First, what I meant by Hofstadter's piece "Looks dated..." is hasn't cogn. sci advanced far beyond it? I thought science moved past. Oh, yeah, I believe his theory is sound, but now what? Understand. Yes, what he says is even simple, but that too is not murder by faint praise. Relativity was simple too. Sometimes people miss the simple truths & it takes an Einstein or Hofstadter to point them out, & then we build upon them. So, my concern was "where are we now, in 2012?"

Here's some ideas I have: a) the human mind is an illusion of unity — in fact we have a mess of sub-minds vying w/ each other to run the show, maybe "supervised" or "overseen" by our pre-frontal cortexes; b) computers, as far as I know, don't have a mess of CPUs vying for their own unique interests (e.g. sex, hunger, air, warmth, success...) c) nor do computers, as far as I know, operate indeterministically, while I think human minds may, simply because their are so many factors that influence minds (e.g. a person being depressed, manic, insecure, ... bit by a mosquito, skipping breakfast), somewhat like quantum theory being indeterministic (last I knew) — computers are more reliable!; d) our brains, which produce our minds, are organic, not mechanical, & it may be impossible to translate our brain's mind into a mechanical mind, or vice versa, at least w/ current technology; e) computers operate on a binary system (last I knew), whereas brains operate with many shades of neurotransmitter gray & w/ more connections than computer circuits — I doubt the binary type of computers common today can emulate a human brain or even higher animal, indistinguishably. These are some possible problems that must be kept in mind (along with the fact we are the product of natural selection, thus, somewhat, selfish, etc.) by anyone trying to develop humanish A.I.

I think AI (human-like) is possible, but maybe should start w/ computers that more resemble the workings of human brains. Maybe start w/ a biological computer, that relies on "neurons" & "neurotransmitters" & is more sensitive to it's environment w/ a drive to thrive, like humans. This would depend on excellent nanotech, & I'm not sure where that's at right now.