

# A NEW EARTH

THEY WHO LIVED A THOUSAND LIVES

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REDUCED EXTRACT FROM ORIGINAL BOOK

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SAMPLE VERSION

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# Initial Concept

Eternity. Deciding when to end, what to change, how to evolve. What if this was within us, in our genes, the natural capacity to achieve this? To live forever – could it be possible? Could we bring back those who lived more than 1000 years ago? It would be a dream, maybe a fool's paradise, an exploration of nothing more than survival. How would the world we know be transformed? Would there be a logic? And, more importantly, what would come afterwards?

Breaking with established thought, moving beyond boundaries. In tribute to this message, the movement of Trascentism is based on the search for knowledge from a place of freedom, understanding and doubt. A stream of thought helping to smash the glass walls surrounding human beings, which allow them to dream but through which they cannot see. Without falling into myths or falsehoods, supported by science, true facts and accepting the unknown: remaining in this world and transforming our home without losing the individual.

Perhaps a home that lifts us to the stars, interconnects us or conquers worlds that are smaller than the smallest grain of sand. How far will humanity go in the coming centuries or millennia? Interestingly, humanity's imminent destiny is written in its genes and natural instinct, and more

interestingly still, we, today's humans, could be there to see it, reaching a point where we become The Eternal Ones. The concept of Eternal is no more than an ideal that pushes the boundaries of intelligent life – it is not that a being will live eternally, but rather that it will become a creator of realities with the goal of maintaining the cosmos and discovering what lies beyond. But like with all dreams, the first thing is to start at the end, to flee fear, to seek purpose.

# Evolution: An adaptive race

The belief that living forever is unnatural isn't wrong, but here's the paradox, it's not correct either. We're designed to flee from death. Evolution and natural selection have created us this way so that our species may survive, putting the individual aside. But is that the goal? Do we really need to lose the individual?

Evolution is guided by practicality and utility, it is not a friendly nor cruel God, but simply the law of convenience. In order to evolve, the individual had to reproduce. Without evolution they perished. It's better to evolve quickly and to die quickly in order to allow the next generations to survive. This appears to be the natural way.

Therefore, old age is necessary. It's how a species adapts to changes in its habitat. Eliminating the oldest individuals and selecting only the strongest in order for the group to perpetuate. If it weren't for a biological system that ended in natural death, the species would grow in number exponentially. It would need more space, more food. It would support both the weak and the strong and such rapid evolutionary change wouldn't take place. It would end up destroying itself, either for land or for food.

A natural evolutionary process that allows for the collective to prosper in order to guarantee swift evolution. Affording its own survival in a positive way and in unison with its fellow humans. But is this a universal law?

Old age and natural death aren't, after all, intrinsic to all species. There are many examples in which this is not the case. The most iconic is perhaps that of the hydra. A freshwater predator and also immortal.

Its regenerative ability was discovered in 1998 and has since been proven. It is mostly made up of stem cells. It doesn't age, it multiplies. Either in order to reproduce or to create other cells that are lacking or that require repair. This is an intrinsic ability among hydra. It regenerates new cells faster than it takes for them to age. In other words, its body is able to travel back in time.

The same is true of some species of jellyfish, such as the *Turritopsis Nutricula*, tardigrades, planarias, protozoa and embryonic stem cells. They have differing qualities, but the end result is similar. Nature has discovered endless ways to achieve the same evolutionary goal.

Even among larger and more common species we can find similar characteristics. Perhaps the most notable is the crocodile. As it grows older it becomes bigger and stronger. It doesn't age. If it does, as far as science has been able to detect, this happens so slowly that it has been impossible to

measure in laboratories. It gains strength. It can only die due to a lack of food, due to stress, illness or external harm. There is no record of this animal ever having died of old age. This fact is as real and as well known among the scientific community as it is unknown by the majority. This phenomenon means that it is practically immortal. Thus the concept of emortality.

Various families of fish, vipers and turtles can be considered in the same regard. They don't reach a specific adult size, they simply keep growing. Their bodies never die of old age. But despite this incredible quality, even the longest-surviving crocodiles don't live longer than the average human. They reproduce quickly, there are many deaths due to illness, rivalry, a lack of food, and stress due to being in small spaces or with little freedom. Indeed, even the very fiercest carnivores, such as the great white shark, haven't been able to survive for more than 13 days in captivity.

The crocodile, although able to withstand longer in such conditions, resorts to cannibalism when there's a shortage of food, and kills others of its own species when population numbers grow.

It's another adaptive technique of evolution to ensure that a species perpetuates and that the very strongest survive. However, along with many animals and a great variety of crustaceans, molluscs and other vertebrates, it's a clear example of the fact that emortality in nature is possible.

But why is it that the majority of living creatures aren't emortal? This isn't by chance. Everything has an upside and a downside. The crocodile, or at least its ancestor, has existed since the Mesozoic era, living alongside the dinosaurs. There were some notable differences. Its body grew to up to 10 times larger, but its shape and its constitution were practically unchanged. The same was true of snakes and turtles. At that time, monkeys didn't yet exist. They went from being small mammals to completely distinct animals in record time.

Evolution speeds up exponentially when there is a cycle of death and new life. In the case of the crocodile, it only dies when, as an individual, it's no longer suited to its environment. The downside is the slow rate of adaptation. This is why so many emortal species have been lost throughout natural history, and so many others have not been able to exist: It's an approach that, due to its lack of variability, makes it difficult for the species to diverge and for its qualities to be passed on to the animal ecosystem. Archaic, perhaps. Yet there are traces of this within us.

Human beings are able to create life: our children, with their new organs, are born as individuals that will live beyond the death of their parents. In fact, stem cells, capable of rejuvenating themselves and repairing any of our bodies' biological systems, are created inside female bodies. If nature had wanted to make us emortal, we would have been. But it didn't make sense for evolution. It slowed down the race to adapt to our surroundings. In our case it would have meant us

not becoming social beings, because in groups we would have died too quickly due to overpopulation and famine. The human being as we know it would not be viable.

Survival is a race to adapt, observable in a simplified form in the Lock Model.

Let us imagine a door with a complex lock, where the code to open it is not only a mystery, but it also changes over time. Let us now imagine that this is the front door to our house, and that we need to open it every day. In the beginning we ask the locksmith to create a key at random. He makes one, but it doesn't work. We throw it away. We continue to order new keys and discard them. This continues for some time until one key does open the door. However, the second time it is used, the key begins to get stuck, and we need a new one, fast, with a slightly different combination.

The locksmith takes the last key and makes a new one with a small modification. This step is repeated many times. We try all of these new keys with new modifications, only making adjusted copies of the keys that work and throwing away those that don't. If a lot of time is spent trying all of the keys in our hand, we will no longer have a key that works, and we'll have to start the whole process again. That's why it's necessary to throw away as many keys as possible. Gradually, the locksmith starts making more differently shaped keys, until finally managing to create a skeleton key. When we try it, we find that it can change its shape according to the



changing lock. At which point, we throw away all of the keys we had left in our hand, we keep the skeleton key and we let the locksmith rest.

In this model, the key represents a species and its variants. Life took a long time to be able to exist and survive in the beginning, then there was a short time in which it had to adapt to a changing environment, which required rapid evolution. The best way is to create new keys based on the last one that worked, and throw away the old ones.

They need to be discarded in order for the new ones to survive, this is the law of nature. With this, evolution speeds up. Finally, the skeleton key represents an intelligent species, capable of adapting to change on its own, a new approach outside the law of nature, yet also a product of it. At this point, the destruction and creation of new skeleton keys for its survival is redundant. It no longer needs the law of nature to survive.

All that we are has been designed for a fast race to adapt to our surroundings. This is what has always taken priority in evolution. In fact, it's for this reason that the masculine gender was born. Two females already possess the different genetic material required to reproduce and have healthy offspring. The male is seemingly not needed. However, by introducing the male, this means that he will fight with others of the same gender to compete for a mate, thus ensuring that the weakest will not reproduce and the strongest and biggest

will survive. Although violent, this is without a doubt a product of nature which drastically speeds up a species' evolution and adaptation to its environment. Quick adaptation at any cost.

If we look at the history of human evolution, we see that it has become stagnant. The species has more than enough food and its basic needs are covered, so there is no longer any evolution towards the strongest or the best able to adapt. Medicine saves the weak and amenities lead to a rejection of the natural environment. With the introduction of vaccines, drugs, implants and artificial genetic variations, humanity is updating itself. Evolution lasting hundreds of thousands of years is no longer necessary. It now occurs in a matter of months. We have cast nature aside.

We have retained the goal of evolution, for a species to adapt to its surroundings to ensure its survival. But we have abandoned natural selection. Given that we are a product of nature, it is now up to us to choose the most suitable approach and its *raison d'être*.

It's perhaps a more appropriate approach than survival of the fittest. Nature is contradictory, making the death of the individual a necessity in order to ensure a species will perpetuate, but also requiring us to fear death in order to survive. Furthermore, it leads us to detest the natural way: old age. It makes sense that if an individual has managed to self-regulate, self-monitor and to develop autonomously, then they will become intelligent enough to live beyond their years.

In other words, until now, the only way that evolution has been able to adapt to its environment has been through reproduction, to create more skilled and stronger individuals. If we are able to improve ourselves artificially without the need for new people, reproduction is then only necessary to increase the number of the species. Therefore, if done intelligently and responsibly, prioritising quality of life, then death and old age become redundant and thus, unnecessary.

Immortalism is in fact a growing movement; a fundamental component of current-day Transcendentalism, stemming from transhumanism. It is a practical and plausible reflection, promoted even by institutions created by NASA such as the Singularity University, which argues that the average life expectancy for the generation born around the last decade of the 20th century will be 120 years. There are many precursors of this line of thought. Many of today's large corporations such as Google, IBM, Microsoft, Facebook and Amazon are largest investors in initiatives such as the 'Millennium Project', 'Calico' and the SENS Research Foundation for Engineered Negligible Senescence. The latter is a scientific organisation, founded with the clear goal of achieving emortality, initiated by Aubrey Nicholas Jasper De Grey, a strong believer in his field of work. In parallel are the drivers of immortalism, research biologists Bill Andrew and, again, Aubrey De Grey in the development of life-span extension by the lengthening of telomeres in DNA.

The world knows it can be done, and it has experienced dramatic change since the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century. From CRISPR techniques and cellular reprogramming of mice, worms and other living beings, multiplying their life span between 10 and 17 times more than average, to the beginning of applications for a cure for cancer and Alzheimer's. The logical next question is, when?

Many businesses are investing in this common goal, with increasingly positive results. They aim to achieve their objective by the next century, predicting 2040 to be the year of the 'Great Leap', when existing human beings will be able to utilise successive advances, prolonging their lives until achieving the aforementioned emortality. It won't be instantaneous, and there won't be just one solution. It will require a long transition before reaching its peak. It's a great leap, not only in terms of significance but also in terms of the time taken to reach this point since its beginnings. Books such as "Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow", by Doctor Yuval Noah Harari, and great transhumanist works such as "Superintelligence" by Nick Bostrom, among others, hold the same views regarding the defeat of ageing and death. There are also figures such as Elisabeth Parrish, researcher and first human being ever to receive telomere extension treatment to combat ageing.

However, it's important to point out that these are all still predictions, and false hopes will be created by many. The hope for a better life, daring to challenge the status quo and

an aversion to logical denialism are what will guide this new generation and those that follow. It's against the human spirit to give into the sickness of old age when we have always fought against it. If fear is the guiding force, then the satisfaction will be even greater when that fear is gone, and the options that follow will be countless.

Presented here are just brief references to the current reality. As far as possible each of us should consult the literature available to us, educate ourselves and contrast all that we read so as to find the most reliable and detailed information. We mustn't be afraid to reject or find fault in what we do not believe, but only in what we do not want to think about. And even if we do believe, we must not do so blindly, but critically. This critical eye should also be applied to what is written in these pages. Otherwise, it would be the philosophy of the blind, of the sheep.

"Nobody will ever speak the full truth, nor will there ever be a true idea that claims to process it."

# Stages

Life and death. Evolution has made both a requirement for survival. However, its only goal was life, to preserve it. Death is treated as something that happens along the way, a practical tool. But evolution doesn't care. It's not an entity that thinks and decides, it's simply an occurrence that generates survival. It was only necessary to adapt to surroundings. Not to hold knowledge, not to live if the world remained unchanged. But now, when the world changes, we change with it. Natural evolution had already lost its utility before we even began to take control of it ourselves. And all thanks to a product of the following: intelligence and survival instinct.

At the extreme of both of these terms, we can find the pinnacle of human evolution. The real question, since intelligent life appeared and took on its evolutionary role, is what will happen after the Great Leap? What will be the stages that mark the progress of human civilisation in the evolutionary race?

Trascentism sets out a series of natural stages indicating human evolutionary progress, instinctive milestones which will define our evolution and abilities as a species. It will be at the end of the Great Leap that the first stage will begin:

## Stage I

Arrive at a system populated by emortal individuals with the physical health of a group of 25–30-year-olds and a good quality of life.

Improving quality of life is actually key in a society at this stage as it avoids having to resort to demographic adjustments, for the simple fact that more modern and developed populations usually experience a sharp fall in birth rates. Our instincts lead us to arrive at this stage because of our fear of death and our aversion to the sometimes complete physical deterioration that occurs during the last decades of human life. Once technology makes this possible, one way or another, it will inevitably be adopted. First it will be only for a minority, then the absolute majority, with human survival dependent upon this transition taking place as quickly as possible.

In a society without old age and with an unlimited life expectancy, the average age at which people become parents will rise dramatically. New parents will be old.

They will be more prepared, less pressured by their circumstances and enjoy better social position. There will be no rush to have children for fear of premature ageing.

In certain situations, however difficult, the species will need to be intelligent enough so as to establish controls or birth permits of some kind if necessary. This will inevitably cause a

huge rise in the productive population, leading to an economic upsurge which, in the medium term, will be an inevitable driver of this stage. However, there will be huge chaos in the beginning, just as has been the case before any notable revolution in history.

## Stage II

The second stage of Transcendism sets out the ability to bring deceased individuals back to life, going one step further towards true immortality. To recover all recent human loss at atomic level from the moment before death.

This stage only envisages the recovery of those individuals that are alive at the moment this technology arrives, not before. Those who die of natural causes and make use of practices such as cryopreservation and vacuum encapsulation will be more likely to see the beginning of this stage sooner. Although, this will most likely have less positive or perhaps catastrophic psychological and physical outcomes than those that take place later.

Nature today proves that this is possible. Currently there are lots of animals, from amphibians to invertebrates, that use cryopreservation to remain for days, months or years in a state of death, only to then go on to resuscitate naturally.

The wood frog, or *Lithobates sylvaticus*, is perhaps one of the most notable examples of a species to have developed this



ability. It's usually called upon in periods of scarcity and is the subject of much study at present.

“Nobody should be forced to live against their will. But everybody should be given the option to learn about the world and to choose their own fate.”

Stage III

The third stage...

END OF EXTRACT

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