Human Responsibility in an Age of Transformation
Forging a Moral Direction in Science and Technology

It is difficult to exaggerate the impact that science and technology have played, and are playing, in human development. As our creative power has surged new discoveries have brought great gifts – yet there have also been enormous downsides. Moves to a machine-based world are impacting our relationship with the worlds of spirit and soul, and this is having increasingly negative effects on the qualities of goodwill and integrity in all areas of relationship, including our relations with the other kingdoms of nature.

In November 2023 World Goodwill’s annual seminar took a deep dive into this theme, exploring the role that wisdom and morality have to play in science and technology, and essentially asking the question: What is Human Responsibility in an Age of Transformation?

This issue of the Newsletter includes brief edited extracts from presentations delivered during the three events broadcast from Geneva, London and New York. To explore the issue further there are videos, including illuminating panel discussions, and some full transcripts at worldgoodwill.org.
In this digital era, it is all too easy for our eyes to be drawn downward and locked in a state of ‘fascination’ with the products of technology. Whether it is the virtual world of computer-generated realities or the more widespread addiction to smartphones, electronic messaging and social media, a balance needs to be restored. Technology provides wonderful tools that can enhance human interaction and the trend towards unity, but it can also lure us deeper into matter and division. ‘Virtual reality’ aptly describes the deception and illusion that lies along this path.

All things start in the realm of consciousness before they manifest outwardly, so the role of education is paramount in creating a safe and ethical space in a world which has so rapidly become a digital community. There are the intractable problems of misinformation, disinformation, the unregulated use of the internet as well as the use of algorithms with conscious or unconscious bias, and the effect of A.I. on the creative industries. Regulation isn’t easy although a start is being made in earnest, but perhaps the best solution is to recognise the vital need for tackling these issues early on.

Education is about increasing light and the understanding of who we essentially are as human beings. If we live in a filter bubble or echo chamber which only allows us access to the thoughts of others similar to us, we are deprived of life-affirming challenges. By encouraging open discussion around complex issues, we can become better informed and more inclusive.

Video and transcript at: https://bit.ly/3v2UB3q

Since the dawn of the industrial age, the onward march of science and technology has brought great gifts to humanity but further undermined the instinctive spiritual relationship that human beings once had with the land, fauna, and flora. As the large-scale burning of fossil fuels began in earnest to power incredible new machines, it sparked the beginning of what can only be called a disintegrative worldview, which is now being directly reflected back at us through the Earth’s polluted and dysfunctional ecosystems.

Even so, it is only a perceived life threat to the whole of humanity – a common enemy in the form of global warming – that has caused sufficient alarm for the nations of the world to start rallying around the new mindset of ‘sustainable development.’ And while we might say that this represents humanity waking up from its disintegrative dream state, it still has to adjust its vision to the dawn of a new day and see things in a different light. For the notion of sustainable development remains connected to the mindset that placed humanity in its dire position in the first place – the concrete,
scientific mindset of measurement and control that can, so easily, isolate itself from the balancing, feminine energy of the intuitive mind. We might regard the current scientific approach as a transition period that may help to limit the damage, but as yet, it contains no compelling vision – no narrative worthy of forming a new, integrated worldview that unites masculine science with feminine Nature.

Video and transcript at: https://bit.ly/3tiuRiY

Mintze van der Velde is Director of Lucis Trust and World Goodwill in Geneva

Science and technology are not the same thing. This, together with many other profound insights, was beautifully explained by my late friend Dr. Jim Ryder, in a talk called The Garment of God at the Arcane School conference in 2018. Of course, science and technology are related. Sometimes scientific breakthroughs give rise to technological progress and sometimes progress in technology helps science to advance.

As an example, I will only mention here the technological progress made with our telescopes. The first optical telescopes appeared in the 17th century and were of course earth based. In the present time, however, we have telescopes in space (including among others, the Hubble and James Webb telescopes) allowing us to look into space beyond the visible part of the spectrum with stunning results, complemented by large arrays of telescopes on earth giving equally stunning results. The images we obtain nowadays on an almost daily basis give us a picture of the universe that also on an almost daily basis raise more questions than answers.

This evolution of telescopes has been paralleled by scientific advancements but for approximately the last century there have been no significant scientific revolutions. The latest are the emergence of quantum mechanics and Einstein’s relativity theories. Of course, the discovery of the Higgs boson, gravitational waves, black holes and many others have made headlines in the press, but these are more exercises in communication than scientific breakthroughs: they fill in the details of our theories developed about a century ago.


Video and transcript at: https://bit.ly/3tiuRiY

Edi Billimoria is an author and lecturer who encourages the cross fertilization of ideas in fields of science, religion, and perennial philosophy. A trustee of the Scientific & Medical Network and Advisor to the Network’s Galileo Commission, he recently published, in 4 volumes, Unfolding Consciousness: Exploring the Living Universe and Intelligent Powers in Nature and Humans.

As one world, our pressing need is for a renaissance and a restitution...
of what it means to be really human. This has been caused by the global monopoly of scientific materialism, where knowledge is dominated by secular values.

In the darkest days of 1943, while speaking to a Jewish Seminary, Albert Einstein put his finger on the problem: “we should”, he said, “take care not to make the intellect our goal. It has of course powerful muscles but no personality. It cannot lead, it can only serve, and it is not fastidious in its choice of a leader. This characteristic is reflected in the qualities of its priests, the intellectuals. The intellect has a sharp eye for methods and tools but is blind to ends and values. So, it is no wonder that this fatal blindness is handed on from old to young and today involves a whole generation.”

The problem is the excessive worshipping and acknowledging of intellect at the expense of the higher human qualities. While we have derived enormous benefit from science and technology we have forgotten the Key—the perennial philosophy—which reveals the spiritual origins and the true nature of what it means to be really human in a living universe.

The tragedy for me is that scientists of legendary status have pointed out the limits and limitations of science and technology taken to extremes, but their wise words have been almost totally ignored.

In modern times the finest examples I can think of are Max Planck and Schrödinger. In one of his wonderful books, What is Life?, Schrödinger said the scientific picture is very deficient. For while science can tell us about how waves of compression and rarefaction strike our eardrums and then by a neurological process, a salty fluid exudes from our eyes, it is ghastly silent about why, and how an old song can move us to tears. It is even more silent about the Great Origins and the questions we ask about divinity and ‘Where am I going?’

What it means to be human has constituted the backbone of the perennial philosophy of all ages and all cultures since time immemorial. Whether expressed through the mystery teachings of the ancient Indians, The Egyptians, the Greeks, or in its wonderful modern format, through such titanic works as those of Rudolf Steiner, Madame Blavatsky, Alice Bailey, this timeless philosophy points out, the distinction between the human body and the human being.

Video at:

Elissawa Carpazio worked in business applications of IT. She has been a departmental head in several international companies. She is also a student in psychotherapy, bereavement, and end-of-life care, and a hospice volunteer.

We can feel the enthusiasm of scientists when they talk about technology developments. They show us the potential they want to work out to help and advance humanity. They are animated by a goodwill that pushes them to do their part to improve living conditions. Their
presentations are fascinating and tempting.

Fear of the new leads to petrification. Keeping everything the same means freezing everything. The seed of the spirit needs freedom to express itself and begins to rebel when it is imprisoned by artificial rules created out of fear and designed to keep everything as usual. Evolution goes forward. New developments are needed. And yet it is a tightrope walk to want to help humanity by means of technical achievements. It is so easy to get caught up in devilish spirals and lose sight of the real goal, spiritual realisation. Due to the fragmentation of the complex world, the vision of the bigger picture is lost, and we often end up with pseudo-solutions that run counter to the actual intention.

Especially in this time of innovations showing tempting possibilities, it is important to develop discrimination to distinguish the real from the unreal. We encounter delusion and manipulation everywhere. It is fascinating to see what technical possibilities are available. Yet it’s difficult to decide what is morally justified and what is not. Science is not truth, but rather a structuring of knowledge, and the knowledge is always in the field in which one is searching. Like everything, science is also part of the system, caught in a web of obligations, liabilities, and interests.

The ethical discussions conducted by science are very profound and attempts are made to foresee and weigh all possible effects, but the views held and the effects to which attention is drawn are always dependent on one’s own worldview. Since the prevailing worldview is materialistic, morality alone will not get us anywhere, because every logic of argumentation moves within this worldview and looks there for the moral legitimisation for actions.

The outer form, the body, must be seen for what it is, a means to an end. We are to make use of form to express the divine nature. We have made great advances in science, but still operate on the physical plane. In a time of transformation, it is the view of the world that needs to be transformed. We need to incorporate the idea of the spiritual world into our view and into discussions.

Video and transcript at:  
https://bit.ly/3Tt2vgx

The Power of Thinking for Oneself
Frédérique and Patrice Brasseur

Inspired by the writings of Alice Bailey and Agni Yoga as well as their own research, authors, trainers and lecturers, Frédérique and Patrice Brasseur, have developed Psychosophy (‘wisdom of the soul’) as a way of exploring the crossroads
between philosophy, spirituality and psychology.

We are all co-responsible at one level or another for everything that happens, because it is the consciousness of all of us that generates the worlds in which we live. Educating ourselves to the primacy of consciousness over forms means putting an end to concrete pseudo-solutions and giving our full attention to the power of human consciousness.

Let us therefore not be afraid of the distressing picture that the world presents to us today, or of what is going to happen tomorrow, because everything is a teaching trajectory and in the long term can help the consciousness of people to evolve towards fairer relationships. If today we can be worried about the many fake news stories circulating and growing on the Net, if the manipulation of information, images and sound continue to grow, it inevitably leads humanity to have to develop mental discernment. This is a tremendous breakthrough that is taking shape and will allow us to leave behind the world of “I like-I don’t like” that is so dear to the emotions. This will force humanity to think more and more, which will lead to a reduction in the chain reactions that all too often poison human relationships.

In the same way, the advent of ChatGPT, this formidable programme capable of producing articles or essays by drawing on all the recorded knowledge of the world, by delving into the memory of the knowledge acquired by mankind, is not to be feared; it is an intelligent, high-performance tool, an outstanding compiler that will be able to be used by mankind, but it will never be able to invent anything new, because it does not think.

Alice Bailey referred to humanity’s problem being not that it’s thinking is wrong, but that it does not think. So here we really are, faced with the need to understand what it means to think. This is how we are going to have to gradually differentiate between the knowledge compilation capabilities of ChatGPT, and the real power of thinking for oneself.

We could multiply the examples of what appear to us to be the dangers arising from the progress of applied science and technology to the lives of a growing number of individuals. All right, if we look only at the factual and event-driven appearance of our civilisation, there is cause for concern. But if we look at what is happening from the point of view of consciousness, we realise how much we are learning and how much we are evolving.

Video and transcript at:  
https://bit.ly/3Tt2vgx

Emmanuel Ransford is an epistemologist, independent researcher in quantum physics, lecturer, and author of numerous books. He explores foundational questions concerning the Quantum Universe and Consciousness. Ransford is a Professional Affiliate of the Galileo Commission.

Let’s reflect on four major areas where advances in knowledge and technology are having a major im-
impact on our lives.

• **Physics** enables us to understand and explore the universe. It has even made it possible to send objects and people to the moon. Our greatest technological marvels are based on quantum physics. In parallel, the discovery by Albert Einstein of the equivalence between matter and energy \((E = mc^2)\) has made nuclear power stations and medical imaging possible. **But** these achievements have led to an explosion in our destructive capacities, and our nuclear weapons can destroy humanity at the touch of a button... Less serious but more present in our daily lives, the unprecedented electromagnetic pollution that surrounds us is a cause for concern, as we are unaware of its long-term effects on health.

• **Chemistry** has revolutionised our everyday lives. We owe it plastics, which are so versatile and so useful that they are omnipresent. **But** chemicals disrupt and pollute the environment. This is all the more worrying because many of them, especially plastics, are not biodegradable. Those used in the home present a risk to public health, particularly because of carcinogenic substances (aldehydes in cleaning products, etc.).

• **Biology and medicine**, combined with hygiene, have considerably improved the human condition. The spectacular decline in infant mortality and the increase in longevity bear witness to this. It is even possible today to eliminate certain genetic diseases using a technique called CRISPR \([= \text{clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats}]\), which makes it possible to insert snippets of DNA into a genome. **But** the CRISPR technique carries the risk of going awry. It makes it possible to produce “tailor-made” children that would possess specific traits! Ethical supervision is clearly necessary. Furthermore, medical practice has encouraged the emergence of bacterial strains resistant to antibiotics (“antibiotic resistance”), which are a major health threat.

• The **world of the virtual and of artificial intelligence** is magical. It includes the internet, social networks, generative AI, chatbots and Chat GPT. **But** the virtual world, which is invading our daily lives, is threatening many jobs by rendering certain professions redundant. It is irresistibly penetrating our private lives - which are becoming less and less private - and threatening our freedoms. It offers dictatorial regimes great opportunities to control their populations. The virtual world also makes it possible, as never before, to create and disseminate fake news backed up by totally credible artificial documents (photos, videos, etc.). The potential for harm is immense!

Video and transcript at: https://bit.ly/3Tt2vgx

**Solar Geomagnetic Activity and Emotional Intelligence**

Susan Manewich

Susan Manewich is a researcher, teacher and author who has worked for 20 years in leadership consulting, emotional intelligence, and resonant technology. She is President of the New Energy Movement. Her several books include (as a co-author) *Hidden Energy: Tesla-inspired Inventors and Solar Geomagnetic Activity and Emotional Intelligence*.
In a number of articles about the rapid electromagnetic and geomagnetic changes happening on this planet, I discuss the strong similarities between planetary chaos, human emotion, and behavior as it relates to different solar cycles. In 1960, for example, during the previous solar cycle, there were a lot of war protests and consciousness raising movements, but there was also a lot of chaos. Much of what we’re seeing today mirrors some of that previous solar cycle. The sun, our star is what really gives life to us (including our human bodies) here on planet Earth. And the sun is going through some huge changes. I have a 15-20 year background of studying Emotional Intelligence, and there is just an amazing, strong relationship between our emotions and solar geomagnetic activity.

The Earth’s magnetosphere (the protective shield around the planet) protects us from what I’m calling “pops from the sun”: solar flares, coronal mass ejections, or even some of the solar wind. It’s critical that we have that shield. But the shield is weakening, and our capacity to handle these ‘pops’ is becoming challenged. Right now, we are in the process of reaching a solar peak in Solar Cycle 25 with the potential for more chaos, people acting irrationally, more war. But also, the potential for a rise in awareness. And so, you’ve got these emotional breakage points, but you also have some higher states in consciousness. It is as if through the weakening of the magnetosphere veils are being lifted and we’re having to contend and deal with things that maybe are more charged.

In addition to the weakening magnetosphere, there is a wandering of magnetic poles on our earth right now and it looks as if the sun will have its pole shifting in the next couple of months – all causing instability and weather extremes.

The Schumann resonance, the Earth’s background hum, is also very active and not as stable as it likely has been in the past – and this relates to brainwave states. The changes on the planet and the shifting alignment with the sun, the Cosmos and this Earth all relate to us as human beings. I can’t help but think about the dawn of this new day that Alice Bailey spoke about, it’s here. Considering new energy technology, we are at the precipice of this dawn, with change being really driven by the intelligence of the universe, the intelligence of the cosmos.

Video at: https://bit.ly/3tiuRiY

Lisa Schirch is Professor of the Practice of Peacebuilding and Technology at the University of Notre Dame’s Keough School of Global Affairs. With 30 years in peace-build-
ing research, policy advocacy, practice and teaching, her current research focuses on positive roles for technology in ‘peacetech’ and ‘digital peacebuilding’.

In a recent article I wrote that the road to hell is not paved in gold, it is paved with code. Code is not neutral. The design of platforms determines their impact on society. It is shaping our human behaviour, showing us some content and not others, and making decisions that steer humanity in one direction or the other.

In my research, there are three nar- ratives of what to do about harmful content online. The first, the user-centred narrative, is voiced by tech platforms who say that their platforms are neutral mirrors, simply reflecting user-generated content and developing algorithms based on your search history. The companies say they can’t generate pro social content.

The second narrative calls for the regulation of tech design. People who used to work in Facebook, Meta and Google are part of a new generation of people arguing that the design of digital spaces needs to be regulated to remove the focus on the few people who are fighting and promoting hate online.

The third narrative is Social Cohe- sion by Design where technology platforms are designed to really serve humanity and be pro-social. Such platforms already exist, and we can amplify public support for them. The Council on Technology and Social Cohesion which I helped set up is bringing together people from tech companies, peace-building profes- sions, conflict resolution, mediation, government, and business to explore how support for pro-social technology can be incentivized.

Today, there are many technology platforms being designed for delib- eration aimed at decreasing polariza- tion and producing social cohe- sion. One such platform is Remesh which has been used by the United Nations to help publics in Yemen, Tunisia, and Libya talk with each other and deliberate the policy options in their country: what is possible and how they might move into the future? Remesh uses artificial intel- ligence to make what thousands of people are saying digestible so that large groups can be listened to at scale. This gives individuals a sense of agency that they can participate in the decisions that affect their lives, and it also helps policy makers decide which policies are sustainable and have public support.

Another platform, Polis, is used by governments to bring together polarized groups of people and use AI algorithms to find the common ground. Polis helps people see not only what everybody is saying, but where everybody agrees. Finding out where there is agreement is the key to peace building and successful peace processes.


Video at: https://bit.ly/3v2UB3q
Andrew Binstock, an open-source software developer, is a former editor-in-chief of Java Magazine. Early in his career he was head of technology forecasts for Price Waterhouse.

In 1999, when the internet was becoming popular, but the web was still very immature, Price Waterhouse was getting a lot of pressure from clients to forecast what effect the internet and the web would have. Our reply, which I think has been validated, is that the internet would make you more of who you are. That is, if you’re a hard worker, it will allow you to do more work. If you’re lazy, it will help you find ways to be even lazier. And if you love to cook, you’ll be able to cook in ways you never thought of, and so on.

Today, we are in the same place in relationship to AI that we were in 1999 with the Internet. We’re on the threshold of enormous changes and upheaval. As with the Internet, those changes will reach every corner of our lives. And they will impose responsibilities on us. If I were pressed to make one safe assumption about the effects of AI, I’d say: It will make you even more of who you are, but it will require more from you than the internet required.

Chief among those requirements will be new responsibilities: in the workplace and in the larger consumption of information in daily life. Mark Twain once observed, “A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes”. It is going to be very important not to be part of lies’ rapid travel, and to be faster at helping truth put on its shoes. How do we avoid helping a lie travel? The first thing is not to share content whose veracity we don’t know. Not on social media, not on email, not in spoken word. This seems like an obvious thing until some unusual piece of information comes our way that happens to fit our preferred narrative. Then we want to share it with everyone.

The age of AI will bring wonderful developments but will impose a series of disciplines on thinking people who will need to improve their skills in the workplace and to improve discernment in all other areas, especially online. The latter requires effort. And like you, there are many times when I and others would like to share something without having to verify sources and check details. Careless sharing of this kind, as well as intentional sharing by bad actors, is how lies get halfway around the world so quickly.

Video at: https://bit.ly/3v2UB3q

Co-founder and CEO of knowledge technology company, Shelf, Perrotta has 12 years of experience as an AI practitioner. A former US Peace Corps volunteer and Founders Institute mentor, he has spoken and written about the responsibilities, challenges and future opportunities of AI.

While AI can be scary, the reality is that it has been developed by us. We create models that drive AI, and these models are not something outside of us. They do not control
the world. The responsibility really lies with us to ensure that those who are developing the models are held accountable.

Ever since the advent of writing, there has been a momentum of force driving the development of technologies that augment our ability to think, create, build, communicate, and manifest collectively. AI is a part of this momentum, and is the result of a convergence of technologies, acceleration, and change.

Five macro trends are currently driving the development of technology. Each trend builds on the other, and they are in a motion that is accelerating. Because they are very decentralized, they are, at this point, beyond any single human’s control.

**First:** the evolution of computers which began with the abacus 5,000 years ago has accelerated very quickly over the last several decades through the development of the microchip. This physical object is the foundational building block on which all digital devices, data and AI are built.

**Second:** the development of the cloud has made AI the fastest adopted technology in human history. Before the cloud hardware for major projects would take weeks to set up and cost tens of thousands of dollars. Now, any type of computing resource can be instantly accessed faster, at much less cost, and at scale.

**Third:** the cloud has led to global connectivity and the acceleration of mobile and connected devices, including wireless-enabled wearable Fitbits.

**Fourth:** all these devices are generating tons of data. As the data increases exponentially, and the countries producing the data expand, we discover new patterns and recognize connection points within the data.

**Fifth:** an exponentially increasing computing power, an exponentially increasing number of devices and exponentially increasing amounts of data that we can process, see patterns, and understand in new ways has led to what we are today calling AI: the wide range of “intelligent” behaviours that are modelled and derived from data.

2023 was the breakthrough year when these trends crossed the threshold for affordability and adoption and for the first time, through Generative AI, models nearing human performance in writing, summation, sensory perception and so on. Updating a quote from Steve Jobs, we can say that if a computer is a “bicycle for our minds”, then AI is the equivalent of a supersonic jet.

Video at: https://bit.ly/3tiuRiY
Helping to build right human relations

World Goodwill is an international movement helping to mobilise the energy of goodwill and to build right human relations. It was established in 1932 as a service activity of the Lucis Trust. The Lucis Trust is a registered educational charity in the United Kingdom. In the USA it is a non-profit tax-exempt educational corporation, and in Switzerland it is registered as a non-profit association. World Goodwill is recognised by the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organism and is represented at regular briefing sessions at UN Headquarters.

The Lucis Trust is on the Roster of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The World Goodwill Newsletter is published three times a year. Unless otherwise indicated, all articles are prepared by the World Goodwill HQ group. Multiple copies for distribution are available on request. The newsletter is also available in: French, Greek, Spanish, German, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese (online), Russian, and Slovenian.

World Goodwill relies solely on donations to continue its work. The newsletter is distributed free of charge to be as widely available as possible, but donations are always needed for this service, and are much appreciated.

This newsletter is available at www.worldgoodwill.org

ISSN 0818-4984

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The Great Invocation

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.  
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.  
May Christ* return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide the little wills of men –  
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the race of men
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out  
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

Adapted Version

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into human minds.  
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into human hearts.  
May the Coming One* return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide all little human wills –  
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the human race
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out  
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

*Many religions believe in a World Teacher Who is to come in the future (hence ‘Coming One’), knowing Him under such names as the Lord Maitreya, the Imam Mahdi, the Kalki avatar etc. These terms are sometimes used in versions of the Great Invocation for people of specific faiths.