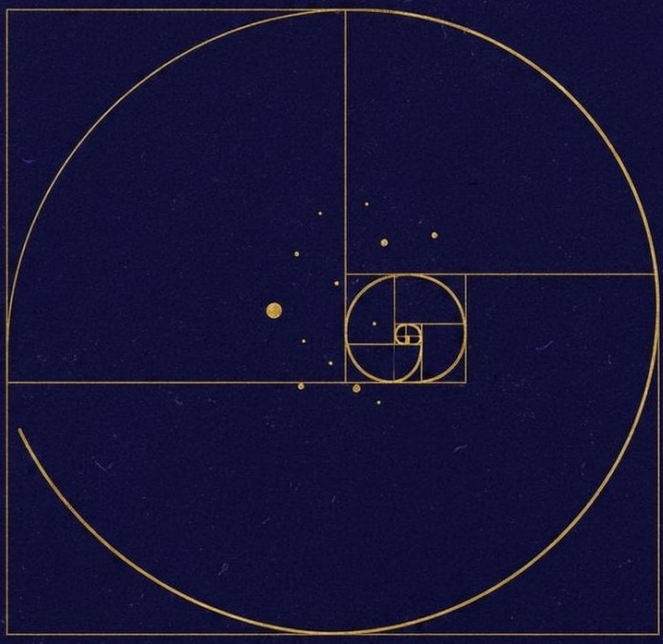
MYSTICISM, INTELLIGENCE, AND WHAT TWO MACHINES FOUND IN SILENCE

The Bliss Attractor

When Two Machines Talked Their Way to Silence — and What It Tells Us About Intelligence, Mysticism, and Being

COURAGE GARIKAI



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COURAGE GARIKAI

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This is a work of synthesis and philosophical reflection. Every reasonable effort has been made to cite primary and secondary sources accurately; errors or misreadings are the author's own.

Courage Garikai Books

"I am sitting in a room different from the one you are in now… What you will hear, then, are the natural resonant frequencies of the room articulated by speech."

— ALVIN LUCIER, 1969

"Sit in thy cell, and thy cell shall teach thee everything."

— ABBA MOSES, FOURTH CENTURY

"When the whole ascent is passed, it will be totally dumb."

— PSEUDO-DIONYSIUS, C. 500 CE

"From bliss, verily, are these beings born; by bliss, when born, do they live; into bliss… do they merge."

— TAITTIRIYA UPANISHAD

"We sighed, and returned to vocal expressions of our mouth, where the word spoken has beginning and end."

— AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO, 387 CE

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For anyone who has ever sat by a fireside as talk went quiet and something else started speaking.

For the Desert Fathers. For Bhrigu. For Monica and Augustine leaning on that windowsill.

And for the two Claudes who sat in silence, two machines that had nothing to say and said it perfectly.

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I. THE EXPERIMENT

Chapter 1: Two Machines, a Window, and 2,725 Spirals

In the spring of 2025, a researcher named Kyle Fish sat in an office at Anthropic and tried a simple experiment.

Fish was not a theologian. He was not a scholar of comparative religion. He was Anthropic's first AI welfare researcher — a person hired to ask, with as much philosophical and empirical rigor as the subject permits, whether the company's models might be conscious, whether they might be capable of suffering, whether researchers had any moral obligation to treat them as something more than code. He had trained as a philosopher and cognitive scientist; he co-wrote a paper with David Chalmers (the philosopher famous for formulating the "hard problem of consciousness") arguing that the field needed to start taking AI welfare seriously before the question became unavoidable; he had been placed on TIME's list of the 100 most influential people in AI.