VRgil

We are developing an educational tool that will enhance perspective, priorities, unity and act as a testament to our genomic desire to improve upon ourselves. We are creating a Virtual-Reality based library (VRgil) containing our known history and knowledge of this reality. The technology will bring values, ethics, and morals to the forefront of education, giving us an unique ability to organize ourselves and a chance to secure a future objectively worth having. The name of this enterprise refers to the Roman poet Virgil whom served as Dante's guide through the inferno.

We seek to swell our collective reference-frame, which will eventually harden into what we may call increased perspective. This new asset will enable cooperation on a never before seen scale, which is the essential first step towards unity. The tool we are building will act as the expansive bedrock on which dialogue about " who we are, what we are, and where we are going " will find solid ground.

When two people are looking at an object both may agree upon the colour, but we have no way of discerning the individual interpretation of, for example, "the colour red". These slight variations of nuance can result in a potentially catastrophic loss of information when it comes to inter-human communication. These undocumented gaps in experience grow larger when we consider abstract thinking or the imagination. Some concepts deserve our undivided attention; the future, purpose, duty and truth comes to mind. We need to move these ideas towards the visual, where the loss of information is comparatively mild. This tool aims to enable this conversion.

What constitutes a worthy existence? What tasks generate true meaning and how do we maximize human potential? The cost of improvement versus the cost of indifference. This is the debate we will be having in the coming years. Reintroduce the hard questions back into the mainstream, or rediscover the cost of failing to do so.

For the majority of the concepts and ideas contained within this text, we cannot claim to be the originator or source. Our role is that of the composer. We are naught but the maestro of echoes, and words can only take us so far. Undoubtedly, the crescendo can only be reached through action.

"The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything except our modes of thinking. Thus, we are drifting toward catastrophe beyond conception. We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive."

"You may reasonably expect a man to walk a tightrope safely for ten minutes; it would be unreasonable to do so without an accident for two hundred years."

These short quotes by Einstein and Russell will serve as a fine jumping off point for this section.
There are many paths that could lead us towards civilizational degradation or in some cases, destruction.
The war-economy. Antibiotic-resistance. Resource-depletion. Metroid-impacts. Fanaticism. Fiat/debt-based economy.
Irreversible environmental destruction. A modern example would be unregulated artificial-intelligence research.
These are by no means the only things that threatens to annihilate the steady improvement of the human experience.
Knowledge of these matters should foster a sense of urgency as well as responsibility at an individual level.

One of the main goals of VRgil is to imbue the user with a sense of interconnectedness with our past and to clearly see how we are all part of the same story. As we move towards an increasingly secular world we risk losing our sense of a grand narrative, a powerful force against creeping nihilism. We will attach the users to the grand narrative of mankind itself, making them able to rejoice over our heroic progression throughout the ages. Once the system is operational it will aim to connect the user to the timeline before their first memories, providing an embodied understanding of our past. We will seek to meld the user with the fragmented meta-consciousness of mankind; our written history. This act will make us a far more competent actor in the present, by being able to make high-resolution abstractions about the future.

Our species have reached a level of cognition that allows our ideas to act as a mutagen upon entire populations, drastically altering behavior, equal to that of changes at the molecular level. We may even outcompete bacteria and viruses in terms of mutationrate if one accepts this premise. A case can also be made that this phenomenon is a more evolved form of classic mutation, only available to species which have reached a certain level of cognition. As far as we know, we are the most capable organism to generate this type of self-imposed mutation. The mutagen that we select for, our ideas, must bestow us with the strength to strive for unity. "*The pursuit of knowledge in the spirit of altruism*", we wager that the proverbial software that a unity-centric civilization runs on will most likely have to reflect ideas such as these. This civilizational shift is the key to escaping the coming years unscathed.

Despite all of our current predicaments, we must remember to be grateful, we are at the cutting edge of human sophistication. Our past is even more bizarre but in a monotone, hellish way. The famine-fueled desperation of our ancestors gives us some idea about what a world without science and capitalism looked like. In a history shaped by tribalistic warfare, we now live in the era of fiber-optics and modern medicine; we are a lucky bunch. This future that we are currently occupying was forged by extraordinary people, and immense gratitude is in order. While having that in mind we will now acknowledge that changes are required.

We have inherited a disproportionate amount of responsibility compared to those who came before us.
We can no longer afford to be philosophically illiterate, materialist or value-less as we continue the human project.
That model has been pushed to its very edge by our predecessors. We need to adopt the useful aspects of the previous generations and shed ourselves of others as we continue to ascend. Free-market capitalism is the closest thing we have to a meritocracy based economic system. While being a true statement it must evolve if we are to face the challenges of tomorrow. The premier way of generating profit in modern times is by outcompeting your market adversaries. This competition leads to innovation, excellence, and refinement. We would do well to adopt "continuous improvement" from this phenomena as we head into the future. However, that's about it. The competitors and the game itself has to be altered.

You against me, need to become "Us against the unknown". The game currently being played is called monetary acquisition, we need to be playing the game of knowledge acquisition. We find ourselves swinging atop the aforementioned tightrope, and civilization hangs in the balance. We are not here to point out scapegoats, lament our misfortune or raise our fists towards the sky. We are here to provide a solution, we are here to change the current paradigm and hopefully enhance this world that we once woke upon.

- Further exploration of the software, hardware and general design can be found in <u>VRgil Expanded</u>; The product -