

Dad's people
came from
England in 1879



Mum's people
came from
Holland in 1952



Loomio.

Involve people in decisions



citizenai

Artificial intelligence
for public benefit

Succeed
sustainably



innovating for the common good
+
nurturing ecosystems of hope



**UTOPIAN
WRITING
COMPETITION**

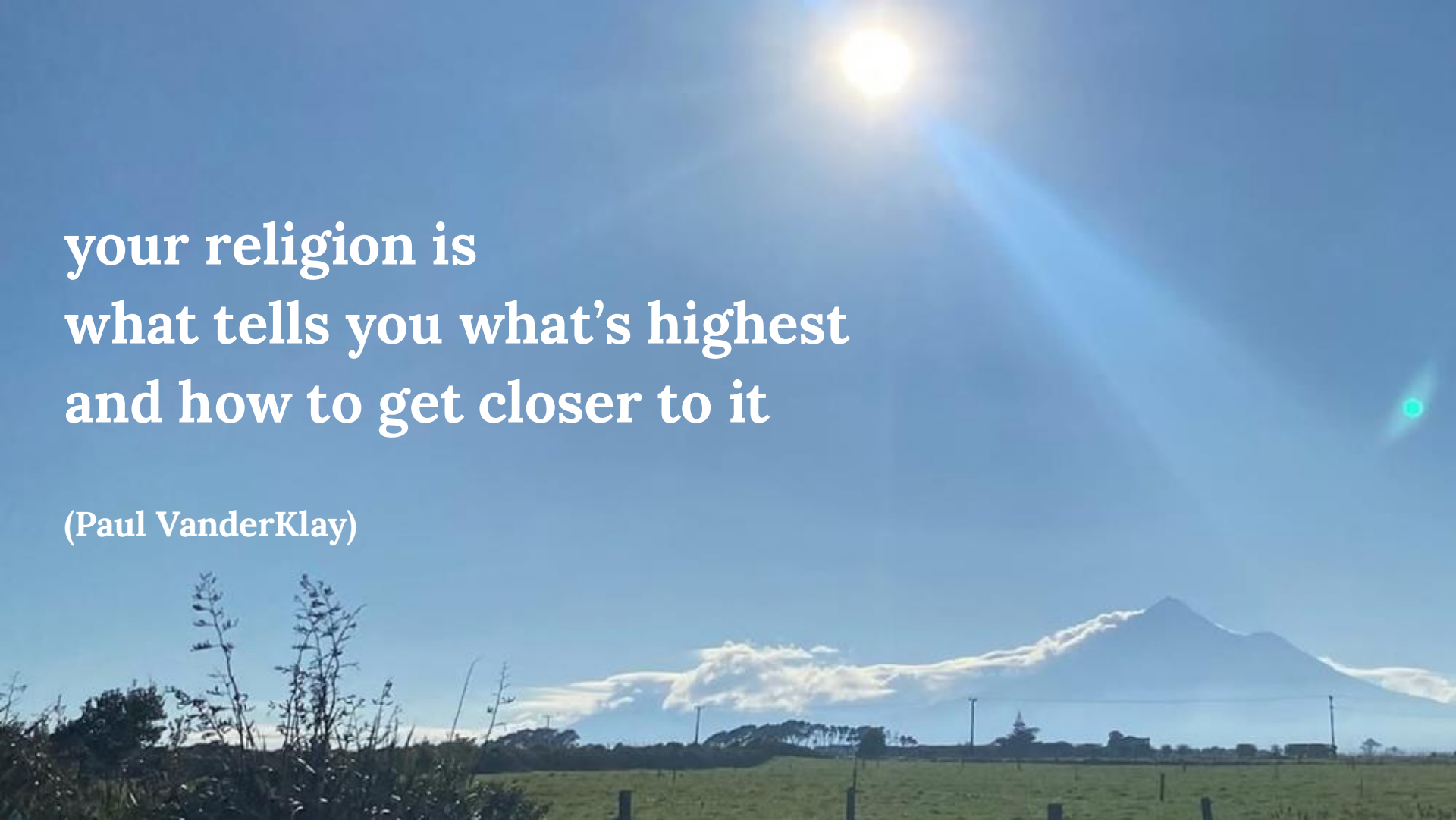
**CLOSES
24 MAY**

FIRST PRIZE: \$500

Play to your gift! Invoke the ancient! Risk insanity! Fall into a visionary trance and summon the story of a good society! Examples is ubiquitous, but another literature is possible. Please it in fewer than 2000 words and win cash prizes. Full details at chaplaincyvuw.org/utopia

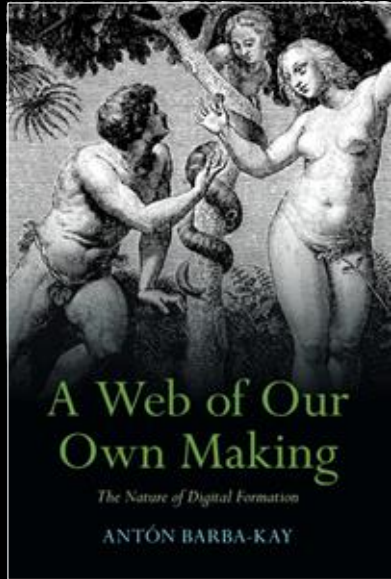
CHIEF JUDGE: ELIZABETH KNOX



A landscape photograph with a bright sun in a clear blue sky, creating a lens flare. In the distance, a mountain range is visible under a layer of white clouds. The foreground consists of a green field with some dark, leafy plants on the left and a fence line. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

**your religion is
what tells you what's highest
and how to get closer to it**

(Paul VanderKlay)



“If the present technological age has a lasting gift for us, it is to urge as decisive the question of what human beings are for, what the point of us is at all.”

Anton Barba-Kay



“The fundamental dignity of each person ... is neither acquired nor earned, nor does it need to be justified.”

Pope Leo XIV



“The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either—but right through every human heart—and through all human hearts. This line shifts. Inside us, it oscillates with the years. And even within hearts overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained.”

— Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago* 1918–1956

“I don’t think I need to tell a *Salient* reader why AI is abhorrent.”

Kaleb Evans-Lao, *Salient*, 7 Sept 2026

the cloud
of unknowing /
epistemic humility





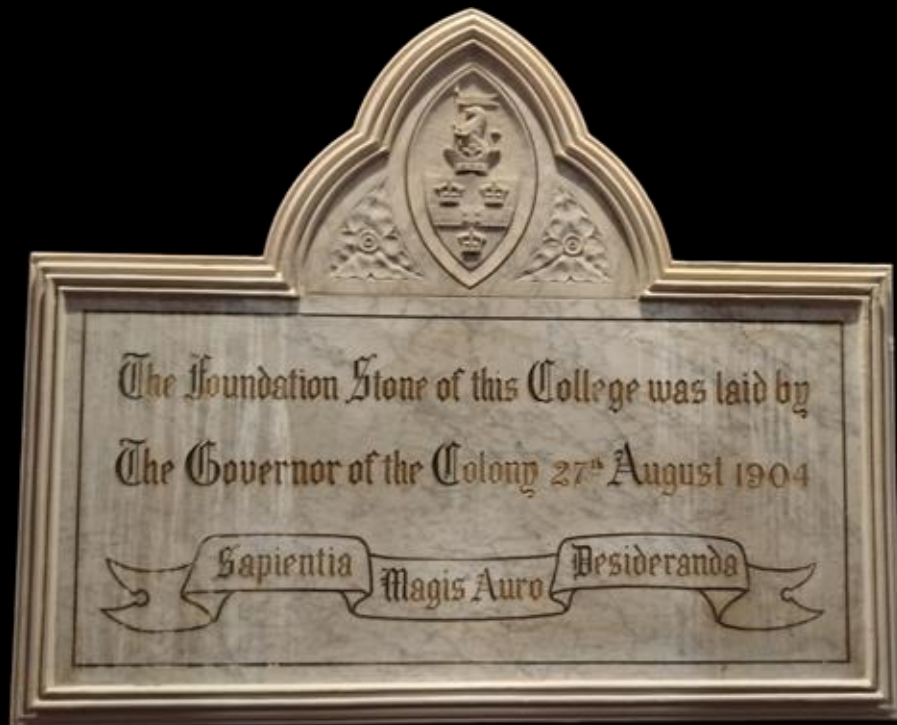
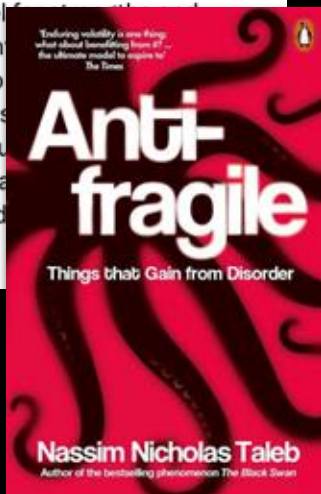
Andrej Karpathy ✓

@karpathy



I've never felt this much behind as a programmer. The profession is being dramatically refactored as the bits contributed by the programmer are increasingly sparse and between. I have a sense that I could be 10X more powerful if I just properly string together what has become available over the last ~year and a failure to claim the boost feels decidedly like skill issue. There's a new programmable layer of abstraction to master (in addition to the usual layers below) involving agents, subagents, their prompts, contexts, memory, modes, permissions, tools, plugins, skills, hooks, MCP, LSP, slash commands, workflows, IDE integrations, and a need to build an all-encompassing mental model of the new system. The pitfalls of fundamentally stochastic, fallible, uninformed entities suddenly intermingled with what used to be engineering. Clearly some powerful alien tool was used to build it, it comes with no manual and everyone has to figure it out and operate it, while the resulting magnitude 9 earthquake is shaking the profession. Roll up your sleeves to not fall behind.

6:36 AM · Dec 27, 2025 · 17M Views



VUW motto: *Sapientia magis auro desideranda.*

Wisdom is to be desired more than gold.

(Proverbs 16:16)

Does Cosmological Evolution Select for Technology?

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Abstract

If the parameters defining the physics of our universe departed from their present values, life and complexity would not be supported. This article considers whether similar fine-tuning is required for technology. The anthropic principle is one means of explaining the observed fine-tuning of technology. The anthropic principle constrains physical theories to allow for our existence, yet the principle of technology. Cosmological natural selection has been proposed as an alternative to the anthropic principle. In this framework, fine-tuning results from selection of universes capable of prolific reproduction. It is proposed that reproduction occurs through singularities resulting from supernovae. Life may facilitate the production of the singularities that become offspring universes. We ask whether necessary for production of singularities by living beings, and ask whether the physics of the universe simultaneously enable stars, intelligent life, and technology capable of creating singularities. It appears implausibly equipped to perform tasks necessary for production of singularities. Fine-tuning through cosmological natural selection. These technologies include silicon electronics, space exploration, cryogenic infrastructure enabled by the thermodynamic properties of liquid helium. We determine regions of physical parameter space in which the constraints of stars, life, and technology are satisfied. If this overlapping parameter range is small, we should be surprised that it is. The tests do not call for new astrophysical or cosmological observations. Well-understood condensed matter systems are required.

collapse supernovae [17]. The theory may account for the anomalous values of certain physical parameters. The small value of gravitational coupling is necessary for stars to have long lives, while light quark masses lead to nuclear properties necessary for solar fusion. While the anthropic principle leads us to expect physical parameters fine-tuned for life, Smolin's perspective leads us to expect physical parameters fine-tuned for stars. Neither picture accounts for the fitness of the parameters of the universe for the realization of advanced technology. Smolin asked the question "Why are the laws of physics and the initial conditions of the universe such that stars exist?" [17] To this I add the question, "Why are the laws of physics and the initial conditions of the universe such that technology is feasible?" Perhaps life and technology are both fortuitous consequences of physics tuned for stars, or perhaps they have been selected through the same evolutionary process. Tests described in this paper are designed to differentiate between these possibilities.