

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of the interior of a Gothic cathedral. The image captures the soaring height of the architecture, with pointed arches and ribbed vaults creating a series of vertical lines that draw the eye towards the top. The walls and ceiling are covered in intricate stained glass windows, featuring a variety of colors including red, blue, green, and gold. The light filtering through the glass creates a warm, golden glow throughout the space. On the left and right sides, there are large, ornate statues of figures, possibly saints or angels, set within niches. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and spiritual awe.

Goddess Serendipity

Where DISCOVERY
Enters The Cathedral Of Knowledge

Go2Fun - Glenn L. Flock

Serendipity

A Concept Born Of Chaos, Discovery And Opportunity

Serendipity believers worship at the Altar of Expeditions, Chaos Theory and Schrödinger's Cat.



Serendipity believers often travel The [Antifragile](#) World of Nassim Nicholas Taleb.



Goddess Serendipity's World Of Opportunities

COME-TO-SERENDIPITY MOMENTS

Try not to walk bent-over and backward into the future. Especially when experiencing a Come-To-Serendipity moment. Watch out for horny devils waiting to take advantage of your tinder bits. Face forward, stand up and seek **opportunities**.

GUIDANCE

It's good to gaze into the future with focus, resolve and excitement. Eyes and ears open; brain engaged and awake. Guided by the lighthouses of Common Sense, Logic and Reason.

Encourage the excitement derived from never knowing what you'll discover. The focus to *think critically*. The resolve to apply common sense, logic and reason so you can take advantage of any **opportunity**.



Resisting CHAnGE and remaining a Two-fingered Pecker in today's world doesn't cut it. Like it or not, the [Singularity](#) can tear you apart like a hungry lion. Indeed, it might.

DECISIONS. IMPORTANT DECISIONS.

Mysticism of any kind has **no** place whatever in the Church of Goddess Serendipity. None.

Magical thinking belief systems quickly become sea anchors. Retarding progress and recognition of reality.

Your First decision is whether to set aside any kind of thinking that denies reality. The observation and evidence of **Objective Reality**.

This is a critical decision. It directly relates to your ability to adjust, adapt and cope with the Singularity.

To recognize *reasonable* opportunities right in front of your nose. To manage CHAnGE born in the moment.

Your Second decision has to do with FAITH.

Paraphrasing Wikipedia: **Faith is ...**

- Confidence or trust in a person or thing;
- The observance of an obligation from loyalty;
- Fidelity to a person, promise, engagement;
- **A belief not based on proof**; Or, it may refer to a particular system of religious belief.

The term “faith” has many connotations. It’s used in different ways and almost always depends on a referenced **context**.

Far too often the word “**faith**” it’s used as a substitute for the word “**confidence**”. Even though many dictionaries and thesaurus’ say they’re synonyms.

Today’s usage leans toward the two words *not* meaning quite the same. Especially *outside* the religion arena.



Suddenly, the Singularity stage door opens!

REALITY is about to visit these sacks of *homo sapien* protein. There they are, hoping some **Great Spirit** will talk to the lions. Say something like “Hey Dudes, don’t eat them *dumme asle* bipedals. They taste like baboons. **Nasty!** We all know how baboons lope around *moon*ing everybody.”

Hungry lions don’t do *NASTY*. They only ***eat*** sweet meat.

Suddenly, all is quiet. Protein Sacks huddle in-cage onstage. They’ve forgotten their lines and started to sweat. Although they ***feel*** the need to slap the slobber off lion lips, they can’t.

They’re catatonic with fear. Their “faith” and “confidence” in Great Spirits departed stage-right.

“Who will save us?”, they cry. ***LionBait***, their ancient ancestor, hears the wail. Leaping through time, he’s their Cage Driver ready to save his distant spawn.

Having seen a job listing on MonsteR for a Cage Driver on the Serengeti plain, he expedited the opportunity right away. He became their genetic-memory hero.

[See the nearby “[Free Riders](#)” PDF for the full story on how *LionBait* became the First Shaman in history.]

Third decision is to make an effort to determine a rational definition of [BELIEF](#).

Belief is a state of mind in which a person thinks something to be the case. Something congruent with reality. With or without empirical evidence to prove **factually** something is the case.



***Belief** is when someone thinks something is real or true when they have **no** absolute verified foundation for their certainty.*

Yet, all “belief” isn’t bad. Far from it.

Many decades ago I read [The Magic Of Believing](#) by the late Claude Bristol.

It’s still available today and well worth reading.

Here’s a snippet of his thinking from Chapter 1.

About the Author

The late **Claude M. Bristol** was a lawyer, lecturer, investment banker, and foreign correspondent. He is the coauthor of the long-time bestseller, *"TNT: The Power Within."*

Chapter One

How I came to tap the power of belief.

Is there some force, or factor, or power, or science -- call it what you will -- which a few people understand and use to overcome their difficulties and achieve outstanding success?

I firmly believe that there is, and it is my purpose in this book to try to explain it so that you can use it if you desire.

Around 1933 the financial editor of a great Los Angeles newspaper attended lectures I gave to financial men in that dry and read my brochure *T.N.T. -- It Rocks the Earth*.

Afterwards, he wrote, "You have caught from the ether something that has a mystical quality -- a something that explains the magic of coincidence, the mystery of what makes men lucky."

I realized that I had run across something that was practical and workable. But **I didn't consider it then (neither do I now) as anything mystical**, except in the sense that it is unknown to the majority of people.

This "something" has always been known to a fortunate few down the centuries, but for some unknown reason it is still barely understood by the average person.

PERCEIVING REALITY

The idea is to recognize and accept **REALITY**. *No task is more difficult in moments of stress.* Many tend to react to life events based on a three-legged stool of cognition. Well, that too often leads down steep rocky cliffs.

1. [Normalcy Bias](#). What you've always done before and not gonna do different now, *no matter what*.
2. [Behavioral Scripts](#). Where you have an irresistible urge to keep doing the same mindless things that didn't work, won't work and can't work.
3. [Denial](#). "*That swamp toad is a Pink Fairy. I don't care if you say it's a pink elephant. It's a stinky-pinky TOAD!*"

When all three legs are in consort, it's a good time to call 911. Make sure the First Responders bring a new **fainting couch**. Well padded. With tissues. Comfy. Soft.

When in Psychological Denial, Goddess Serendipity will send you to purgatory or worse. *What's that burning smell you detect as you saunter bent-over and backward into time?*

RECOGNITION

Your Senses Can Fool You.

Even when you're not under duress, **recognizing reality** can be daunting.

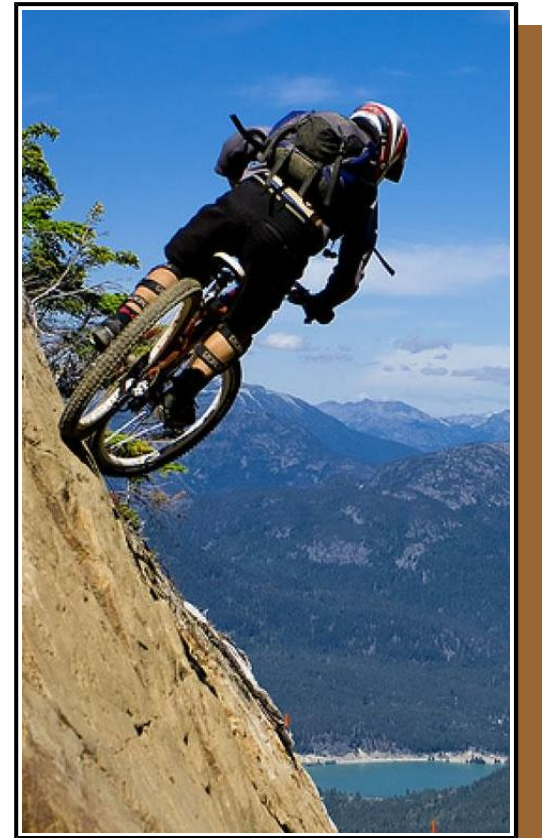
In fact, on many levels, it can be *the most difficult thing* humans ever do.

When Big Chaos is coming at you, an **objective mindset** becomes critical to life.

There's also BIG FEAR. Fear that can take your breath away.

When facing DOOM and you've removed your training wheels, fear will set you free when you decide to

GET THE HELL OFF!



If you don't bail, there's a near certainty you'll become a scrawny Naked Skeleton. "Fleshly" torn asunder after you plummet straight off the cliff to the bottom.

Where a FLOCK of [Sky Burial](#) buzzards await. Each ready to pick your carcass *whistle-billy* clean.

Having **confidence** in the skill-set you've acquired over hundreds of riding hours is cool. It helps you manage the fear and radical CHANGE. You *know* you're focused and alive.

THE POINT

Goddess Serendipity offers **opportunities**. But she never guarantees your ability to recognize or take advantage of them. (*"You can't lead a horse to water and make him drink, etc."*)

That's why you need tools of cognition based in REALITY.
In other words, **Mind-tools** that help you THINK. Ways of thinking enabling you to enter the Church of Serendipity.

Here's a good place to start:

"The Objectivist Ethics," — *The Virtue of Selfishness*, 21

Thinking is man's only basic virtue from which all the others proceed.

And his basic vice, the source of all his evils, is that nameless act which all of you practice, but struggle never to admit:

- the act of blanking out,
- the willful suspension of one's consciousness,
- **the refusal to think**—not blindness, but the refusal to see;
- **not ignorance, but the refusal to know.**

It is the act of unfocusing your mind' and inducing an inner fog to escape the responsibility of judgment.

Judgment on the unstated premise that a thing will not exist if only you refuse to identify it, that A will not be A so long as you do not pronounce the verdict **"It *is*."**

Non-thinking is an act of annihilation, a wish to negate existence, an attempt to wipe out reality.

But **existence exists**; reality is not to be wiped out, it will merely wipe out the wiper.

By refusing to say “It is,” you are refusing to say “I am.”

By suspending your judgment, you are negating your person.

When a man declares: ‘Who am I to know?’—he is declaring: “Who am I to live?”

Ayn Rand

IGNORING a “Come-to-Serendipity” moment is akin to the refusal to seek opportunities.

Which is like asking “***Who am I to live?***”

CRITICAL THINKING

Dumbing-down the Great Unwashed seems to be the central curriculum in schools today.

The teaching of **Critical Thinking** and its corollary, **Skepticism**, are woefully inadequate.

Meet [The Critical Thinking Community](#): An excerpt from this important and surprising world:

Why the Analysis of Thinking is Important

Everyone thinks; it is our nature to do so. But much of our thinking, left to itself, is biased, distorted, partial, uninformed, or downright prejudiced.

If we want to think well, we must understand the rudiments of thought, the most basic structures out of which all thinking is made. We must learn how to take thinking apart. **All Thinking Is Defined by Eight Elements.**

Eight basic structures are present in all thinking:

Whenever we think, we think for a purpose within a point of view based on assumptions leading to implications and consequences.

We use concepts, ideas and theories to interpret data, facts, and experiences in order to answer questions, solve problems, and resolve issues.

To Analyze Thinking We Must Identify and Question its Elemental Structures

Use the elements with sensitivity to Intellectual Standards »

Clarity	Accuracy	Precision	Relevance	Depth
Breadth	Logic	Significance	Fairness	more...

THINKING:

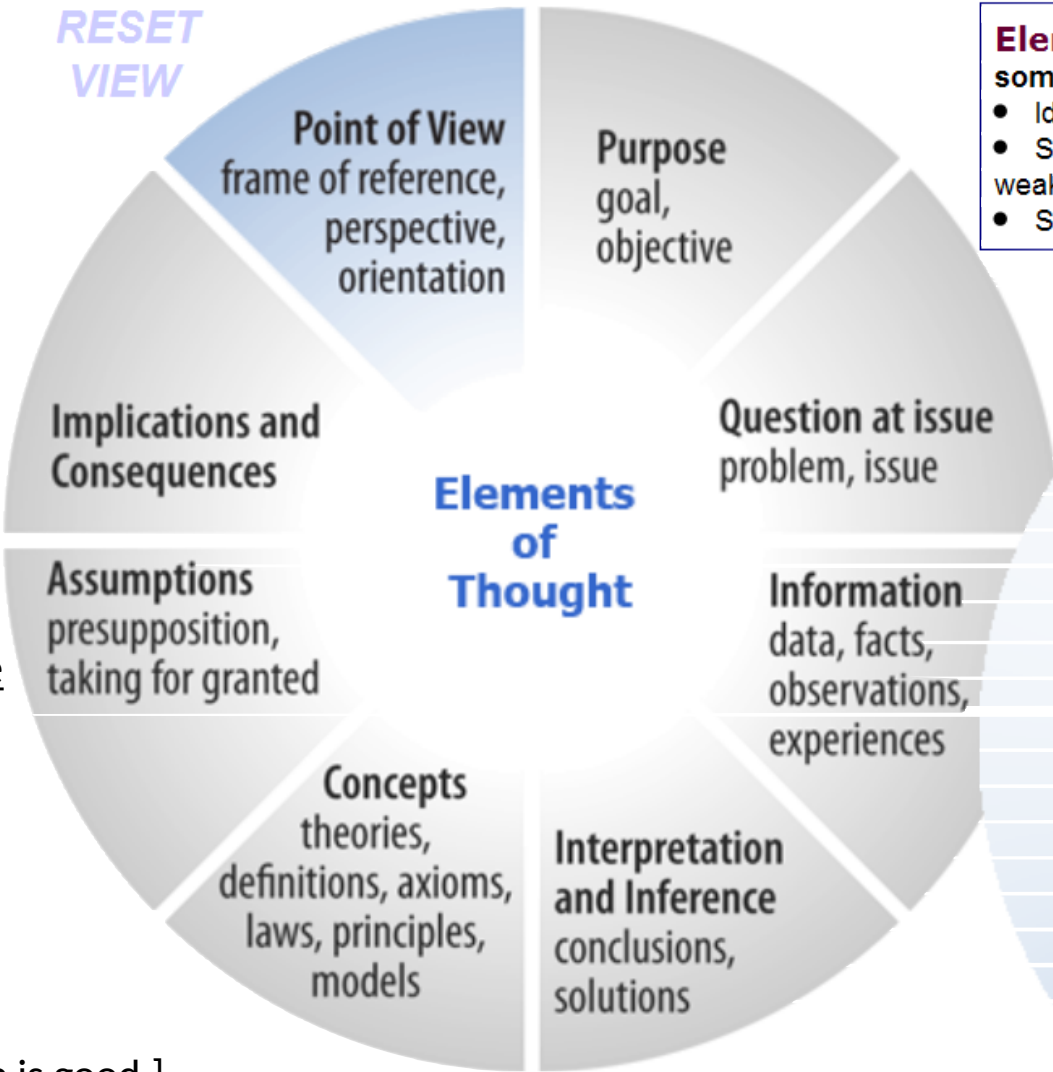
- generates purposes
- raises questions
- uses information
- utilizes concepts
- makes inferences
- makes assumptions
- generates implications
- embodies a point of view

The [image link](#) on the right is an *interactive* way to learn more about critical thinking.

It's <very> IMPORTANT.

Seriously important.

[Opening the image link in a new tab is good.]



Element: Point Of View All reasoning is done from some **POINT OF VIEW**.

- Identify your point of view.
- Seek other points of view and identify their strengths as well as weaknesses.
- Strive to be fairminded in evaluating all points of view.

Understand Your...
Point of View

Point of view is literally “the place” from which you view something. It includes what you are looking at and the way you are seeing it.

Make sure you understand the limitations of your point of view and that you fully consider other relevant viewpoints.

Questions to check your point of view

- How am I looking at this situation? Is there another way to look at it that I should consider?
- What exactly am I focused on? And how am I seeing it?
- Is my view the only reasonable view? What does my point of view ignore?
- Have you ever considered the way ____ (Japanese, Muslims, South Americans, etc.) view this?
- Which of these possible viewpoints makes the most sense given the situation?
- Am I having difficulty looking at this situation from a viewpoint with which I disagree?
- What is the point of view of the author of this story?
- Do I study viewpoints that challenge my personal beliefs?

SIDEBAR: As we've stated elsewhere, our links and videos are important to the stories. Please follow them. It eliminates our having to reinvent the wheel. Repeat everything *ad infinitum*.

Right below comes an *opportunity*. To think, challenge and process ideas. And decide whether **Ayn Rand's** thinking is congruent with reality or only mindless drivel.

YOU ARE THE JUDGE.

For the New Intellectual, **To the [mystic]**, as to an animal, the irreducible primary is the automatic phenomena of his own **consciousness**.

An animal has no critical faculty; he has no control over the function of his brain and no power to question its content.

To an animal, whatever strikes his *awareness* is an absolute that corresponds to reality — or rather, it's a distinction he's incapable of making:

Reality, to him, is whatever he senses or feels. And *this* is the [mystic's] epistemological ideal, the mode of consciousness he strives to induce in himself.

To the [mystic], emotions are tools of cognition, and wishes take precedence over FACTS.

He seeks to escape the risks of a quest for knowledge by obliterating the distinction between

- consciousness and reality,
- between the perceiver and the perceived;
- hoping that an automatic certainty and
- an infallible knowledge of the universe will be granted to him by the blind,
- unfocused stare of his eyes turned inward,
- contemplating the sensations, the feelings, the urgings, the muggy associational twistings projected by the rudderless mechanism of his undirected consciousness.

Whatever his mechanism produces is an absolute not to be questioned; and whenever it clashes with reality, it is reality that he ignores.

Since the clash is constant, the [mystic's] solution is to believe that what he perceives is another, “higher” reality

- where his **wishes** are omnipotent,
- where **contradictions** are possible and A is non-A,
- where his **assertions**, which are false on earth,
- become true and acquire the status of a “superior” truth which *he* perceives by means of a special faculty denied to other, “inferior,” beings.

The only validation of his consciousness he can obtain on earth is the *belief and the obedience of others*,

when they accept his “truth” as superior to their own perception of reality.

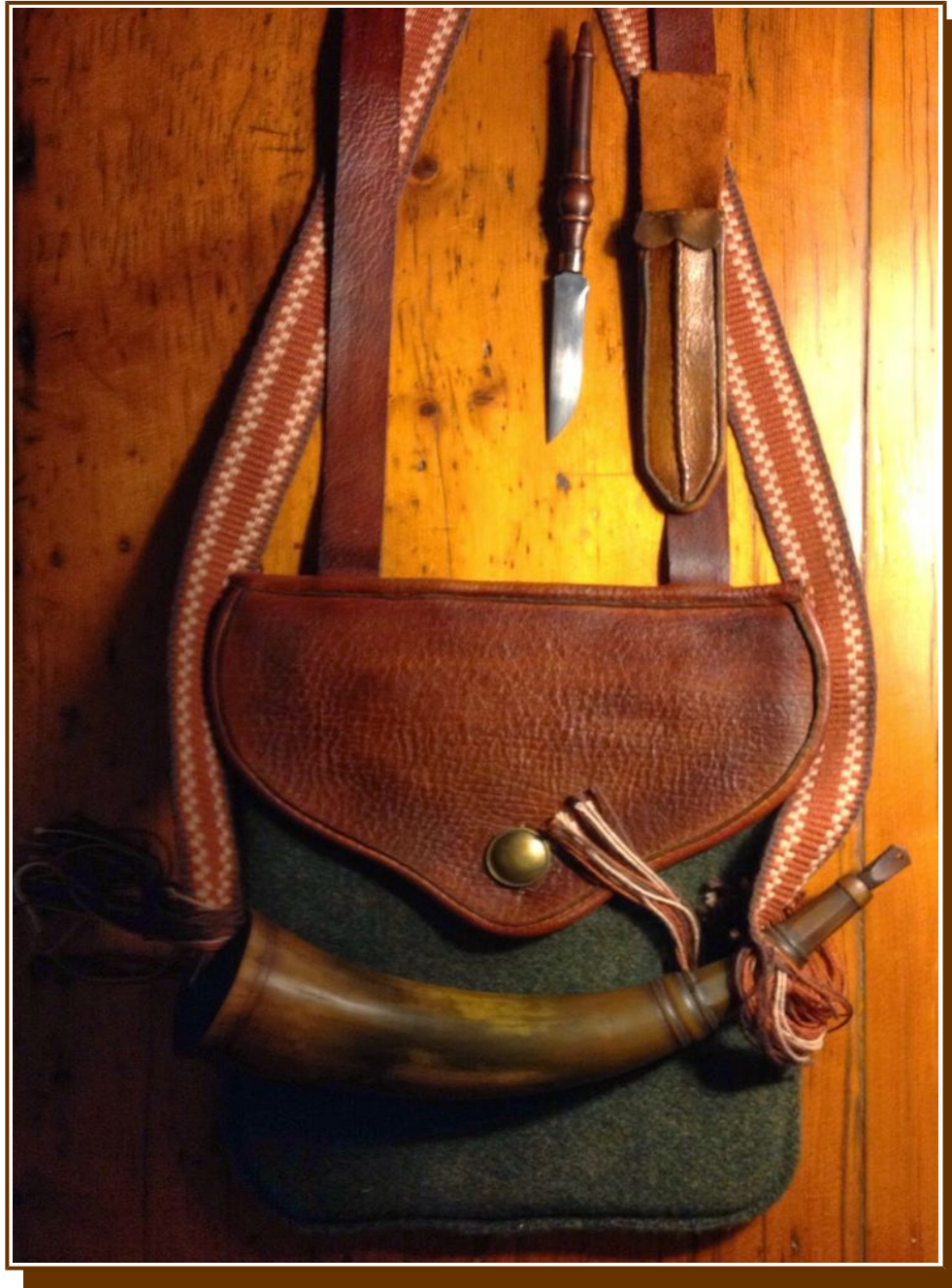
There's another set of principles I've found to be compatible with Rand's thoughts. They are of immense help in recognizing opportunities. And a significant guide for a better life.

The original title is [Extropian Principles 3.11](#) by Max More — another deep thinker.

For the purposes of Go2Fun, we've taken the liberty of renaming them to “**7 Principles of CHAnGE**”.

They are on page 14 of *In The Spirit Of The Oregon Trail — Who Are You People, Anyway?*

At [About Us](#).



YOU NEED A POSSIBLES BAG

From [Wikipedia](#):

Mountain men carried them. ... Each mountain man also carried basic gear, which could include arms, [powder horns](#) and a [shot](#) pouch, knives and [hatchets](#), [canteens](#), [cooking utensils](#), and supplies of [tobacco](#), [coffee](#), [salt](#), and [pemmican](#). Items (other than shooting supplies) needing to be "at hand" were carried in a "**possibles**" bag.

For big fun, let's call them *SERENDIPITY SATCHELS (SS)*.
SS troops carry tools, supplies and thingies useful for finding opportunities. And live a better life.

It's beneficial to think *"I'm going to find something interesting and useful **today**."*

*Don't know where, when or how; but I'm going to **discover something**.*

All I have to do is LOOK."

LOAD 'EM UP & GET MOVIN'



Load up with an attitude of Adventure and **Curiosity**.

These are the first things to put in your Serendipity Satchel along with critical thinking.

SIDEBAR: The main theme of Go2Fun Boutique is our FutureBook Project titled *Handle It!* It's where we'll be making deep-dives into critical thinking.

It's about providing **answers** on how to live with the CHANGES brought about by the Singularity. Primarily by using intelligent and useful Mind-tools. For example:

- E.S.S.A. —
Eliminate, Simplify, Standardize, Automate.
- [S.W.O.T.](#) —
Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats.
- [O.O.D.A.](#) —
Observe, Orient, Decide, Act.
- [W.R.A.P.](#) — A “Decision” Mind-tool by Chip and Dan Heath. Two psychologists who THINK.

So, launch an [Expedition](#). Start looking for TREASURES.

Treasure Islands.

Right offshore live schools of Opportunity Fish. The events, situations, things and ideas important to the well-being of you and your family.

Always changing, whether you like it or not, they must present opportunities to catch. Grab without the need to release. To eat when you're hungry.



Opportunities live in your treasure chest.

ASK QUESTIONS — “MANY” QUESTIONS

Having relevant, concise and probing questions is the idea. Being ready for whatever it is you want solved, fixed or put to death (eliminated).

*How does this thing, situation or event **connect** to my <whatever> situation? Does it provide an answer?*

*How can I **benefit**? (“**Qui Bono**” — “to whose benefit” in Latin Intelligentsia Talk.)*

*Should I conduct a **triage** of ...*

- *Act-now?*
- *Put-it-at-arms-length?*
- *Take-it-to-my-storage-shed for later use?*

TO BE OR NOT TO BE

*What will it **cost** me in time, money and effort to act?*

Or, not act?

Questions are frameworks for finding opportunities.

Keep a FLOCK of them in your mind as you go about your day. No need to make them specific or academic.

They can be dreamy or fuzzy.

Even breathless.

WHEEZE!



Questions are often like chasing free-ranging chickens.

HARD WORK!

BECOME AN IDEA MACHINE



Meet [James Altucher](#).

Don't even think of underestimating this man. His mind can be highly beneficial to your living through the Singularity. A snippet from one of his posts:

Here is the thing that you have to remember...

MOST people's jobs and businesses will be massively affected by amazing changes in how the world works within the next 5 years... ([I told you about that here](#)) but few people grasp just how sweeping the changes will be. Countless jobs, entire industries will disappear.

I'm not saying you SHOULD panic, but panic can be useful when you are trying to change your life.

Actually, the problem is this: you're NOT in a state of panic most of the time. States of panic are special and have to be revered...

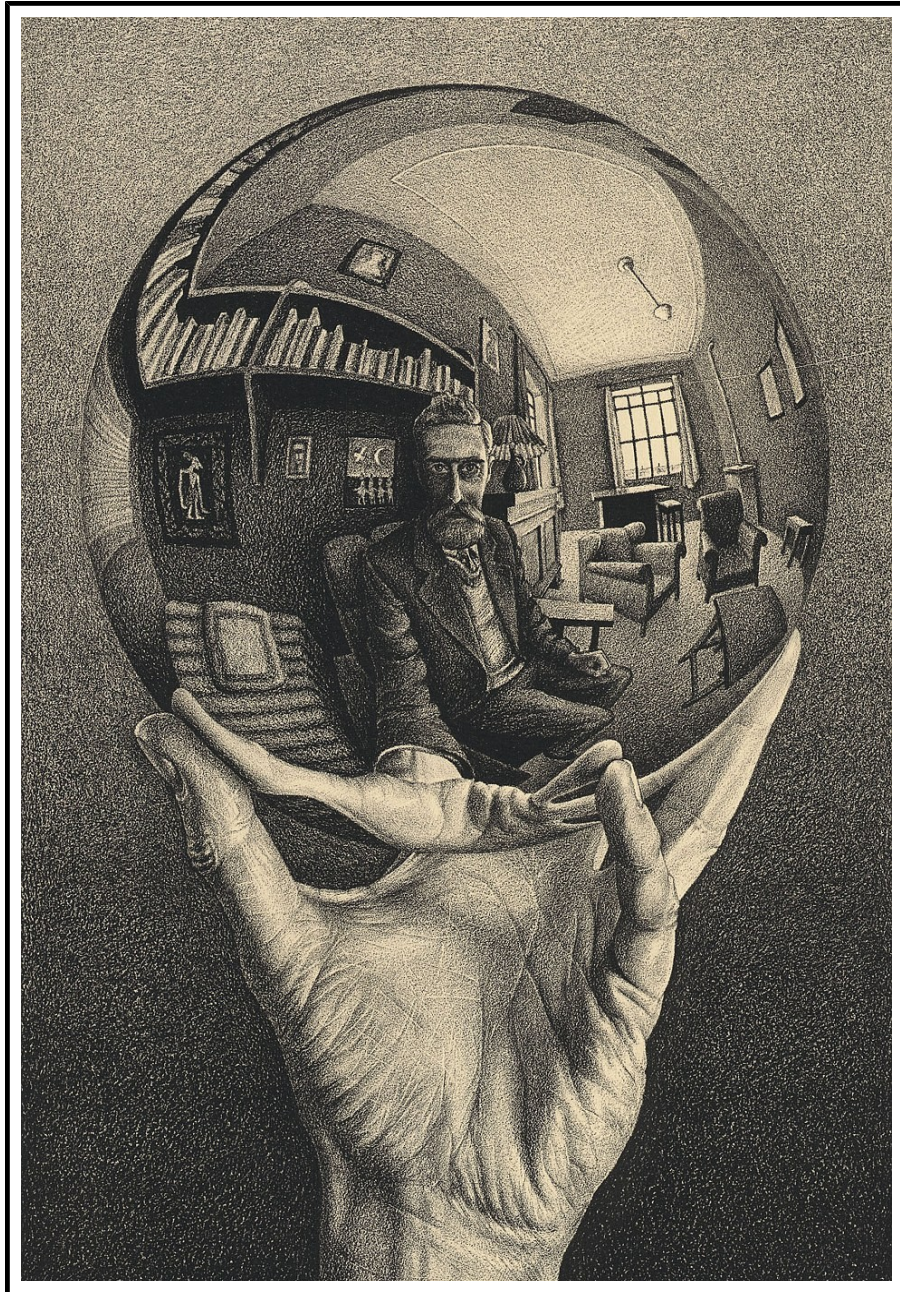
Think about the times in your life that you remember – it's exactly those moments when you hit bottom and were forced to come up with ideas, to get stronger, to connect with some inner force inside you with the outer force.

This is why it's important NOW to strengthen that connection to that idea force inside of you.

[This post](#) is about **HOW...** You CAN'T trust the old style of thinking anymore. If you want to survive in the **idea economy** you have to come up with a new way of thinking. A new way of having ideas. A new way of interacting with the outside universe.

You're in crisis...and you're not alone.

Time to CHANGE. Time to become an **idea machine**.



DECISIONS

It's important — and critical — to learn the art of making intelligent and rational decisions. Some people make them quick; others engage in the “process” *forever*.

“Making decisions” is an important skill to learn. Humility, courage and commitment should be your constant companion as you gain expertise.

Here, it's only mentioned as we cover it in more detail in the FutureBook Project *Handle It!*

Every day from now on, you'll be making decisions about your life's **opportunities**.

ACTION

To state the obvious, once decisions are made, it's time to **ACT**. This means *doing* something!

As the Nike slogan says, ***Just Do It!***

SO, THERE YOU ARE — And Here We Sit

You've been whip-cracked by the phase-change of the Singularity. Discovered Serendipity Satchels (SS), Critical Thinking and Mind-tools. Even dipped your toes into the Sea of Philosophy.

Your SS is full. Your mind-tools, idea machine and explorer gear are on board. You're ready to set sail for the Sea Of Opportunities.

Goddess Serendipity is your navigator. Treat her with respect and kindness and she'll surely lavish delightful and surprising opportunities upon you. Even copious knowledge and reality-based wisdom.

Ignore her and the Wrath Of The Singularity will visit heavily upon you.

As you set sail, a good thing to remember is ...



***“All the water in the world won't sink your boat
unless some of it gets inside.”***

Mind the tides — **float** — Join the [**Free Riders**](#)