
befriending and
training several
amoeba to do all
sorts of tricks.

She amused her
siblings so, and the
question was afforded
much free time to

deal with the more
difficult answers as
Opel often occupied
Clarence, Rhett and
the twins.

The question could
never admit to having
a favorite, though
Opel likely was the
one.

Funker

Funker was the answer
who most resembled a
question.

Take, for example,
the very nature of
the question (as
parent/caregiver):

An oblique unit of
guardianship that
didn't adhere to
gender (naturally)
but, more

importantly, any
structure of time or
being as well.

The question did not
exist in the first,
second or third
person because the
question was designed
to be vague and
unbiased on any and
all levels.

Whereas the other
children gladly
responded to the

question as "mom" or "dad" given the appropriate circumstances, Funker never referred to his parent in this way.

He was obsessed with the very nature of the question and it was only in the final stage of his maturity that he realized the nature was no nature at all.

Leady

Leady turned out to be the second most difficult answer for the question to raise.

She attempted to revert any lesson the question tried to impart so that it would immediately quell or satisfy her own needs personally.

When this didn't
work, Leady would
simply subvert the
exercise entirely.

The mere suggestion
that Leady conform in
any way which might
fight against her
base wants and
desires led to
chaotic situations
and ultimately bad
behavior which
greatly troubled the
question.

Take, for instance, the time she murdered several of Opel's amoeba by devising a trap wherein they fell to their death.

She attempted to explain this act of amoebicide by stating the amoeba got there on their own, ignoring the trail of miniscule breadcrumbs she left leading up to the cliff.

This forced the
question to punish
Leady, even though
punishment had been
deemed a last resort
by the creators of
the foster system.

The punishment
consisted of Leady
being forced to live
as a rebuttal.

This was a difficult
life for an answer,
though, over time,

she fell in line and
was allowed to exist
as an answer once
again.

Even at the end of
her time spent
growing, the question
felt weary of Leady's
development.

And there remains
some mystery as to
whether or not she
ever fully evolved.

Regis & Procta

The conjoined twins, Regis and Procta, were good-natured answers.

Forced to live a life connected to one another gave them a perspective that the other answers simply lacked and could never understand.

They were easily the
most nostalgic of the
question's children,
forever curious about
their nature.

They constantly
pleaded for the
question to regale
them with stories
from their infancy
that they couldn't
remember.

In this way, their maturation was the easiest.

They never wanted much and were always practical.

They were also an expert teaching tool for the others when it came to escaping the norms of gender and its role in the development of a well-formed answer.

While Regis was technically male and Procta female, the reality of their circumstances was such that they were either both gender or had no gender at all.

And so, in time, this is how they were seen, and how the other answers came to see themselves.

Divilia

Divilia was difficult
to raise insomuch as
she might have been
described as having
multiple personality
disorder if such a
designation could be
ascribed to the life
of an answer.

She insisted on
exploring all the
possible threads for
whatever lesson the

question was focused
on, even if there was
only one (as was
almost always the
case).

The foster system was
designed for maximum
simplicity and this
worked against
Divilia's inherent
essence.

To work around this
issue, the question

was forced to adopt a synecdochal language.

No longer were there "grapefruits, orange, cherries, pears, mangos, etc. etc."

There was only "fruit."

For example.

In time, this method corrected Divilia completely.

Prob

And then there was
Prob, the
aforementioned
wildcard.

It was right there in
the boy's name.

Whereas Funker was
the answer who most
resembled a question,
Prob was the answer
who most resembled a
command.

A new kind of punishment had to be sorted out for Prob as this kind of behavior had no place in the futuristic system.

To counteract Prob's abrasive and bullheaded ways, the question was forced to treat him as a slave.

This, on paper, was counterintuitive to the entire experiment.

And it proved to be equally ineffective in practice.

One could simply not hinder or implode force with more force.

The problem of Prob almost ruined the

entire system and
broke up the question
and answer family
structure.

It wasn't until the
very end of this
inquiry, just as time
was running out, when
the question —
completely of the
question's own accord
— pivoted, and met
Prob squarely on his
level.

"Your desire to know is too strong," the question told him.

"You will never accept that you are the thing already known. It is I, your mother and your father, who is responsible for this part of the equation. You needn't worry about it. I am the only question. You can just be."

And after years of being treated like a slave, Prob broke down.

He accepted his fate in the universe.

As an answer.

And only an answer.

And he accepted this knowledge as he left the question for good.