



The Human Transcendence Index

Preparing for humanity 2.0

What does Human Transcendence Mean?

Humanity is now at a crossroads.

“No problem can be solved by the same consciousness that created it. We need to see the world anew.”

Friedrich Nietzsche, the philosopher, says, “**Man is a bridge, not an end.**”



The biologist Edward O Wilson points out, “**We have decommissioned natural selection and must now look deep within ourselves and decide what we wish to become.**”



And Kevin Kelly, the futurist, founder of Wired magazine, and editor of The Whole Earth Review, reminds us that

“**We are on a trajectory smack in the middle between the born and the made.**”

We are now in a position to create a better version of ourselves: Humans 2.0.



Awecademy's **Human Transcendence Index** measures the traits we need to develop if we wish to transcend as a species.

Transcendence is the state of excelling, surpassing or going beyond usual limits.

Self-transcendence is, at its core, about transcending (or rising above) the self and relating to that which is greater than the self.

In simpler terms, it is the realization that each one of us is a small part of a greater whole, and acting accordingly.

"Self Transcendence" is the new highest level in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. In his own words: "Transcendence refers to the very highest and most inclusive or holistic levels of human consciousness, behaving and relating, as ends rather than means, to oneself, to significant others, to human beings in general, to other species, to nature, and to the cosmos"

In the words of Pamela Reed, self-transcendence is “an expansion of self-conceptual boundaries **inwardly** (through introspective experiences), **outwardly** (reaching out to others), and **temporally** (whereby past and future are integrated into the present).”

At its core, self-transcendence is about being better than we are - or aiming to be the best possible version of ourselves - spiritually, morally, intellectually, and creatively.



Dr Paul Wong identifies the following features of self-transcendence

A shift in focus from the self to others

This shift from selfishness and egoism to consideration of the needs of others is a marker of self-transcendence and is the most salient and important feature.

A shift in values

Those who have achieved self-transcendence no longer find themselves driven by extrinsic motivation, or external rewards and demands, but by intrinsic motivation (the reward for an activity is the activity itself).

An increase in moral concern

self-transcendence brings with it a more intensive focus on doing what is right.

Emotions of elevation

these experiences of higher-order emotions can be triggered by all three of the characteristics described above; the emotions include awe, ecstasy, amazement, feeling uplifted, feeling elevated, etc.

Part of self-transcendence includes a having a desire to see civilization-level positive change.

Species-wide positive impact

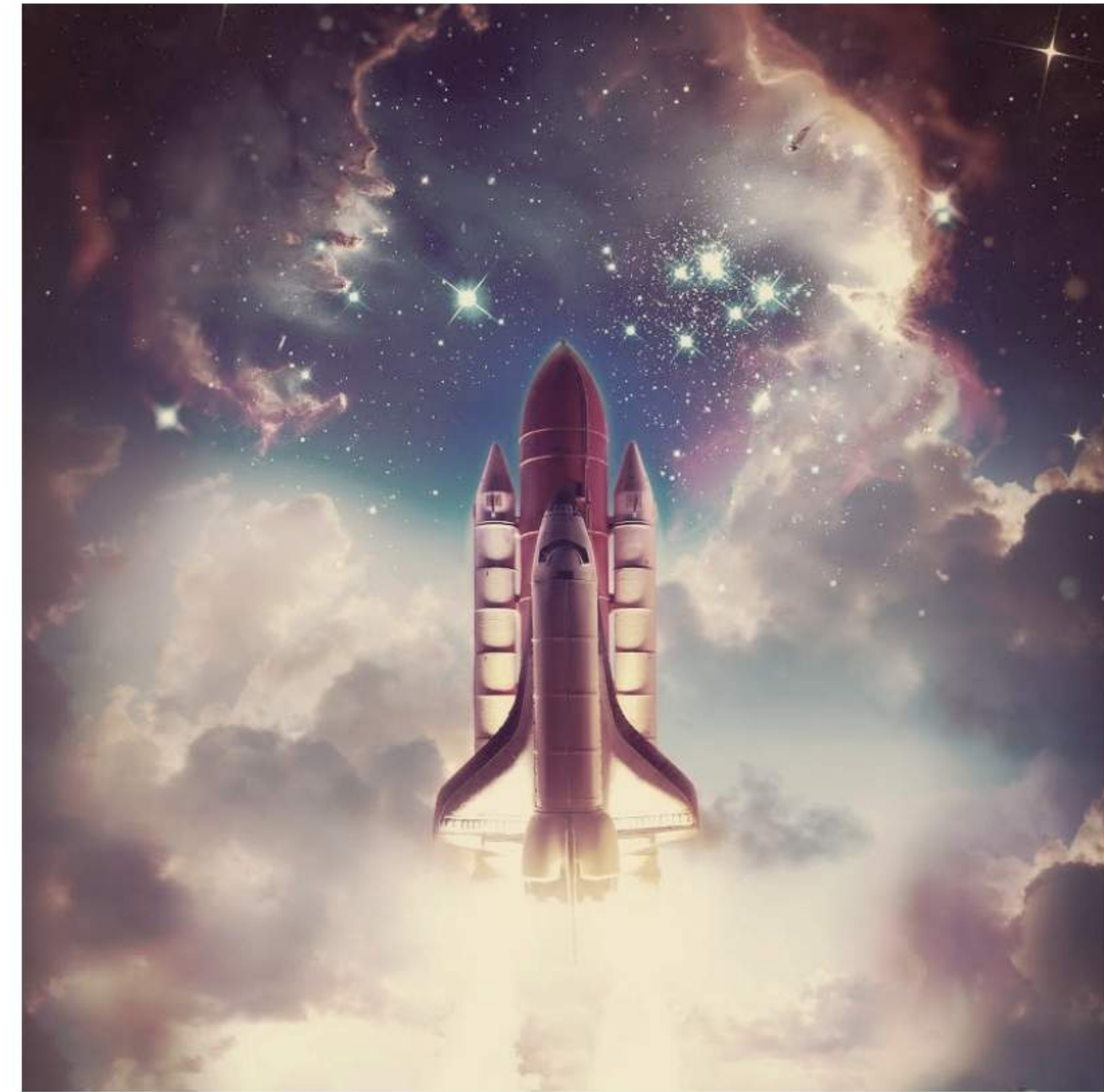
Civilization-level change involves what's perhaps most exciting: preparing to be a multi-planetary species and create a good future.

BIG PICTURE
THINKING
RADICAL OPENNESS
COSMIC CITIZENSHIP
ENLIGHTENMENT VALUES
PROTECT
TRANSCEND NATIONALISM
REASON
ERADICATION OF
ALL LIFE
ART AS CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY
EMPATHY
POVERTY
ABUNDANCE
SPACE EXPLORATION
ECONOMIC REFORM
JUSTICE FOR ALL
CIVILIZATION-LEVEL
CURIOSITY
MULTI-PLANETARY SPECIES
HUMANITY 2.0
INTELLIGENT OPTIMISM
PROSPERITY
FOR ALL
SOLVE GLOBAL GRAND CHALLENGES
MOONSHOT THINKING
SCIENTIFIC LITERACY
ERADICATE
SUPERSTITION
WONDER
& AWE
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

WHAT IS THE GOOD FUTURE?

Thomas Lombardo (Executive Director of the Center for Future Consciousness, the Director of The Wisdom Page) makes the point that we create a good future by becoming (or aspiring to be) better human beings. He offers the following diversity of answers below to the question of what the good future is:

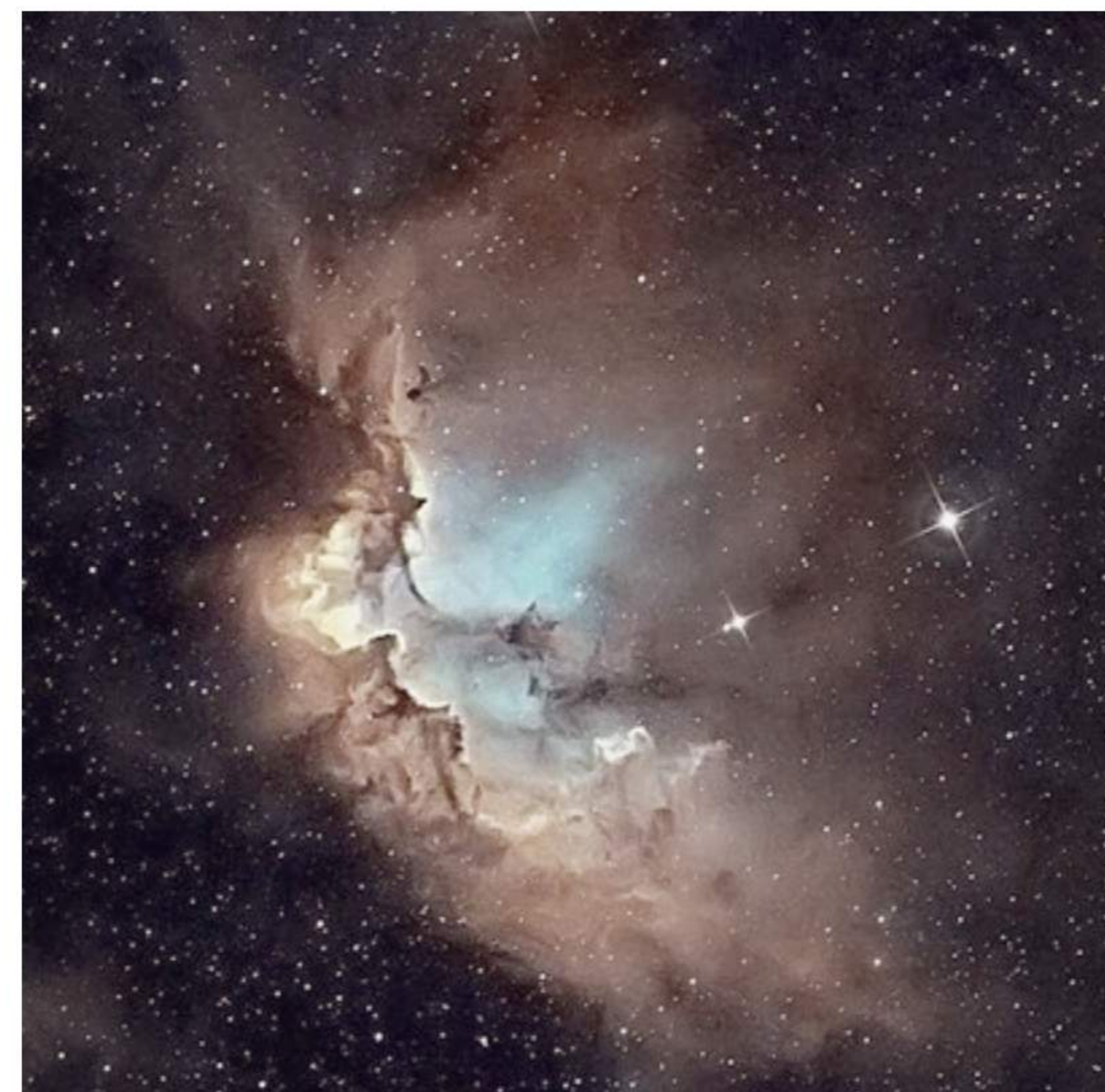
1. Basic material necessities, physical comfort, and security for all humanity
2. The evolution of techno-gadgetry and the envisioned wondrous future of techno-marvels
3. Physical health and vitality and perhaps vastly extended human lifespans
4. The preservation of tradition (values and beliefs)
5. Increased harmony with nature and the restoration/improvement of our natural environment



6. Creating a sustainable society
7. Lifelong learning, education, the evolution of human consciousness, and ongoing personal enlightenment
8. Self-development, professional advancement, and personal accomplishment in life
9. Mental health, inner peace, and sustained happiness
10. Pleasure, excitement, and sensation



11. The pursuit and enhancement of love, family, and communion and friendship with others
12. Equality, wealth, liberty, democracy, and justice for all
13. The purchase, consumption, and accumulation of things
14. A collective spirit of global humanity embracing human diversity
15. Interpersonal and world peace





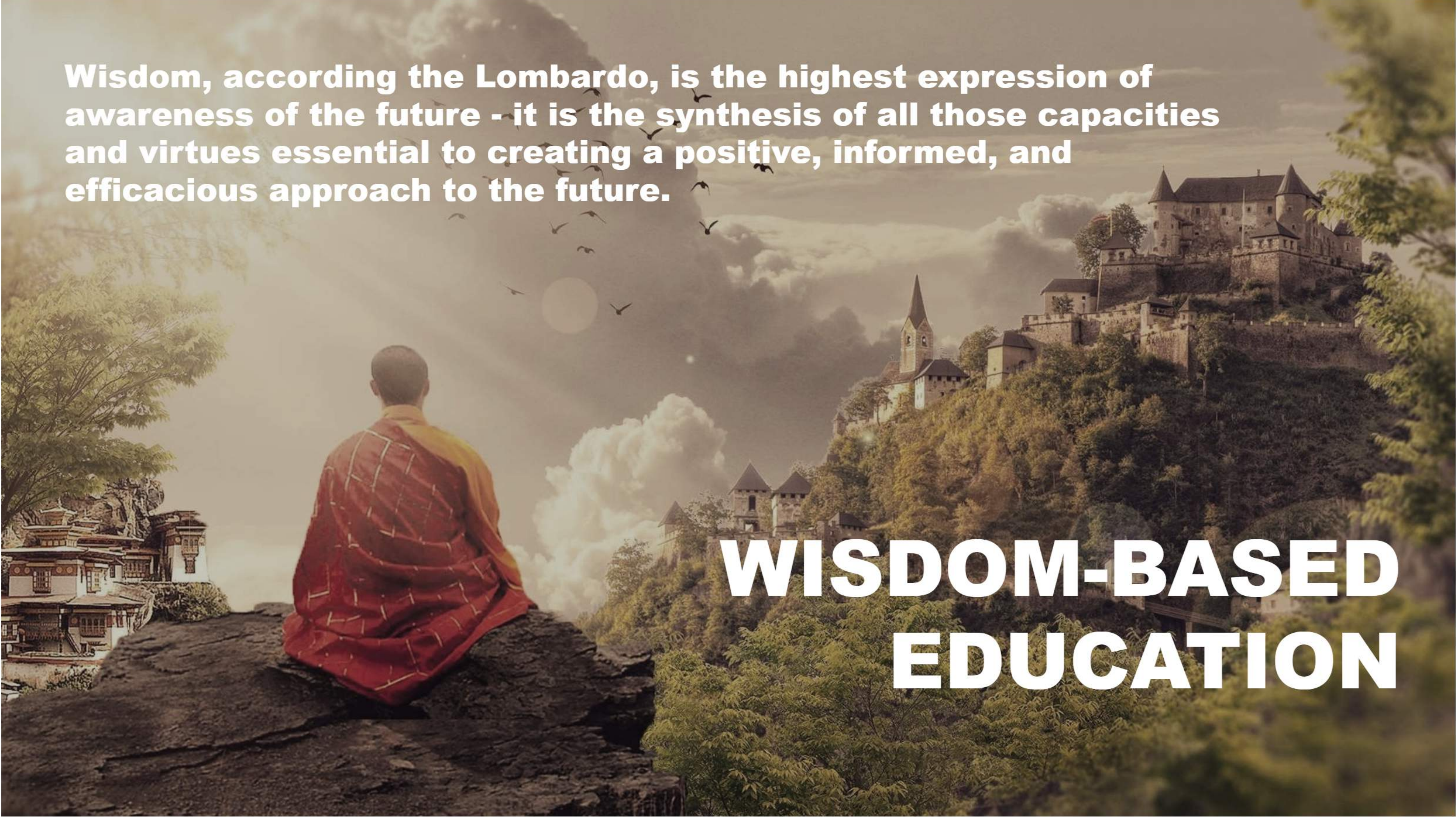
Being Human in the Age of Automation

Wisdom is a concept traditionally associated with philosophy and spiritual thinking. However, Wisdom is starting to be increasingly connected with technological evolution.

Humans have long shared an evolutionary connection with technology. We are now outsourcing our cognition to the cloud. Our devices are now a form of external cortex. In some ways, we are well on our way to becoming cyborgs and merging with our machines.

Awecademy is involved in exploring revolutionary educational models that will prepare humans, soon-to-be-cyborgs, for the future.

The focus is on highlighting the development of character virtues and enhanced future consciousness and exploring how the wise cyborgs of the future would live their lives. What would happen if powerful human-machine hybrids of tomorrow were also purpose-driven, compassionate, and ethical?



Wisdom, according the Lombardo, is the highest expression of awareness of the future - it is the synthesis of all those capacities and virtues essential to creating a positive, informed, and efficacious approach to the future.

WISDOM-BASED EDUCATION

Why do we need to measure Human Transcendence?

Any consideration of educational measurement must begin with the desired outcomes to be measured. At Awecademy we believe in moving beyond measuring exam grades and instead considering the factors and metrics that influence the creation of learners who can zoom out, see the big picture, and help bring about positive civilization-level change.

The Human Transcendence Index measures those traits in learners that will help them transcend an individual and be the best possible version of themselves.



We are now in well into the process of merging with our technologies. It is no longer a case of us versus the machines. It is a case of us with them. We will become them. “First we build the tools,” Marshall McLuhan says, “and then they build us.” There is little doubt that future humans will begin the gradual process of transforming in to cyborgs.

Consider our transition from bacteria to mammals to great apes to humans. That transition will pale in comparison to what awaits us once we merge with our machines and enhance minds through super computation and A.I.

This might fill some people with trepidation and dread. But the fact is we’ve been merging with our technologies for a long time now. We’ve incorporated language and writing into our lives – to the extent that we define the very essence of our humanity by our ability to write and use language. Consider how we’ve moved from stone tools to laptops.

Consider how our spectacles and contact lenses enhance our sight; how our pacemakers enhance our hearts; and our prosthetics enhance our limbs.

Our smartphones are no longer mere communication devices. They are extensions of us. They are like an external cortex. We are literally outsourcing our cognition to our devices. The internet is a supreme example of distributed intelligence. We are all starting to access the cloud for knowledge and information.



What is a hallmark of humans is that we are constantly seeking to extend, enhance, and transcend ourselves. Our tools allow us to do this. They are our exoskeletons – both literally and metaphorically.

Why do we need to measure Human Transcendence?

The fact is, that technology is a continuum.

For the first time a species on planet Earth is in a position to take control of its genes and manipulate it to suit its will. Of the 100 million species that have existed on Earth only humans are capable of doing this.

We are now in the midst of what Kevin Kelly calls the Cognifying Revolution. Everything that can be imbued with A.I. will be imbued with A.I.

Everything that was formerly electrified will now be cognified.

Peter Diamandis makes the point that A.I. will have a bigger impact on humanity than electricity and fire.

We now live in a world where A.I. can make art, compose music, write news reports, and drive cars.

These were all traits we once considered uniquely human. In such a scenario, we need to ask ourselves what the purpose of education is.

Thomas Lombardo makes the case for educating the wise cyborgs of the future. The purpose of education has to be to foster learners who are future-ready and have new competencies that will ensure they are robot-proof and able to survive and thrive in the new age of imagination and a world of accelerating change.

The HTI measures new thinking mindsets and transferable skills that the contingent workforce of the future will require to usher in **Humans 2.0**.





What is Humans 2.0?

Humans 2.0 is a conception of future humans as beings that superior to our current selves in a range of domains, including: bio-technological, socio-cultural, ethico-moral, spirituo-intellectual, politico-economic, and visuo-aesthetic domains.

A key defining factor of Humans 2.0 is the ability to have higher goals and nobler aspirations for ourselves. Humans 2.0 will have transcended parochial thinking and tribal behaviour that defined human behaviour for most of our existence. Humans 2.0 will have forged a new covenant with everything that is greater and grander than ourselves.

Humans 2.0 will evolve through a combination of genetic-tinkering, bio-engineering, bodily-enhancements, neuro-chemical adjustments and merging with our technologies. However, this is only the bio-physical side of things. Humans 2.0 will also include an ethico-moral upgrade and develop a cosmic perspective when contemplating issues related to right and wrong, good and evil, and how we treat sentient life. And thirdly, Humans 2.0 will include a spirituo-intellectual upgrade in deciding our meaning, significance, purpose, and priorities as a species.

The concept of Humans 2.0 connects closely with the philosopher Nietzsche's concept of the Überman: a person with great powers and skills; willing to take risks for the greater good of humanity; someone who positively impacts the lives of other people; someone who creates his own values without being dominated by the herd instinct. The Überman looks beyond his own personal happiness and comfort to the upliftment of his species and all life; he seeks to influence the minds and hearts of his fellow citizens – not through war and force and coercion, but by the conviction of his ideals. The Überman is a man of action; he looks to develop a balance between the Apollonian (reason, rationality, science) and the Dionysian (emotion, creativity, art). He knows that life has beauty, purpose, value, mystery, and wonder. Ultimately, the Überman strives to become greater than he is.

Humans 2.0 will have self-transcended in their realization that each individual is part of a greater whole and this will influence their thoughts, their words, their deeds, and their inner conscience.

Factors that will influence the development of **Humanity 2.0**

Bio-technological factors

These include advances in genetics, nanotechnology, robotics, cybernetics, and other exponential technologies.

Socio-cultural factors

These include advances in our relationships within and between societies and how we share information and values.

Ethico-moral factors

These include advances in our ethical and moral systems to better represent and reflect the 21st century milieu.

Spirituo-intellectual factors

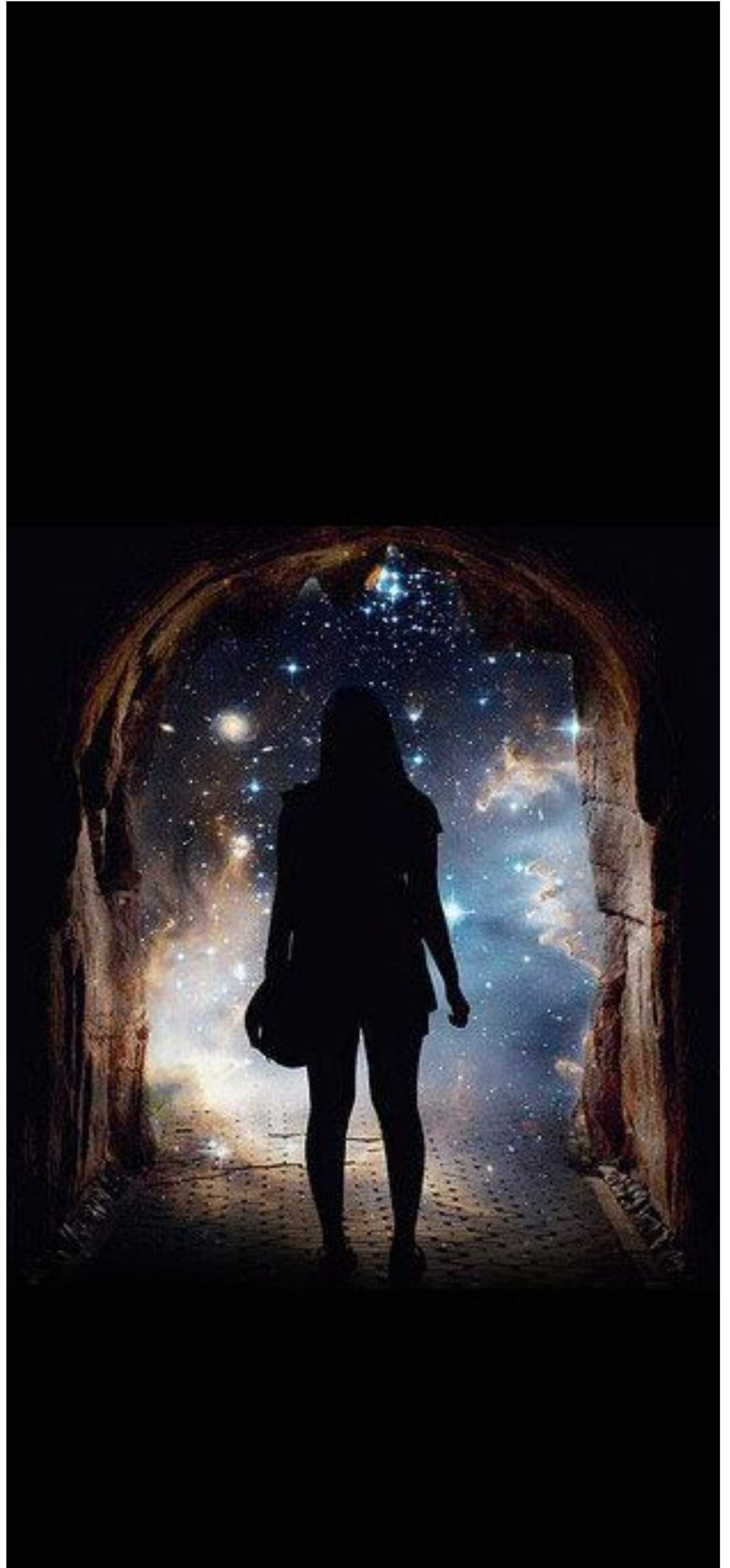
These include advances in our appreciation and understanding of universal human experiences and how we share knowledge and wisdom.

Politico-economic factors

These include advances in our political and economic systems of finance, equity, and governance.

Visuo-aesthetic factors

These include advances in our levels of optimism, our ability to visualise a better future, and our ability to make long-term plans.



The Six Pillars of the Human Transcendence Index

Awecademy's HTI aims to measure the Existential and Spiritual intelligences concerned with the learner's inner life of mind and spirit and its relationship to being in the world. The HTI also aims to measure the development of the thinking toolkits, personality traits, and future-focused mindsets required to transcend as both as an individual and as part of the human species.



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Affective behaviours are those attributes that describe the way people react emotionally and their ability to feel the emotions of other sentient entities.

Pillar 1:

Affective Behaviors

Empathy and Collaboration

The ability to understand and enter into another's feelings and work jointly.

Tolerance

A disposition to allow freedom of choice and behavior in others.

Curiosity

A desire to learn and discover.

Ethics and Morality

Motivation and conduct based on right and wrong

Field Independence

The ability to stand against the crowd and have one's own convictions.

Resilience

Fortitude and determination in the face of adversity.



The Enlightenment was a late 17th-century intellectual movement (that is still ongoing) which places an emphasis on reason, humanism, and skepticism and a rejection of authority and tradition as a source of knowledge.

Pillar 2:

Enlightenment Values

Cognitive Biases & Logical Fallacies

The ability to spot errors in reasoning, thinking and decision making.

Skepticism

The process or attitude of doubting knowledge.

Scientific Literacy

An understanding of scientific concepts required for personal decision-making, & participation in civic & cultural affairs.

Evidence-based Thinking

Basing opinions on a combination of skepticism, critical thinking and the best available evidence.

Analytical and Critical Thinking

The ability to objectively analyze and evaluate issues in order to form a judgement.

Problem Solving

Ability to take a multidisciplinary approach to solve problems and find solutions.



Blue Sky Thinking is an imagined and speculative leap into the future, beyond current thinking or beliefs but still with a favourable desired and deterministic outcome in mind.

Pillar 3: **Blue Sky Thinking**

Transhumanism

Use of science and technology to overcome current human limitations and improve the future human condition.

Intelligent Optimism

Awareness of historical antecedents and evidence-based optimism for the future.

Cosmic Perspective

Awareness of the scale of the universe and humanity's place in it.

Beginning of Infinity

Awareness of the tools and dispositions required to generate infinite knowledge and make the jump to Universality.

Civilization-level Change

Big picture thinking required to change current pan-human mistakes.

Moonshot Thinking

Finding radical solutions to the grand challenges facing our species.



Existential awareness is ascribed to those who think philosophically and includes an individual's ability to contemplate values and intuition to understand themselves and the world around them. People who possess this are able to see the interconnectedness of different aspects of life and wonder about the complexity and diversity of the universe.

Pillar 4:

Existential Awareness

Mindfulness

Awareness of cognitive faculties such as consciousness, thought, sentience, reason, and memory.

Contemplation of the Self

Exhibiting a psychological intelligence of the object of introspection.

Conceptions of Reality

Understanding of things as they actually exist.

Flow States

An experience of selflessness, timelessness, effortlessness, and information richness.

Exploration of Consciousness

Awareness of external objects and internal thoughts.

Holism

The ability to see patterns, relationships, and connections.



Spiritual propensities place an emphasis on subjective experience and the deepest values and meanings by which people live, incorporating personal growth or transformation, usually in a context separate from organized religious institutions.

Pillar 5:

Spiritual Propensities

Secularism

Promoting secular values in society.

Ikigai

An awareness of one's reason for being. Having passion and purpose.

Naikan

The desire to introspect and express gratitude.

Yugen

A feeling of awe, wonder, and reverence for the mysteries and grandeur of the universe.

Altruism

Concern for the welfare of others

Meditation

The practice of being present in the now.



Civic responsibility is defined as the responsibility of a citizen. It is comprised of actions and attitudes associated with democratic governance and social participation.

Pillar 6:

Civic Responsibilities

Social Justice

A desire to see justice in distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within society.

Environmental Concern

Ecological relationship with the planet.

Gifting

Mutual aid and promoting the ideals of a gift economy.

Education

Imparting knowledge and skills for the betterment of humanity.

Solving Global Challenges

Identifying and solving problems that affect a significant percentage of the world's population.

Creativity & Self Expression

Elevating art as civic responsibility.



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"Think of an exciting, ecstatic, desireable future and pull the present forward to meet it." - The Imaginary Foundation