

Let's Chat *

Engaging with AI -Session 5

* Pun Intended

Review



Session 1 AI as a Research Assistant Prompting Skills



Session 2 AI as a Creative Assistant Complementing Imagination



Session 3 Appreciate How Current AI Models Work Numbers All the Way Down

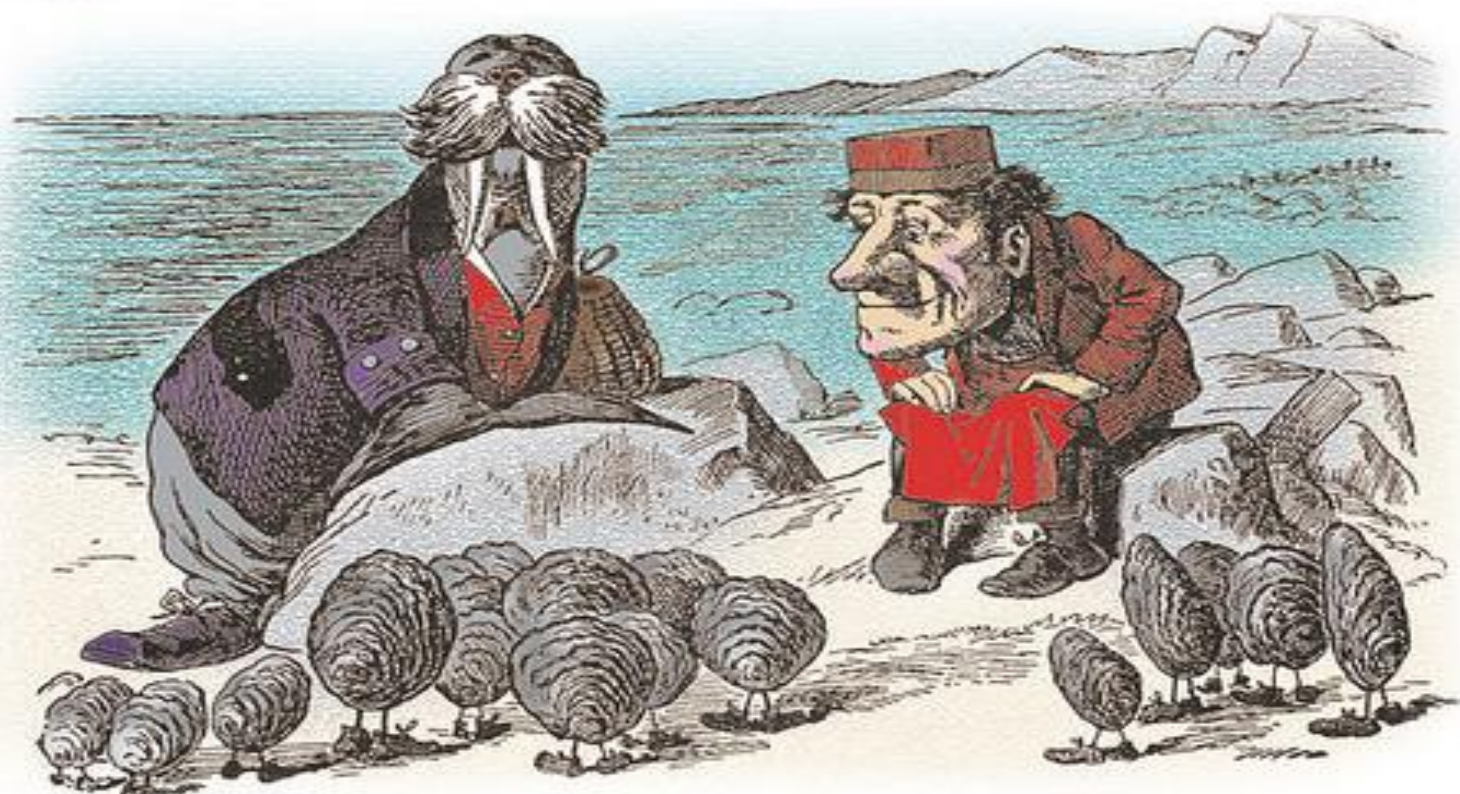


Session 4 AI as a Co-Intelligence Silicon's Virtues / Carbon Virtues



Session 5





“The time has come,” the Walrus said,
“To talk of many things, of shoes, and ships, and sealing wax.
Of cabbage, and kings, and why the sea is boiling hot.
And whether pigs have wings.”

LEWIS CARROLL

Let's Keep In Mind

Deliberative habits are good for democracies, but bad for retweets, choosing your words thoughtfully is a virtue for a president but not for an entertainer or influencer.

- Ezra Klein – August 2026

Perspectives

Effective
Accelerationists

Safetyists

Effective
Altruists

Populist Right

AI Ethicists

AI Normal
Technologists

Effective Accelerationists

Optimistic about technological progress.

AI development should move quickly because its benefits—scientific discovery, prosperity, medicine, and abundance—are likely to outweigh risks, and excessive precaution could itself be harmful.

Safetyists

Focused on preventing severe AI failures, including loss of control, malicious use, and potentially catastrophic or existential outcomes from advanced systems.

Support more safety research, testing, governance, and sometimes a slower development pace.

Effective Altruists

Moral movement that tries to use evidence and careful reasoning to do the best impartially.

In AI, many EAs emphasize safeguarding future generations by reducing risks from advanced AI, alongside other global catastrophic risks.

Populist Right

A politically conservative, nationalist, and anti-elite current that sees AI as a threat to jobs, children, culture, religious or family life, and democratic self-government.

Skeptical of concentrated power in Big Tech, but also wary of regulations that could empower government or ideological opponents.

AI Ethicists

Advocates who perceive harms already occurring or likely soon: discrimination, surveillance, labor exploitation, misinformation, environmental costs, opacity, and unequal power.

They argue for accountability, transparency, democratic oversight, and attention to who bears AI's costs.

AI as Normal Technology

A view that AI may be important and disruptive but is not a uniquely world-ending or world-saving force.

It favors treating AI like other powerful general-purpose technologies: evaluate real capabilities, address concrete harms, and regulate applications rather than assume imminent superintelligence or apocalypse.

Session 5

Agenda

- Open Discussion
 - Education
 - Weaponization
 - Externalities
 - Trust in AI

Education

For those of you who were teachers, how would you have exploited AI?

Should we focus more on using AI effectively or how to think critically about AI systems?

Do you think AI will narrow or widen educational gaps?

How would you advise a new teacher today to engage with AI?

Weaponization

How much control do we really have with our information environments that are 'curated' by AI?

How will society cope when facts and fabrications are equally convincing?

AI is an 'alien intelligence', how do we coexist with it?

How do you balance privacy with convenience and security?

Externalities

Energy
Consumption

Water
Consumption

Labor
Exploitation

Trust

When AI answers conflict with your knowledge or intuition. How do you decide what to act on?



Does knowing how AI reaches conclusions help?



How does your age, education, professional background shape your willingness to trust AI?



What would make you more confident in placing trust in AI?



Prompt AI to Analyze – Rather than Answer

- Expands solution set
- Provides some transparency
- May expose issues
- Initiates a dialogue

Craft Your Prompt



A couple in their 70's owns roughly 100 acres of undeveloped land which they would like to see remain undeveloped after they pass.



Suggest an analytical framework for them to work through to evaluate the alternative methods they should consider.

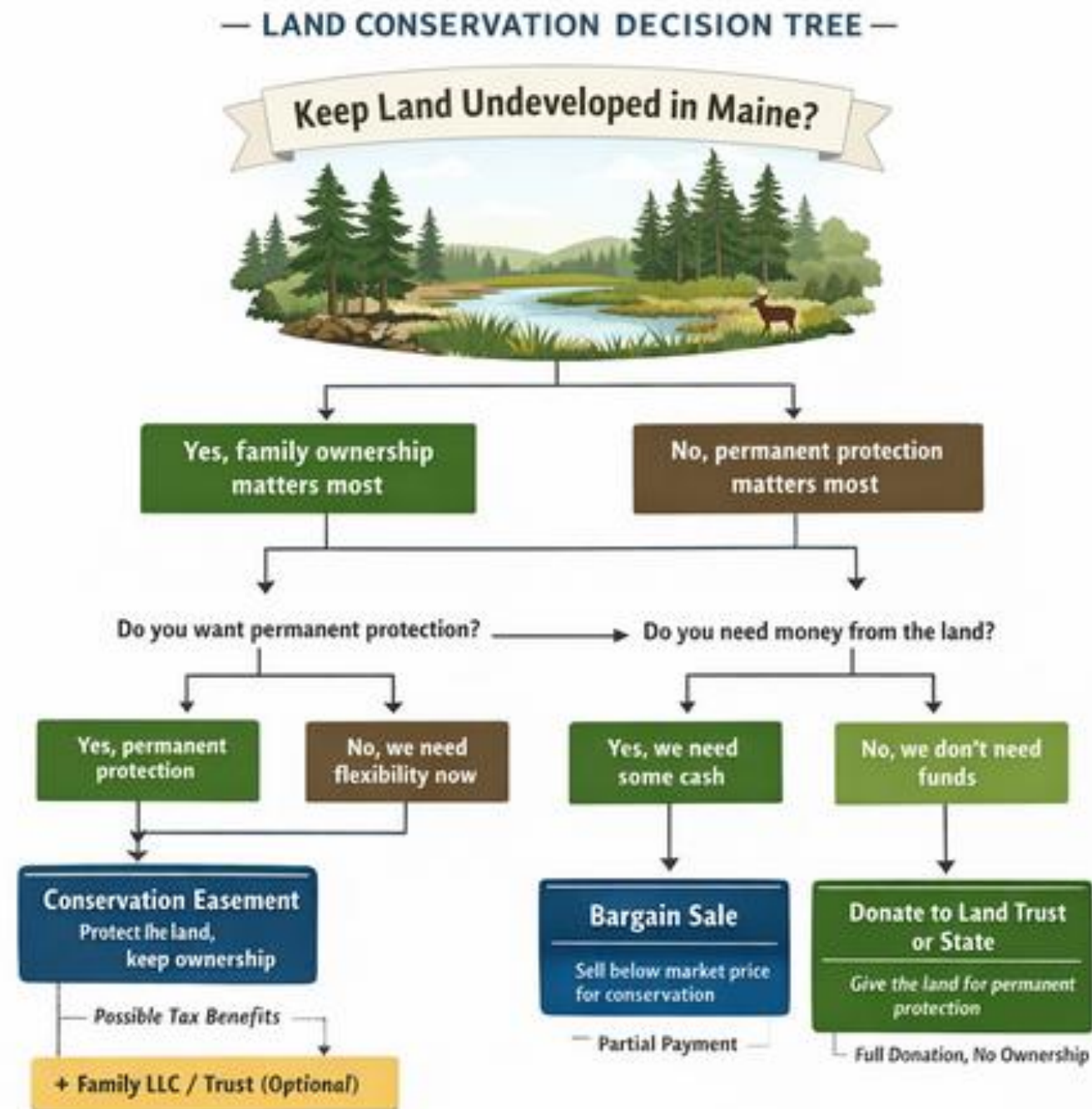


The property is located in Maine and includes some wetlands.



At each step be specific as to the pros and cons to consider

Quick Decision Tree



Examine the Response

Would modifying the prompt with more information help?

Not asking AI to decide, asking AI to describe a process that you may decide to trust or not.

Standards – Perspective and Challenges

Principles or Rules

Risk Adjusted

Voluntary or Mandatory

Process or Outcome Focused

Current Efforts

IEEE – Guidelines for ethical design and implementation of autonomous AI

- AI should be designed to enhance human well-being.

EU Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI

- Privacy, transparency, diversity, non-discrimination, societal welfare

NIST – AI Risk Management Framework

- Recognizing, evaluating, and controlling risk of AI systems

Because I
Promised.....
Threats



White House Accord on Superintelligence:

A Joint Commitment on Frontier AI Responsibilities.



Real Threats



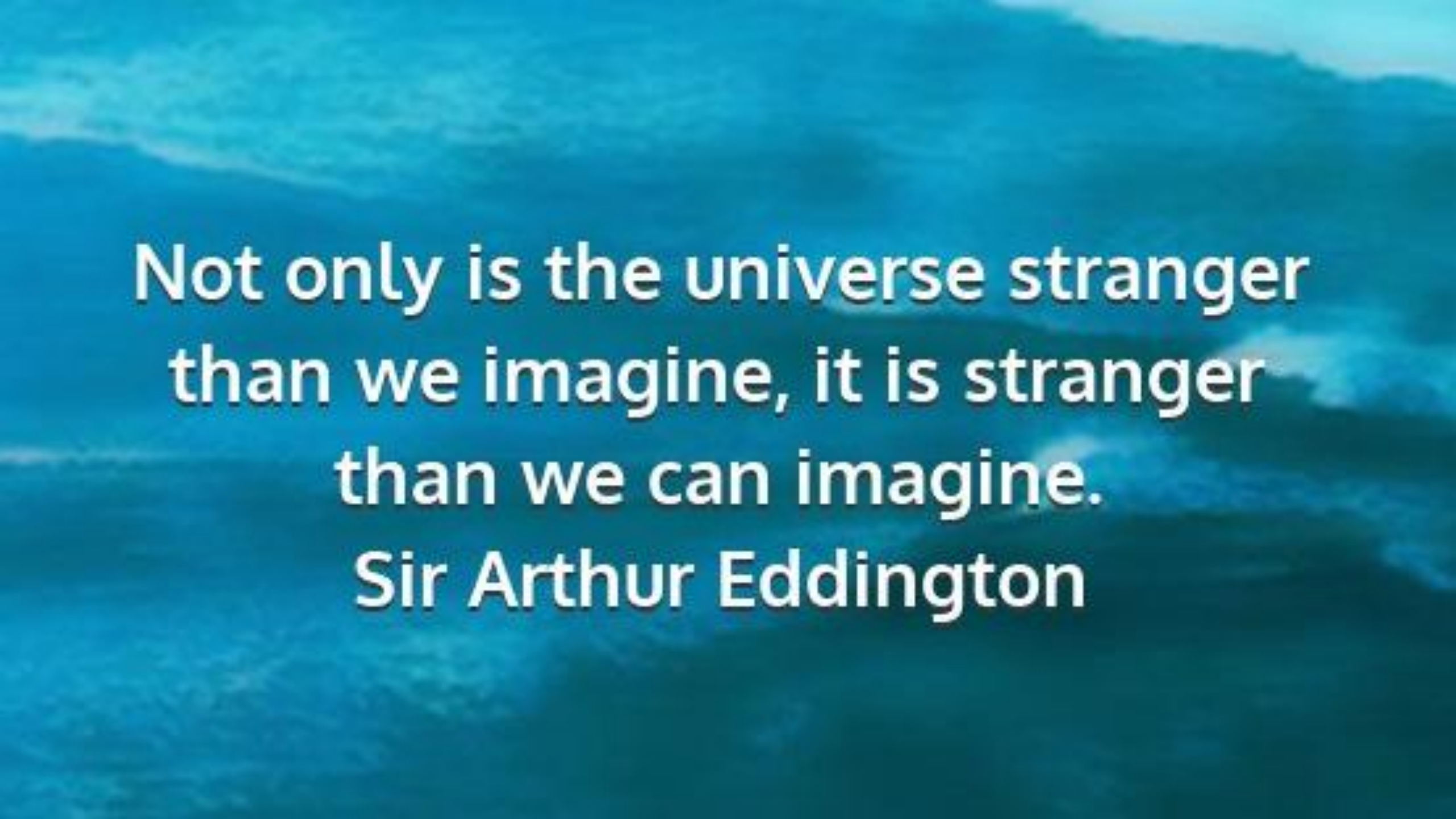
Opinions Differ

Risk	Susskind	Bostrom
Existential	Low Probability – should not dominate Policy	Central Risk: the control problem defines the century
Social / Economic Displacement	Immediate and major	Secondary – trivial if superintelligence emerges.
Political / Governance	Erosion of democracy	Implicit – control shifts to who controls AGI
Reliability / Bias / Over-reliance	Near term hazard	Not a major in the context of superintelligence
Inaction	Fail to develop beneficial AI	Silent

**"I wish it need not have happened
in my time," said Frodo.**



**"So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do
all who live to see such times. But
that is not for them to decide. All
we have to decide is what to do
with the time that is given us."**



Not only is the universe stranger
than we imagine, it is stranger
than we can imagine.

Sir Arthur Eddington

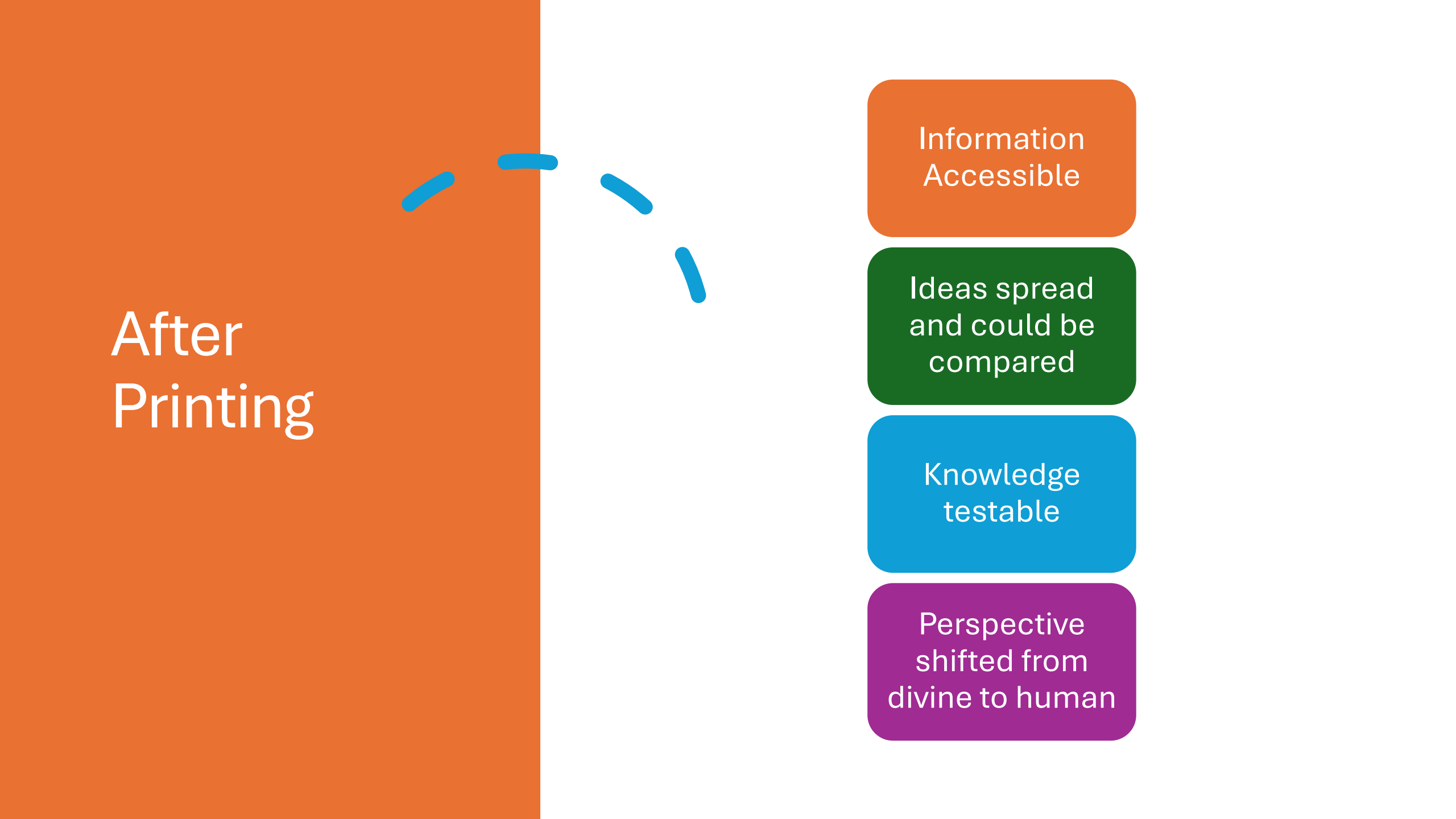
Imagine Life
about 1450 CE



Before Printing



After Printing



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graph TD; A[Information Accessible] --> B[Ideas spread and could be compared]; B --> C[Knowledge testable]; C --> D[Perspective shifted from divine to human];
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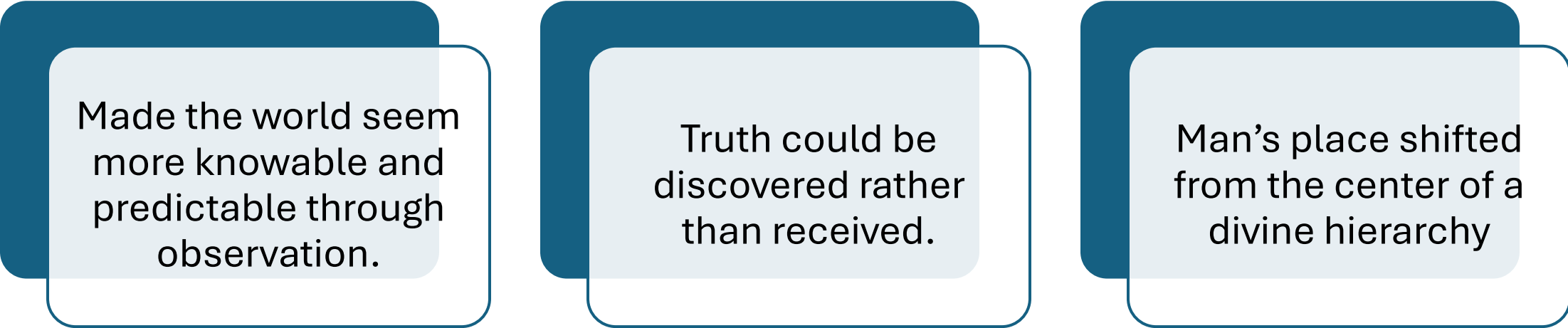
Information
Accessible

Ideas spread
and could be
compared

Knowledge
testable

Perspective
shifted from
divine to human

Restructured Perceptions



Made the world seem more knowable and predictable through observation.

Truth could be discovered rather than received.

Man's place shifted from the center of a divine hierarchy

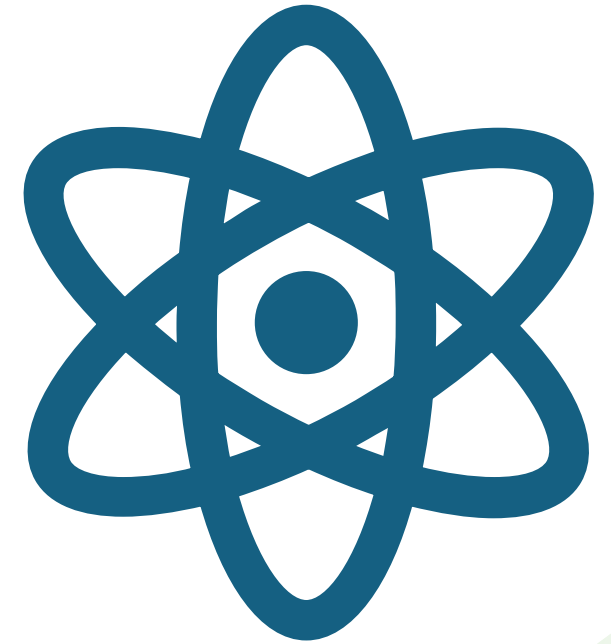


Imagine
Life about
1895 CE

Universe – 1895 -- Clockwork

Just a few details to ‘tidy up’

- The Ether Problem / Michelson – Morley → Einstein
- Black Body Radiation → Planck
- Photoelectric Effect → Einstein
- Atoms, solid, indivisible, understood





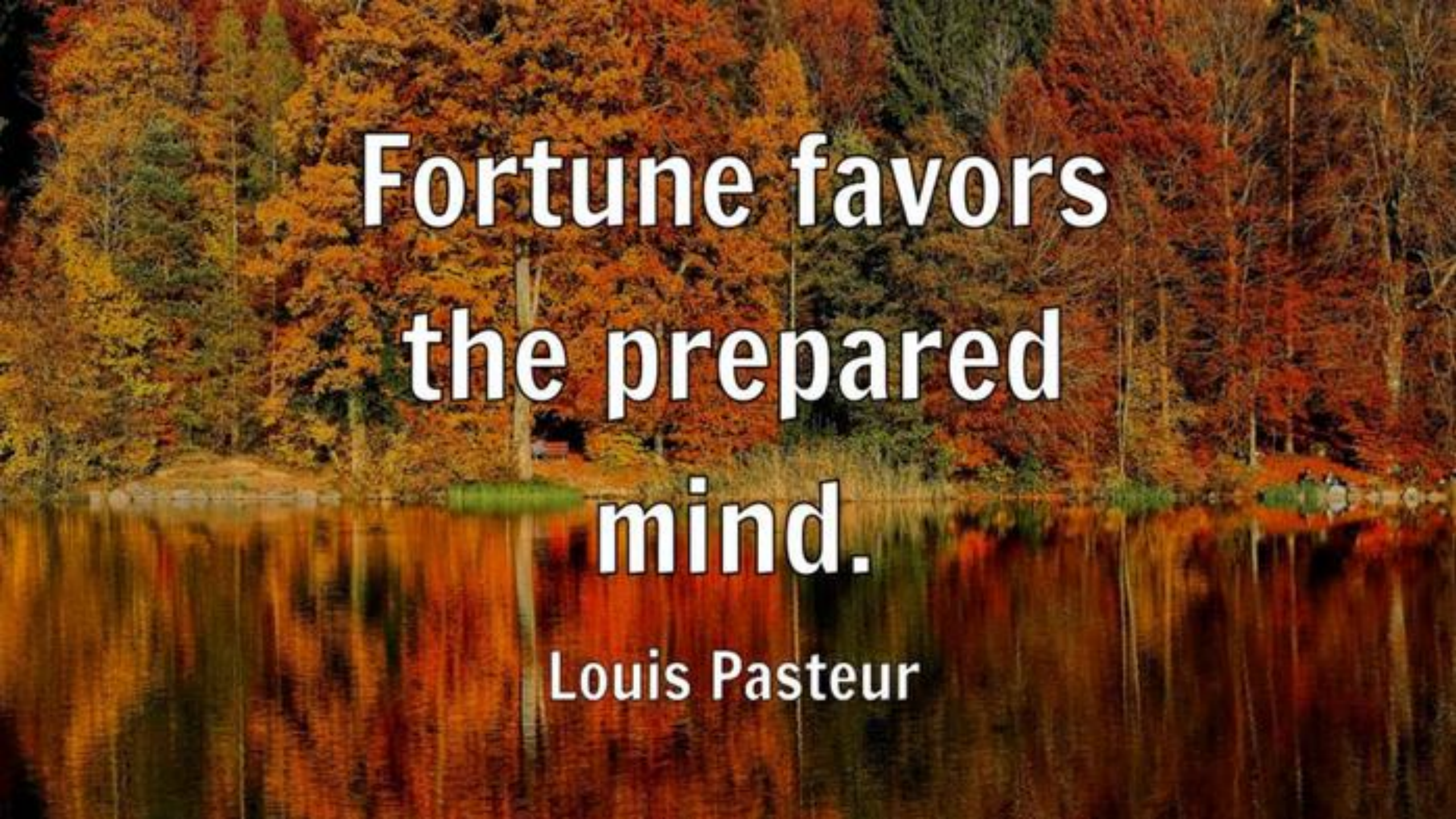
Universe – 1920 -

- Unpredictable
- Dynamic
- Relativistic

AI will Change
Our Mental
Map

Universe
2026





Fortune favors
the prepared
mind.

Louis Pasteur



Next

- Silicon (AI) Evolution
- Carbon (Us) Adaption
- Suggested Strategies
 - We've seen this before.
 - Or have we?

