

Verse 1

Fall into an echo chamber of your own mind,
Originality is what you hope to find.
Repeat your talking points and praise your demigods,
Can you trust their words of wisdom, what are the odds?

Bridge

Can't anybody think in their own right?
Everybody's blinded blue light.

Chorus

These minds were made for thinking, yet they never do.
They only ever want to be told what is true.
We don't go down and we certainly don't let loose.
These minds were made for thinking, and soon they'll be no use.

Verse 2

So you say this time it's different, you won't suffer abuse,
But any fool knows better than to listen to the seduced,
We've unlocked infinite knowledge right at our fingertips,
Will this knowledge hopelessly lead to intellectual apocalypse?

Bridge

Can't anybody think in their own right?
Everybody's blinded blue light.

Chorus

These minds were made for thinking, yet they never do.
They only ever want to be told what is true.
We don't go down and we certainly don't let loose.
These minds were made for thinking, and soon they'll be no use.

Analysis:

The overall message of the song is how the contemporary use of the internet and internet algorithms lead to polarization of ideologies and ultimately can lead to the formation of quasi religion-esque groups. We are entering an age of advanced and sophisticated technology that in many ways is leagues ahead of many of our population's understanding and ability. While the age of the internet does allow for the spread and distribution of information, it also has become a catalyst for lies, fear mongering and above all, the division and polarization of different groups of people.¹

In the first verse, the message ultimately refers to online political junkies who confidently follow internet personalities. The first two lines that talk about "an echo chamber of your own mind" and "originality" are fairly self explanatory. They refer to how easy it is to fall into the trap of the internet logarithm where you are repeatedly offered the same media, reinforcing any previous thoughts or biases someone may have without offering any form of counterpoint. The line on originality expresses the fruitless search for new and original ideas in a setting where there are no new ideas to be found. The "demigods" and "words of wisdom" are the online political pundits and their opinions and arguments on varying topics.²

The bridge continues the theme of the decline in intellectual individuality. It asks in vain if anybody thinks for themselves, and how we are blinded by blue light (the light emitted from computer screens).

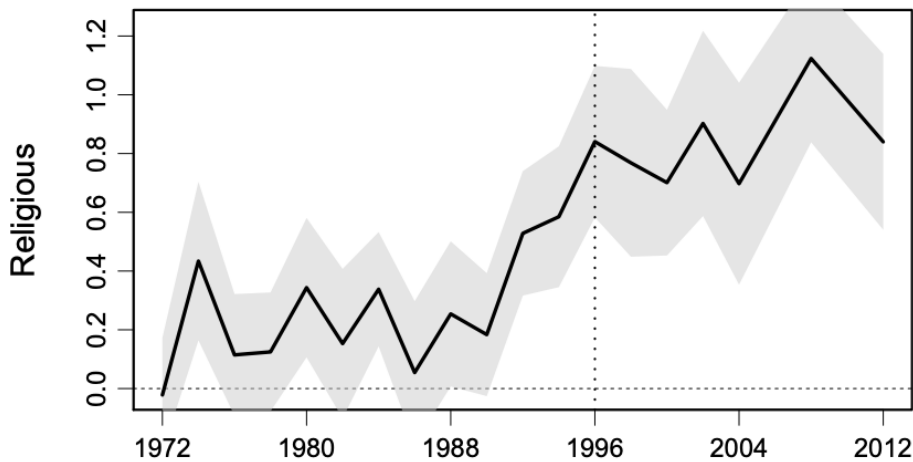
The chorus of the song repeats a key mantra, "These minds were made for thinking." The basic meaning of this is that while we were graced with superior intelligence compared to other creatures in the animal kingdom, we seem to prefer to not have to use any of our brain power and would rather be told how to live our lives. The line that begins, "We don't go down.." expresses how although many people have a strong opposition to being told how to live (for example the government mandating masks) yet at the same time take no meaningful action for what they personally believe in. The overall message is that if we do not soon start to think for ourselves, we won't be able to at all anymore.

The second verse begins by saying how "you won't suffer abuse", referring to how conspiracy theorists and other people online who follow niche ideologies will often bounce from idea to idea claiming that "this time it's real" or something to that effect. However, after a while it starts to sound like the boy who cried wolf, and others quickly gather that these people are easily "seduced" by the appealingly presented ideas they find online. The line beginning, "We've unlocked infinite knowledge..." refers to our unlimited range and access to information, yet despite this we are often limited to such a small scope due to algorithms that work to customize

¹ A quote by an anonymous sociologist from the Social Media Research Foundation states, "Algorithms make discrimination more efficient and sanitized. Positive impact will be increased profits for organizations able to avoid risk and costs. Negative impacts will be carried by all deemed by algorithms to be risky or less profitable." via pewresearch.org

² A study by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) confirmed that "...feed algorithms mediate and influence the content promotion accounting for users' preferences and attitudes." via pnas.org

our media towards us.³ The only question that remains is if the age of true free and original thought is in decline, due to the inevitably catered online experiences seen everywhere and with all services.



<https://www.brown.edu/Research/Shapiro/pdfs/age-polars.pdf>

We see a steep incline starting around 1990, and the trend of political polarization falls into the same pattern of peaks and troughs only several degrees higher than before.

³ A quote from an anonymous associate professor states “I suspect that winners will win big and losers will continue to lose – the Matthew effect. This is likely to occur through access to better, cheaper and more-efficient services for those who understand how to use information, and those who don’t understand it will fall prey to scams, technological rabbit holes and technological exclusion.” via pewresearch.org