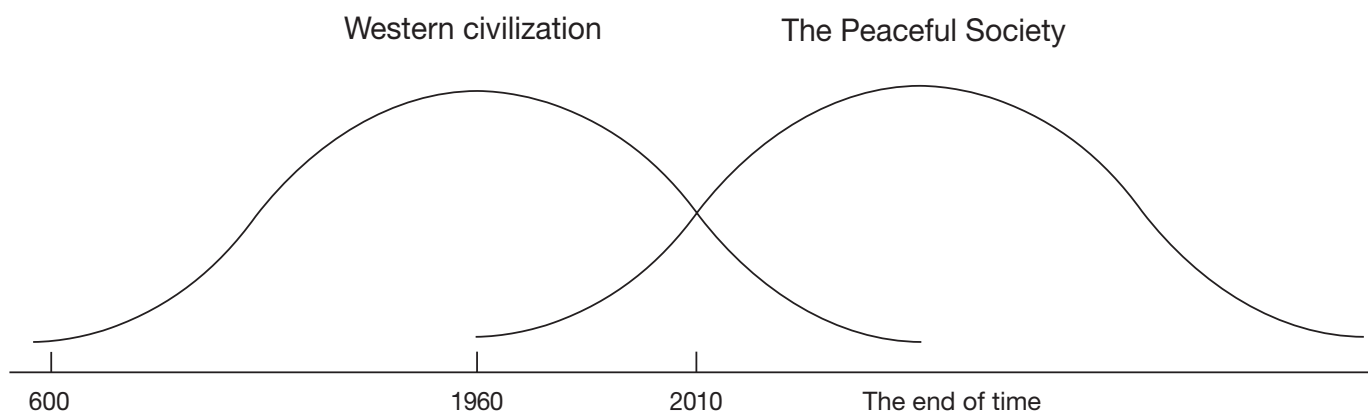


Our Evolutionary Story

A Synopsis for a Television Series



Paul Hague
August 2006

Executive summary

This document contains a draft proposal for a 13-part television series describing the evolutionary story that is common to us all, where we have all come from and where we are all heading at ever-increasing rates of evolutionary change. It has been inspired particularly by David Attenborough's *Life on Earth*, broadcast by the BBC in 1979, taking a further evolutionary step along the line set by the popular movie *What the Bleep Do We Know!?*

Drawing on Arnold Toynbee's 12-volume *A Study of History, Our Evolutionary Story* will show that Western civilization, which dominates the world today through the global economy, is rapidly dying, like the Roman Empire, which brought the Hellenic civilization to an end. This TV series will thus show that our individual behaviour patterns are part of a bigger evolutionary picture; none of us are absolutely autonomous beings who can determine how we behave independent of society as a whole. There is no one to blame or praise for the state of the world today; it is as it is because of the way that evolution has unfolded during the past fourteen billion years.

Our Evolutionary Story will be a life-affirming TV series intended to present this big picture, trusting that in doing so we can accelerate the emergence of the Peaceful Society, a new humanity living in love, peace, and harmony with itself and Nature. Recognizing that the critically urgent problems currently facing humanity are psychospiritual, the series will have three major goals:

1. To stimulate the spiritual renaissance taking place around the world today, encouraging the populace to work lovingly and harmoniously together with a common vision, in accord with the synergistic, healing, and convergent tendencies of evolutionary processes.
2. By inspiring those who are moved to self-inquiry, to complete the revolution in science that has been emerging during the past few decades, establishing Consciousness as the primary reality, not the physical universe, thus enabling evolution to become fully conscious of itself.
3. By thus recognizing that we all one whole, not separate from God, Nature, or each other, to describe the fundamental principles of the Sharing Economy, which could emerge when the global economy self-destructs at the beginning of the next decade, as many visionaries can intuitively see today.

This draft document contains an overview of the evolutionary vision to be communicated in this series, followed by a synopsis of the thirteen episodes and a short description of my own evolutionary story. My plan now is to gather together a small core team of producers, directors, and specialists in their various fields to turn this synopsis into a script for the series. This will then give us the foundation and framework on which to build a business plan that we can present to potential financial supporters.

As this TV series is in complete harmony with the creative powers of evolution, let us trust that Life will give us the necessary funding for this ambitious project. For given the great global crisis we all face today, it is in no one's interest to continue fighting each other for the precious resources of our beautiful planet Earth, including the finite money supply. As Western civilization is further removed from Reality than any other civilization in the history of human learning, let us trust that Life will soon dissolve the religious, scientific, and economic cultural conditioning that prevents us from realizing our fullest potential as loving, conscious, and intelligent human beings, from cocreating a fully awakened, liberated, healthy, and peaceful society.

Further copies of this document are available from http://www.paragonian.org/tv/our_evolutionary_story.pdf. If you would like further information on this proposal, you are most welcome to contact me at <paul at paragonian.org> or visit my web site: www.paragonian.org.

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Imagine

*Imagine there's no heaven
it's easy if you try
no hell below us
above us only sky
imagine all the people
living for today ...*

*Imagine there's no countries
it isn't hard to do
nothing to kill or die for
and no religion too
imagine all the people
living life in peace ...*

*You may say I'm a dreamer
but I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
and the world will be as one*

*Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
no need for greed or hunger
a brotherhood of man
imagine all the people
sharing all the world ...*

*You may say I'm a dreamer
but I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
and the world will live as one*

John Lennon (1940–1980)

Our Evolutionary Story

A Synopsis for a Television Series

The pace of change in the world today is accelerating exponentially, being driven particularly by the knowledge and intellectual abilities of scientists and technologists, aided and abetted by computer technology. However, because of our evolutionary inheritance, there is not yet a generally accepted theory of evolutionary change that can explain why this is happening to us, or explain our origin as a species and our ultimate destiny. So while evolution is becoming conscious of itself in modern scientific man, as Julian Huxley observed in his preface to Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's *The Phenomenon of Man*, science is still not able to help us understand how Life, the creative power of the Divine, can liberate us from conflict and suffering, can heal our fragmented minds in Love and Wholeness, and can bring Peace to the world by ending the war between science and religion.

Popular movies like *What the Bleep Do We Know!?* and *Sofies Verden (Sophie's World)*, a Norwegian dramatization of Jostein Gaarder's philosophical novel of that name, are indications of evolution becoming increasingly conscious of itself. For they set out to answer such fundamental questions as "Who are we?", "Where have we come from?", "Where are we going?", and "Why are we here?". However, there are still some further steps that we can take in this awakening process, as this 13-part television series will endeavour to show.

Evolution's exponential rate of change

Our Evolutionary Story will be a life-affirming television series intended to help us awaken to the shared evolutionary energies that cause us to behave as we do. This is essential if we are ever to live in love, peace, and harmony with each other and our fellow creatures, including Gaia, free of fear, mistrust, and delusion. *Our Evolutionary Story* is a universal story, not a personal one, affecting the lives of everyone living on Earth. For we are all the products of some fourteen billion years of evolution since the most recent big bang. None of us would be where we are today without all these years of earlier development, which have both expanded and occluded our consciousness.

The programmes will continue where Kenneth Clarke's *Civilisation*, Jacob Bronowski's *The Ascent of Man*, and David Attenborough's *Life on Earth*, broadcast by the BBC in 1969, 1973, and 1979, respectively, left off. In particular, Attenborough's enthralling series brought the exponential rate of evolutionary development to public attention. As self-reproducing forms of life first appeared on Earth about 3.6 billion years ago, he showed that all this evolutionary time can be mapped to the 365 days of the year, one day being 10 million years.

Using this analogy, the first multi-cell organisms did not appear until the second week of August, with land plants appearing in the third week of November. Dinosaurs roamed the Earth during the middle two weeks of December, with mammals emerging shortly after the dinosaurs. Primates appeared just after Christmas, with the first humans (*Homo habilis*) being born in the early evening of 31st December.

But evolution did not stop there. During the evening of New Year's Eve, evolution transformed itself from a primarily biogenetic process, to a noogenetic, or mental, one. It is our learning that is now at the forefront of evolutionary development. We can say that this human learning process began about 25,000 years ago, as evidenced by the cave drawings in France, when our ancestors were given the great gift of self-reflective Intelligence, the ability that enables us to look inwards into the depths of the psyche, as well as outwards at our external world.

Using Attenborough's evolutionary model, this divine quality, which distinguishes us human beings from the other animals and machines, such as computers, appeared about three and half

minutes to midnight, recorded history began about forty seconds before midnight, and evolution began to become conscious of itself within science with the publication of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species* just one and a quarter seconds before midnight.

Our Evolutionary Story will focus attention on these last few minutes of evolutionary history, showing that we have either just reached midnight or are about to pass into the 'New Year', depending on whether we use generally accepted systems theory or the Mayan calendar as a model of the major evolutionary turning points for our calculations. In systems theory terms, we can call this transition evolution's point of accumulation, when there are no longer any evolutionary patterns that we can detect. At this point, evolution flows continuously, like a tap turned full on, rather than spasmodically, like a dripping tap. In other words, this series of television programmes will show that evolution is poised at the most momentous turning point in its history, leading us out of the war-torn mental-egoic age (me-epoch), of the last few millennia, into an age of universal spirituality (us-epoch), a new humanity living in quite exquisite beauty.

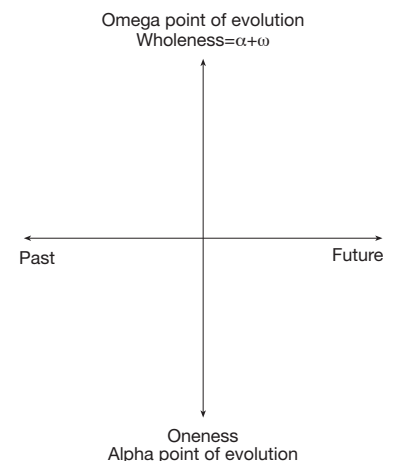
The emerging civilization

Using Arnold Toynbee's model of the birth and death of civilizations during the me-epoch, depicted on the last page of this synopsis, it is now crystal clear that Western civilization is dying, giving way to a quite new civilization that will carry us into undreamed of levels of love, consciousness, and intelligence. For Toynbee showed, in his 12-volume *A Study of History*, that civilizations disintegrate when the minority that originally brought the civilization into existence lose their creative power in what he called a universal state. In this state, the leadership seek to maintain the status quo, long after it is appropriate to do so. The American economic hegemony, which we can compare to the Roman Empire, which brought the Hellenic civilization to an end, is just such a universal state, being further maintained by religious and scientific fundamentalism.

Toynbee also showed that new civilizations emerge through a spiritual renaissance, which is exactly what is happening today. We are currently witnessing two major trends in society. As the prevailing culture self-destructs at an accelerating pace, the life-affirming alternative, which will unify East and West, is emerging faster and faster. Yet what is happening today will seem like a gentle breeze compared to the hurricane that is building up at this very moment.

The change that evolution is leading us to make at the present time is, in essence, very simple. We are changing from a horizontal view of time, which is essentially mechanistic, to a vertical view of time, in the eternal Now, made popular by Eckhart Tolle's best-selling *The Power of Now*. For when we base our lives on the immortal Ground of Being, resting in Stillness, we can be free of the fear of death, able to live harmoniously with the accelerating pace of evolutionary change, without resistance. This is of the utmost importance, for any species that does not adapt to its changing environment cannot expect to survive for very long. Furthermore, all creative processes begin in the vertical dimension of time, including the new civilization that is emerging today.

What this means is that to reach evolution's glorious culmination, we need to begin at the end and end at the beginning. For it is Oneness that seeks Wholeness, and Wholeness that seeks Oneness, just as the feminine and masculine and yin and yang seek each other. In other words, in Reality, there is no separation between the Alpha and Omega points of evolution; they coexist in the timeless Now.



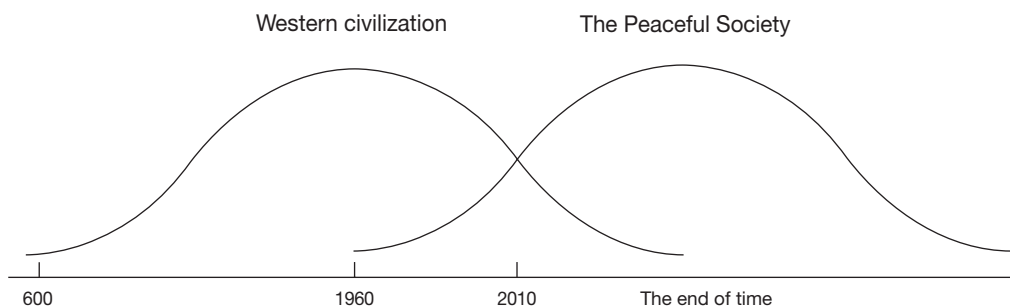
To put it another way, it is Truth that seeks Truth, Love that seeks Love, when our daily affairs and conditioning lead us astray from the Divine. The immense popularity of Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* is a symptom of this cosmic process, for the search for the Holy Grail is a symbol of our search for God, for Love and Wholeness. This is also a healing process, for the words *health*, *whole*, and *holy* have a common Germanic root. Not that this is easy, for the fairy tales of all cultures, where the hero has to overcome monsters, such as nine-headed trolls, to win the heart of the princess or reach the treasure, are also indications of this eternal search. As are alchemical attempts to turn lead into gold, which have been seen since the Middle Ages as a metaphor for spiritual transformation.

A holistic perspective

This great spiritual awakening is happening at the present time because evolution is both a divergent and convergent process, converging on its Omega point through the loving, synergistic relationships we are building between ourselves, much as Teilhard prophesied in *The Human Phenomenon*. We can see this evolutionary inevitability by looking at the broad sweep of evolutionary patterns over the years, both biological and cultural. What is significant about these cultural patterns, in particular, is that they are the effects, at the macro level, of individual behaviour patterns, at the micro level. We are all contributing, whether we are aware of it or not, to the rapid pace of integrative change we are experiencing today. The Internet and globalization are but two examples of this synergistic, convergent process.

We can liken this situation to a pot of water being put on to boil. We know at the macro level that the pot will eventually boil dry, but we cannot know the sequence in which individual molecules will escape from the pot as steam. Each of us is like an individual molecule in the pot of water. So we can only fully understand why we behave as we do by looking at the big picture, by watching the pot boiling. To use another metaphor, we are like cells in the body politic, mutually interdependent on each other, each with a unique role to play in society, like the cells in our bodies. Carl Jung's concept of synchronicity and the Eastern concept of karma are also evidence of holistic influences on our lives.

This diagram, reproduced and extended from Fritjof Capra's *The Turning Point: Science, Society and the Rising Culture*, provides a simple schematic of the process of cultural transformation that we are currently passing through.



This rather simplistic diagram disguises the fact that this epochal death and birth of civilizations is taking place within the minds of each of us, to some extent or other. Some individuals are further ahead in this process than others, just like the molecules in the pot of boiling water. This means, in practice, that we all have a different view of this transitional process; the old is dying within us, but the new has not yet reached full maturity. It is thus up to the creative minority, who are pioneering the way towards the Peaceful Society, to present this evolutionary vision to the world at large in as loving and clear way as possible. To this end, this TV series will focus attention on the new, on the spiritual renaissance emerging in the world today, for television channels tend to present the

conflicts and suffering of the prevailing culture, which can be quite energy draining, not inspiring.

In essence, these conflicts arise within us because our analytical, egoic minds have led us to feel separate from God, Nature, and each other. It is this sense of separation that is the root cause of the fears and delusions that drive so much of our behaviour today, that are causing severe psychological and ecological damage in what Erich Fromm aptly called our sick society in *To Have or To Be?* To appease our fears, many have created immortality symbols as a substitute for consciously living in union with our immortal Ground of Being. One such immortality symbol is the belief in a separate soul, which either reincarnates or has eternal life after death. However, the primary immortality symbol today, which provides many with a precarious sense of security in life, is money.

The most obvious effects of the divisive belief that God is other are the holy wars—wars about the Whole—that have been taking place for hundreds of years between the monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Today, these wars between immortality symbols are focused in the Middle East and worldwide between Muslim extremists and Western civilization, which is dying anyway from within. But in the context of this TV series, there is another war going on that is just as intransigent, that between the Darwinists, believing that evolution is blind, and the Creationists, promoting intelligent design. If we are to heal the deep wound in our cultural psyche—the great schism between science and religion—one of the goals of *Our Evolutionary Story* will be to show how we can bring all these wars to a peaceful end.

The root cause of the deep split between science and religion is that their contextual concepts—Universe and God, respectively—are incompatible with each other. To heal our fragmented minds, we thus need to recognize that Consciousness, which is both the Universe and God, is all there is, as the Advaita sage and former President of the Bank of India, Ramesh S. Balsekar, emphasizes in *Consciousness Speaks*. In other words, we are currently making a change in the Western world-view that is even more radical than that introduced by Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, and Newton in the great scientific revolution of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. This is absolutely essential, for Western civilization is further removed from Reality than any other civilization in history.

The change from a geocentric to heliocentric view of the solar system that happened three or four hundred years ago has an analogue in today's scientific revolution. A new heliocentric revolution is taking place, leading us to recognize the coherent light of Consciousness as the primary reality, not the physical universe. It is the radiant light of Consciousness that enables self-reflective Intelligence, the divine eyesight of Consciousness, to make the necessary changes in the conceptual models that guide our lives, which is leading to the Age of Light. This means that this cosmic transformation cannot be seen with our physical eyes; it can only be seen with insight.

This is actually what happened during the Copernican revolution, for we see the world, including ourselves, through the mental pictures we build of it. So the Earth did not suddenly begin to orbit the Sun in the seventeenth century; it had been doing so for some 4.5 billion years. Similarly, Consciousness has always been the overall context for the Totality of Existence. So space, time, and matter, along with all other beings in the relativistic world of form, including ourselves, are just appearances in Consciousness, not real at all. It is important to remember here that our conceptual models are abstractions from Consciousness, governing virtually all our behaviour, for we are the least instinctive of the animals. So it is of the utmost importance that the models we create through our learning provide as true a representation as possible of ourselves and the world we live in.

When we look at Reality in this holistic, integral way, this will naturally have a profound effect in the way that we manage our business affairs. Rather than fighting each other in today's viciously competitive economic system, we shall learn to cooperate with each other, recognizing that we are

all in the same boat; we sink or swim together. The health and well-being of society is dependent on us all working harmoniously together with a common vision: we are one indivisible whole.

Practical considerations

As we are all involved in our changing society, no matter how conscious we are of today's cultural transformation, the potential viewership for this TV series is every reasonably educated person in the world, not the least the younger generations, who are destined to be carried by evolution to its glorious culmination. While the alternative movement is leading the way towards a new humanity at these rapidly changing times, many feel powerlessly trapped in a dysfunctional society. Yet many too are like rose buds about to burst into flower, longing to be free of the stresses and strains of living in a conflict-ridden world that makes little sense. There is thus no better time for all this creative energy to be released for the benefit of us all.

Although it would be natural to present our evolutionary story within the overall context of Consciousness, most potential viewers in today's materialistic society do not yet recognize Consciousness as Reality. And even those who do are constrained by the laws and institutions of the prevailing culture from examining the full implications of this radical cosmological change. So we shall endeavour to show where we have come from and where we are all heading in terms that are familiar to viewers as much as this is possible.

This TV series is thus a very ambitious project, requiring the sensitive cooperation and services of the very best directors, producers, celebrities, and specialists in their various fields. For the best way that we can conquer the fears and delusions that drive our society today is through the power of Love and the clarity of Intelligence. Of course, this is easier said than done. Love and Intelligence are divine qualities that have been covered over by millennia of development of the egoic mind. Even with the best intentions, it is no easy task for the mind to become translucent, free of our deeply ingrained habits of thought, of our scientific, religious, and economic cultural conditioning.

Indeed, while it is quite possible to see the broad sweep of evolutionary patterns as a whole, none of us, as individuals, has any control over this process in practice, no matter how conscious evolution might become within us. In the words of the Advaita sages, there is no doership, or indeed ownership, no separate beings who can be said to do or own anything. So while we like to think that we have the freedom to choose how we live our lives, all we can really do is watch what is happening within us and within those around us with our divine, self-reflective Intelligence, accepting 'what-is' in the eternal Now, without any hopes or fears for the future. Recognizing that we are all actors in the great play of the Divine, players in the movie of life, is true Freedom.

What we can see with Intelligence is that our divine qualities are natural not supernatural, what we are born with before our personal, cultural, and collective conditioning tends to hide them. For the word *natural* derives from the Latin *nasci* 'to be born'. Not that they are completely hidden, for the native English word for *nature* is *kind*. Kindliness, which the Christians and Buddhists call charity and compassion, respectively, is our true nature. So most of the time, we can live in reasonable peace and harmony with each other. However, when the belief systems that provide us with a sense of security and identity in life feel threatened, even the most peaceful of people can get quite upset, displaying a fight or flight reaction. In producing *Our Evolutionary Story*, we need to be very aware of these sensitive existential issues, without being inhibited by them.

Jacob Bronowski worked on *The Ascent of Man* for three and a half years from the first outline to the last foot of film. With the 'New Year' rapidly approaching, we need to get on the air in half this time. However, this is not a project to be led by just one person, as these earlier documentaries

were. Evolution is becoming conscious of itself throughout the population; we are awakening to ourselves each in our own unique way. So *Our Evolutionary Story* will be cocreated by many leading figures working in various spiritual, scientific, and business fields, thus demonstrating the way that evolution is collectively converging on its Omega point.

What follows is a synopsis for the content of each episode covering each point that needs to be brought into consciousness as simply and clearly as possible. Further suggestions for key points will be most warmly welcomed. For it is vitally important that we have as clear a picture as possible of the major constraints on freedom in our so-called free society so that we can address them as lovingly and clearly as possible. With the help of experienced producers and specialists in their various fields, the plan will then be to create a script from this synopsis. This might lead to episodes being split, combined, or swapped around, as the need arises. This synopsis, which deliberately has many rough edges at present, will thus probably go through several iterations before it is ready for filming.

The initial drafts of this proposal are more concerned with content than form. For there is much content to be covered and so it is important that this is not lost by focusing attention too early on form. In this respect, we have several options, ranging from a documentary style, such as the BBC documentaries that originally inspired this idea, to a dramatic style, such as *Sofies Verden*, or a mixture of the two, as in *What the Bleep Do We Know!?* In the last, Reggie asked Amanda, “How far down the rabbit hole do you want to go?”, presumably a reference to Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland*. This is a most pertinent question, for if we are to reach our fullest potential as human beings, we need to go to the very bottom of the rabbit hole, to the Source of Life itself.



However, Lewis Carroll’s *Through the Looking Glass* might provide a better metaphor. For Charles Dodgson was a mathematician and logician, well aware of our paradoxical world, which Alice entered as she passed through the looking glass. But this mirror is not an ordinary one; it is actually a two-way mirror. For when we pass through the mirror, we can see both into the room, in which our conditioned minds incarcerate us, and also the limitless world outside. So we can



probably do no better than to show the world as Alice sees it.

As the picture of the Universe that this series is based on has no direct physical existence, we shall thus need to use a mixture of metaphors and story telling to explain what is happening to us all. In the following synopsis, I include some suggestions for visuals, including locations around the world that were significant in our evolutionary story, and leading specialists who we can call on to provide expertise on the many different topics to be covered. No doubt many more will be added as this project evolves. We shall also need to add inspiring music, perhaps using John Lennon’s *Imagine* as a signature tune.

I have, as yet, given little thought to how this project might be funded. Because money is the primary immortality symbol, most available funds exist within the rapidly dying global economy. Yet, if we can send men to the moon, I trust that miracles can happen, that in the coming months we can raise the funds necessary to cocreate the team that can present *Our Evolutionary Story* to the world. And maybe arising from this initiative, we can create the loving, accepting, and safe environment that we need to explore inner space, which is quite the most fantastic adventure open to any of us today.

Episode 1: Our changing world

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>The purpose of this first episode is to help people become conscious that the accelerating pace of change in the world today is the latest manifestation of all evolutionary processes since the most recent big bang some 14 billion years ago. There will be no attempt to explain this at this stage; we shall just look at the patterns of evolution as they are revealed to us.</p> <p>Beginning with just evolution on Earth, David Attenborough's <i>Life on Earth</i> showed how we can model the 3.6 billion years of evolution to the 365 days of the year, showing how biological evolution has given way to mental evolution, our learning.</p>	Clips from <i>Life on Earth</i>	
<p>The most obvious example of the explosive nature of evolutionary change at the moment is the great expansion of the Internet since the middle of the 1990s. Another familiar fact is Moore's law. Other evidence is that some 80% of all scientists who have ever lived are alive today, and so the rate of scientific papers being published is expanding exponentially.</p>	Various graphics.	Gordon Moore
<p>But this is just the latest manifestation of our learning processes. Ever since the industrial revolution, the pace of technological development has been accelerating faster and faster. We shall look at some of these changes that happened in the lives of our great grandparents and their ancestors, leading to today's generations. The evolution of the car is a familiar example of how evolution becomes ever more complex.</p>	Illustrate with cars of different times.	
<p>How are we to understand what all this change means to us? Well, the popular movie <i>The Matrix</i> illustrated the effect of us human beings becoming more and more like our machines: human automata. As the movie showed, if we are to discover what it truly means to be a human being, in contrast to our machines, we need to follow the maxim in the Oracle's kitchen TEMET NOSCE, Latin for 'Know Yourself'. And when we know ourselves, free of our mechanistic conditioning, evolution becomes conscious of itself.</p>	Clips from the movie.	
<p>But when did we human beings begin to learn and why has our behaviour become so mechanistic, occluding our true humanity? Well, there have been two major turning points in this respect. First, 25,000 years ago with the birth of self-reflective Intelligence, and the second, about 5,000 years ago, with the birth of written language, of recorded history, and therefore of linear time. So we shall have scenes that illustrate these important turning points.</p>	Cave drawings of France. Mesopotamia where first writing found.	
<p>The last is marked by the various calendars in the world. While the beginning of the Buddhist, Christian, and Islamic calendars mark the time when their founders were alive, the Jewish and Chinese calendars began about 4,500 to 5,000 years ago, and the Hindu and Mayan calendars have important turning points at these times. Also, the Ussher/Lightfoot estimate of the beginning of the Universe is in the same timeframe.</p>	Dublin, Cambridge, where Ussher and Lightfoot worked.	
<p>The Hindu calendar is particularly interesting, because it consists of four yugas of diminishing durations in arithmetical progression, beginning with a golden age and finishing with an age of war, fear, and despair, only to begin again in a golden age. The Mayan calendar is even more interesting, because it is the only calendar in the world that is exponential in nature, enabling us to use the calendar to model the major turning points in evolutionary history. We shall introduce this model here and show how it can be expressed in systems theory terms in Episode 4.</p>	India Stele in Mexico	Carl Johan Calleman

Episode 2: The search for our origins

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>Because we live in a culture that is based on linear time, we usually search for our origins by looking backwards in time. Many today are beginning this search through family history research, greatly facilitated by the Internet. Alex Haley's classic <i>Roots</i> and the TV series made from this in the 1970s are other reminders of this widespread interest in tracing our roots. But there is a limit to how far back these inquiries can take any one individual, for vital records do not go back very far, just to 1538 in England, for instance.</p> <p>Nevertheless, we can gain some insights into the immediate familial influences on our lives through such researches. Going further back, as each of our ancestors had a mother and a father, we can calculate that we should have had many quintillion ancestors at the time that Jesus lived, far more than the population of the Earth at the time. This shows quite clearly that we are all cousins to each other, one big happy family!</p>		

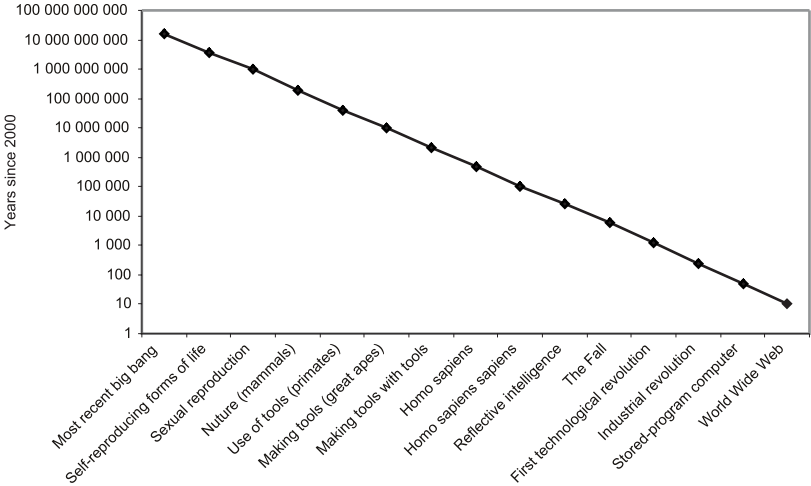
Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>But sexual reproduction began about a billion years ago. So we all have countless great grandmothers and grandfathers, going back through the species in a continuous line. And these species were the products of earlier evolutionary developments, which take us back to the first self-reproducing forms of life on Earth, and then further back to the most recent big bang, as we understand it today.</p>		
<p>But does this help us to find our origins? In the materialistic West, it has long been believed that the physical universe is the Universe, the Totality of Existence, and that everything that happens in the Universe can be explained in terms of the laws of physics. This is a false belief. To put the evolution of the physical universe into its proper perspective, we can well use Teilhard's four-stage model of evolution: matter, forms of life, mind, and spirit.</p>	<p>China, where <i>The Phenomenon of Man</i> was written between 1938 and 1940.</p>	<p>Ursula King.</p>
<p>How we view the Universe has a significant effect on how we search for our origins, a foundation on which to base our lives. In this respect, the East and West have followed radically different paths. In the West, we have been focused primarily on our outer world, perhaps fascinated by the brilliance of the night sky in Babylonia and Greece, free of any light pollution. But the Rishis in the Indus valley must have had a similar view of the heavens. However, they were led to look inwards, writing <i>The Upanishads</i>, the earliest spiritual scriptures, much closer to the Truth than Western science.</p>	<p>Night sky in Babylonia and Indus valley. Readings from Katha Upanishad.</p>	
<p>So given these two diametrically opposite ways of looking at the Universe, how are we to establish a vantage point that can unify them? Well, if we wish to obtain a panoramic view of life on Earth, we can go up in a hot-air balloon or climb to the top of a mountain. The astronauts who returned from the Earth had an even better view of the Earth, inspiring Edgar Mitchell to found the Institute of Noetic Sciences.</p> <p>Does this mean that we can only understand the workings of the Universe by sending space ships beyond our galaxy to the outer reaches of the physical universe? Indeed not. The vantage point that we need to view the Totality of Existence as a coherent whole lies within us as self-reflective Intelligence, sometimes called the Witness in spiritual circles.</p>	<p>View of Stockholm from a hot-air balloon. View from a mountain top, in the Alps? NASA pictures of the Earth.</p>	<p>Edgar Mitchell</p>
<p>We shall come back to the spiritual later. In the meantime, we can review what science knows about the origins of the physical universe, looking at both the small and the large. As science understands the situation, the physical universe, began with the small, the formation of subatomic particles and atoms, which led to the formation of the large, galaxies of stars and their planets, including our own sun and planet about 10 billion years after the most recent big bang. This long period of time is just the first step in the exponential series that forms the temporal backbone for this TV series. Nevertheless, it will be most helpful to build a picture of the birth and death of galaxies and stars during this period. For our understanding of the birth and death of our own sun can be understood by these predecessors.</p>	<p>Models and pictures of the heavens.</p>	<p>Spiritually oriented physicists.</p>
<p>Today, physics has developed two principal ways of looking at the physical universe: the theory of relativity and quantum physics, roughly corresponding to the large and the small, as I understand the situation. Yet these two views are incompatible with each other, relativity requires continuity, strict causality (or determinism), and locality, while quantum theory requires noncontinuity, noncausality, and nonlocality. David Bohm showed how to reconcile these incompatibilities with his theory of the implicate order and the concept of the holomovement, which we can liken to a river of life, which is an ever-flowing, undivided flowing movement. He has some simple analogies to illustrate this unification, which we can dynamically illustrate.</p>	<p>Fish tank with two cameras.</p> <p>Flowing river with waves and ripples.</p>	<p>David Peat</p>
<p>In <i>What the Bleep Do We Know!?</i>, Amit Goswami stated that the paradoxical discoveries of quantum physics, on their own, demand that we regard Consciousness as the primary reality, as the overall context for the Universe. But what is Consciousness? Well, we can view it like an ocean, the vast ocean of Consciousness. Using this metaphor, the waves and ripples on the surface represent the physical universe, the world of our senses. The currents beneath the surface represent the psyche, both the rational mind and the subconscious, and the centre of the ocean is the origin of the Universe, the Source of Life, which we can call Oneness. Freud was one who investigated people's experiences of an oceanic feeling of Wholeness. But there are many others, both individuals and leading figures, who we can call on to illustrate this vitally important point.</p>	<p>Clips from movie.</p> <p>Vivid graphics illustrating the ocean of Consciousness</p>	<p>Amit Goswami</p> <p>Stansilav Grof, Ramesh S. Baleskar, Charles Tart, Alister Hardy.</p>
<p>The other major metaphor for Consciousness that has been used over the years is light. This is the light that Jesus was referring to when he said, "I am the light of the world." However, we are all the light of the world, which we can discover</p>	<p>Vivid graphics illustrating the coherent light</p>	<p>Mary Robinson Reynolds,</p>

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
when we blow away what an anonymous fourteenth-century English mystic called “the cloud of unknowing.” But this light is not like the diffuse light of the sun. It is the coherent light of Consciousness, more like the coherent light of a laser, enabling us to see the Universe holographically. Karl Pribram’s notion of the holographic brain and David Bohm’s holographic universe are examples of this general principle.	of Consciousness	Peter Russell Karl Pribram, David Peat
What this shows is that we need to abandon the notion of atomism laid down by Leucippus and Democritus in the fifth century BCE. This notion has had a long history, which was effectively shattered when Ernest Rutherford discovered that atoms are not indestructible elements. But habits of thought take a long time to change, as Rupert Sheldrake points out in <i>The Presence of the Past</i> . So even now, nearly a century later, particle physicists are persuading governments to spend billions of dollars searching for a particle or set of particles that is the ultimate building block of all matter in the Universe.	Historical and current sites	
Similarly, governments are willing to spend billions of dollars sending telescopes into outer space searching for the origin of the Universe, for extraterrestrial intelligence, and for signs of life. While this might be very interesting, it actually distracts us from looking into inner space, where we find Life and the origin of the Universe, revealing our self-reflective Intelligence, which has been covered up by millennia of egoic and analytical mental development.	Sites where these activities are taking place.	

Episode 3: The evolution of the species

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
We now enter the second stage of our evolutionary story, the evolution of the species, which most people think of as being evolution. We shall focus attention on the patterns that help us most to understand what is happening to us all as a species today.		Elisabet Sahtouris
First, evolution has not been progressing at a steady pace, there have been periods of rapid growth, with long periods of comparatively little growth. Niles Eldredge and Stephen Jay Gould called this stop-start process ‘punctuated equilibrium’, which is illustrated most simply by the S-shape of the growth curve, also known as the learning or logistic curve. There are many examples that we can use to illustrate this fundamental principle, which is of the utmost importance in understanding what is happening to us as a species today. For instance, there have been just two axial periods in human development, when learning progressed at exponential rates of change. The first was between 600 and 300 BCE, represented by the Greeks, from Pythagoras, through Heraclitus and Socrates, to Plato and Aristotle, and in the East by Shakyamuni Buddha, Lao Tzu, and Confucius. The second period of rapid growth began in the seventeenth century and is continuing today. The S-shape of the growth curve, which depicts the growth of form and structure, does not only apply to evolutionary processes. In <i>On Growth and Form</i> , D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson showed that this curve also appears in the hysteresis loop in electromagnetic induction.	Niles Eldredge Peter Russell	
Secondly, while evolution is an accumulative process, it has not always progressed from immediately preceding forms and structures. Sometimes it has backtracked, as Arthur Koestler describes in <i>The Ghost in the Machine</i> . We need to find good examples of this in the biosphere. In the noosphere, the Copernican revolution is the best example of this backtracking. In today’s scientific and social revolution, we need to backtrack to the Source of Life.		
When individual living beings evolve in a different direction from their parents, leading eventually to a new species, they can have a pretty tough time, for they might not fit into the social structures of their parents. Today, a new species of humanity is evolving through the intelligence of Indigo children, in particular. So it would be good to show examples of this process in the biosphere.		
The evolution of the various forms of the <i>Homo</i> genus is an example of the way that a species evolves from immediately preceding forms, which continue to exist. However, these intermediate forms cease to exist, rather like the way that ideas form in the mind. They progress through fuzzy stages, until they become mature and fully formed.		

Episode 4: Historical evolutionary turning points

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>We can define evolution as an accumulative process of divergence and convergence, proceeding in an accelerating, exponential fashion by synergistically creating wholes that are greater than the sum of the preceding wholes through the new relationships that are formed, apparently out of nothing. It is the accumulative nature of evolution that enables us to use exponential series to model all evolutionary processes, rather like compound interest in economics.</p> <p>However, in the case of evolution, this exponential series, or sum of a geometric progression, is convergent rather than divergent, because the time periods between significant turning points become shorter and shorter very fast. For instance, the sum of this series is 2: $1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots$, in contrast to the infinite sum of the harmonic progression: $1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} + \dots$.</p> <p>In this episode, we shall present a model of the major evolutionary turning points during the past 14 billion years, where the factor in the geometric progression is approximately the reciprocal of the Feigenbaum constant in systems theory, although we shall not go deeply into the theory behind this. In this way, we can show that we are currently passing through the evolutionary point of accumulation, the most momentous change in evolutionary history. This graph provides an overview of this convergent process:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Major Evolutionary Turning Points</p>  <p><i>The descriptions of the major evolutionary turning points that follow are mainly the result of the researches of Nick Hoggard around 2000, then a student at the Holma College of Holistic Studies in southern Sweden. Nick developed this model because the model based on the Mayan calendar, developed by Carl Johan Calleman, of Dalarna University in Sweden, omits some key turning points, not the least the emergence of the first self-reproducing forms of life. Some further research is needed here before this model is presented to the general public.</i></p>		
<p>The birth of the physical universe as we understand it today in the most recent big bang. 14 billion years ago.</p>		
<p>The first self-reproducing forms of life: Organic molecules join together in self-contained entities, which are able to replicate and mutate, 3.5-3.8 billion years ago. Peter Russell has some interesting insights into this struggle.</p>		Peter Russell
<p>Sexual reproduction: Two organisms are able to combine their genes to produce new, novel organisms. This substantially increases the rate of biological evolution. 1,000 million years ago</p>		
<p>Passing on learned behaviour (nurturing mammals): Animals start to care for their young. This gives them an opportunity for them to pass on useful experience to the next generation. This turns out to be a faster way of evolving behaviour than waiting for behaviour to evolve purely genetically. 200 million years ago</p>		
<p>Use of tools (primates & monkeys): Using tools allows animals to spontaneously extend their bodies. They no longer have to wait for body extensions to evolve biologically. 38-65 million years ago</p>		
<p>Making tools (great apes): Animals cease to be limited to the tools they can find lying around. They can actually design them. 10 million years ago</p>		
<p>In a simple but crucial change, animals begin to use their tools to make other tools. The first human, <i>Homo habilis</i>, appears. 2-2.5 million years ago.</p>		
<p>The appearance of <i>Homo sapiens</i> gives evidence that yet another major evolutionary</p>		

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
change has occurred. 400,000-450,000 years ago.		
<i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i> arrives on the scene. 100,000 years ago.		
The birth of self-reflective Intelligence and the beginning of art. 25,000 years ago.		
The beginning of recorded history, leading to new heights of creativity, technology, and culture. 5,000 years ago.		
A wave of mechanization gathers pace across Europe and eventually the world, which we can call the first technological revolution. 500-800 CE.		
A combination of factors triggers the industrial revolution, revolutionizing daily life. 1733?		
The stored-program computer, a universal machine is invented as an extension of the mind, and technological development moves from hardware to software. 1948-1949.		
The World Wide Web is created at CERN, connecting people in an interactive environment free from the limitations of physical distance. 1991		Tim Berners-Lee
Without going into any details, this infinite exponential series converges at a finite limit between 2000 and 2005, slightly different from the best estimates of the end of the Mayan calendar, which are generally taken as 2011 in Sweden or 2012 elsewhere.		

Episode 5: Global threats

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
Before looking at the evolution of the human race, this might be a good time to pause and look at the human situation in the context of everything we have learned so far. Many visionaries are aware that the very survival of our species is at stake at the moment. So let us put this situation into perspective, updating John Leslie's <i>The End of the World</i> , in which he looks at the probability of the human race becoming extinct in the next 300 years. This is a very sensitive issue, because so many are afraid of death. But it is an issue that we must face with full consciousness if we are to become fully alive, for life and death are just two sides of the same coin.		John Leslie
The physical environment for all our lives is the Earth, fed by energy from the Sun. By comparing our sun to other stars, astronomers estimate that the Sun will turn into a red giant in about 5 billion years, when its supply of hydrogen is exhausted, and then into a white dwarf. So we are currently at the midpoint of the existence of the Earth, viewed as a living being, or Gaia. Faced with this situation, some have dreamed that humans would colonize the galaxy when the Earth becomes uninhabitable. But this does not help us to avoid extinction, for there is nothing permanent in the Universe, as Shakyamuni Buddha pointed out in his three marks of being. If we are to be free of the fear of death, it is thus vitally important that we base our sense of security in life on something that does not change: on our immortal Ground of Being.		
<i>The Times Concise Atlas of the World</i> tells us that there have been nine mass extinctions of marine life during the life of the Earth so far: at 630, 505, 438, 360, 248, 213, 144, 65, and 30 million years ago. There have also been seven mass extinctions of land life: at 438, 360, 248, 213, 144, 65, and 25 million years ago. Some of these might well have been caused by meteorites from outer space hitting the Earth. Astronomers are currently monitoring such threats, which we can report on.		
There have also been seven periods of glaciation: at 950, 750, 600, 438, 286, 15, and 1 million years ago. Indeed, during the past one or two million years there have been several cycles of warm and cold weather, far more extreme than the current concerns about global warming, being highlighted especially by Al Gore in his movie <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i> . The Gulf Stream is interesting here because as the Earth gets warmer, this gets colder, having profound implications for Western Europe.		James Lovelock Al Gore
Then there are natural disasters on Earth itself such as the tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanoes, and hurricanes of recent years. These generally have just a local effect, but the effects could also be global, both physically and economically. Another reason why we shall soon need to make radical changes in our lives is the exhaustion of fossil fuels, not the least oil, on which the global economy is dependent.		
During the past 200 years, the human population of the Earth has grown six fold, from one billion people in 1802 to 6.5 billion today. As a result, some 20% of the people who have ever lived on Earth are alive today. The UN and the USA forecast that the world population will have grown to around 9 billion people by 2050. But will it? Taking all the factors into consideration, there is every sign that during this		

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>period the Earth will no longer be able to produce sufficient food for everyone, leading to Malthusian catastrophe as predicted by Thomas Malthus in 1798 in <i>An Essay on the Principle of Population</i>.</p> <p>Another critical factor here is that about 22% of the world live in the 438 cities with over a million inhabitants. There are 63 cities with over 5 million inhabitants, 25 with over 10 million, and 5 with over 20 million (Tokyo, 34m; Mexico, 23m; Seoul, 22m; New York, 22m, and Sao Paolo, 20m). It is not therefore surprising that so many have lost touch with Nature, both in its cultivated state and as wilderness, which is today rapidly diminishing. Those who venture out into the wilderness are but a privileged few. The major cities of the world could thus blow up, as the pressures of overpopulation get out of control.</p>		
<p>Disease is another potential threat, as it has been in the past, such as the Black Death killing between a third and two thirds of Europe's population between 1347 and 1351. The Spanish Flu Pandemic, killed between 50 and 100 million people worldwide in 1918 and 1919. Today, there are other threats, such as AIDS.</p>		
<p>However, the greatest threat to the survival of our species comes not from external sources, but from within us, from the immortality symbols we have created because our analytical, egoic minds have led us to feel separate from God, Nature, and each other. During most of the second half of the last century, this sense of separation was most obvious in the threat posed by nuclear war, because of the war between capitalism and communism. But such threats have not gone away, as we witness the war between economic and religious fundamentalists. Furthermore, our obsession for money is driving humanity to the brink of extinction today. So why are we the cruellest species that has ever lived on Earth, how have we reached this perilous situation, and can we find a way of healing our grievously sick society?</p>		

Episode 6: Birth and infancy: The Great Mother

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>To understand the evolution of the human race from beginning to end, we can use our development as individuals as a model. Developmental psychologists have many models of this process, from Jean Piaget onwards. But to keep it simple, we can say that both us as individuals and a species pass through birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, maturity, old age, and death.</p>		
<p>What is today called the <i>Homo</i> genus first appeared some 2.5 million years ago, from the <i>Australopithecus</i> genus, some 2 million years earlier. To help us get this development into perspective, we can provide examples of this birthing process. As all these intermediate forms between the great apes and <i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i> (wise wise human) are now extinct, we can call them fuzzy species, like fuzzy ideas.</p>		
<p>The most significant event in the evolution of our species occurred about 25,000 years ago, when we were given the great gift of self-reflective Intelligence, the ability to look inwards to the Source of Life, as well as outwards. Not all individuals acquired this ability at the same time; some were ahead of the others, leading to the myths of the gods and goddesses, as Barry Long describes in <i>The Origins of Man and the Universe</i>. For these early humans were all-powerful divine creatures, preverbal babies, but in adult bodies.</p>		
<p>During the next 20,000 years, hunter gatherers became farmers settling in village communities. We can trace the highpoints of this external development.</p>		
<p>But there was also an inner development during this time, as our ancestors had to learn what it meant to be a mortal human being. Many have written about this time, from Ken Wilber in <i>Up from Eden</i> to Anne Baring in <i>The Myth of the Goddess</i>. A key point here is that even though these young human beings engaged in animal and human sacrifices, these were comparatively peaceful times, probably the origin of an earlier golden age. And even though women played the most significant role in these early societies, this was not a dominant role. It is better to call these societies matrifocal, as Ken Wilber does, rather than matriarchal, for they were quite different from the patriarchal civilizations that were to follow them. However, even though there is a primary-secondary relationship between feminine and masculine energies, we should not fall for the pre/trans fallacy identified by Ken, believing that we are returning to a golden age run by women. Rather, we are moving forward into an androgynous Age of Light, when both women and men will radiate the coherent light of Consciousness, each in their own way, quite different from macho men and submissive women, the principal sexual stereotypes of the patriarchal epoch. Women will find quite new ways of expressing their power as women, not as substitutes for men, and men will learn they cannot reach their fullest power as men unless they are able to express their feelings, to put it simply.</p>		<p>Anne Baring</p> <p>Ken Wilber</p>

Episode 7: Childhood: The birth and death of civilizations

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>We can say that humanity moved out of infancy into childhood with the birth of written language about 5,000 years ago, corresponding to an eight-year-old in human ontogeny, when we begin to form concepts on our own. This change also marked the transition between the second and third stages of evolution, in Teilhard's model, from Life to Thought, from biogenesis to noogenesis, to the mental-egoic age (me-epoch). By understanding what happened during this period, we can learn much about the current transition between the third and fourth periods in evolution, between mind and spirit, from the me- to the us-epoch (the age of universal spirituality). Riane Eisler's <i>The Chalice and the Blade</i> provides an excellent overview of this earlier transitional stage.</p>		Riane Eisler
<p>There was also a marked change in the concept of time, becoming more linear than cyclical. As we thus began to move further and further away from the Divine, we needed to find ways of dealing with death, leading to the birth of the great patriarchal religions of both West and East. These religions had two major functions: to appease the fear of death of the population and to keep order in a society that was not yet fully conscious of the truth of life on Earth, through moralistic commandments and precepts, often based on fear. It was at this time that immortality symbols began to form, leading to many holy wars—wars about the Whole.</p>		
<p>Unlike the mass of the population, the mystics withdrew from society, discovering that death is an illusion. In the East, these mystics were revered, kings often consulting them. But the three monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—regarded God as other, denying the immanent nature of the Divine. Indeed, when mystics proclaimed their gnostic experiences, they were condemned as heretics by the religious authorities, such as Mansur Hallaj, who suffered a gruesome death, and Meister Eckhart, who died before sentence could be passed. We need to tell their stories, because the Vatican issued a pamphlet in 2003 continuing to deny the immanence of the Divine, condemning the awakening New Age movement as a threat to the authority of the Catholic Church.</p> <p>The way that the founding fathers of Christianity suppressed gnostic teachings only came to light in December 1945 when 52 religious and philosophical texts written in Coptic were discovered hidden in an earthenware jar in Nag Hammadi in Egypt. These included the now famous gospel of Thomas, sometimes called the secret sayings of Jesus. These discoveries raise a most fundamental question, studied in depth by Elaine Pagels: "What is the relation between the authority of one's own experience and that claimed for the Scriptures, the ritual, and the clergy?"</p>	<p>Baghdad</p> <p>Erfurt, Germany</p> <p>Nag Hammadi</p>	<p>David Stendahl-Rast</p> <p>Mathew Fox</p> <p>Elaine Pagels</p>
<p>This separation between spirituality and worldly affairs gave rise to the belief, "You cannot be enlightened if you indulge in sex." However, in <i>Not Until You Die</i>, Nukunu Larsen suggests that the emphasis on celibacy in many spiritual traditions has more to do with social than spiritual reasons. In early patriarchal societies, a man had to decide early in life whether to develop his spirituality or marry and become a householder, fully occupied with supporting a large family. But if the sadhus and sannyasins had been allowed to express their sexuality freely, they would have been a threat to families, the fundamental unit in any human society.</p> <p>In contrast, the Tantrics and Taoists discovered that divine love making between woman and man is a beautiful meditation that can lead to God. Many couples are discovering this for themselves today, through their own immediate experience with their beloveds, which is simply out of this world, quite inexpressible in words. And when two become one in this most delightful way, it is not difficult to see that two thousand, million, billion, and so on are one. In Reality, which we experience in divine love making, there is no separation between any beings in the Universe.</p>		
<p>In the West, many believe that Western civilization is the only one there is and the best there can possibly be. However, Arnold J. Toynbee showed in his monumental <i>A Study of History</i> that there have been some 20 civilizations during the me-epoch, with quite different world-views, religious beliefs, and social organizations. So why do we believe that the West's way is best? Is it possible to develop a world-view that is suitable for our times, that embraces the essence of all these civilizations? Indeed, it is, which we shall look at in later programmes.</p> <p>In the meantime, we can look at the similar patterns of growth and decay of some of these civilizations, listed at the end of this document, which Toynbee discovered. For we are witnessing the very same patterns in Western civilization today. What Toynbee showed is that civilizations pass through a series of stages, including growth and development, a time of troubles, a universal state, and disintegration. Specifically, Toynbee showed that civilizations die when these three social characteristics exist: (1) a failure of creative power in the minority [the leadership],</p>	<p>Give two examples here. The most familiar being the European civilizations. But the far Eastern civilisations follow a similar pattern.</p>	

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>(2) an answering withdrawal of mimesis [mimicry] on the part of the majority, and (3) a consequent loss of social unity in the society as a whole. In other words, new civilizations come into being through the activities of a creative minority, universal states arising when that minority becomes a dominant minority having lost its creative power, seeking to maintain the status quo in an ever-changing world. And when this happens, both internal and external forces turn against the prevailing culture. Toynbee called these external forces barbarians, generally called terrorists today.</p> <p>In today's culture, the American economic hegemony is the universal state of Western civilization just before its final disintegration. This is being held in place by the political, business, religious, academic, and scientific establishment, who are the powerful minority who are attempting to hold on to the status quo, not adapting to the accelerating pace of change we are experiencing today. We can regard those spiritual seekers who are going beyond the New Age movement and the Islamic terrorists as the internal and external forces, respectively. We need to bring the former into prominence, for television channels, like CNN, are almost entirely focused on the latter.</p>		

Episode 8: Adolescence: The growth of science

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>The Christian denial of the immanence of the Divine was a key factor in the schism that arose between science and religion during the Copernican revolution. Science became focused on phenomena that can be observed with the eyes, moving further and further away from Reality over the years. So even though science and technology have made our lives comparatively comfortable, our lack of understanding of the evolutionary forces that cause us to behave as we do is a major threat to our children's health and well-being.</p>		
<p>As we are currently passing through a scientific revolution that is even more far-reaching than the Copernican revolution, we can tell the story of this earlier revolution from the ancient Greeks to Isaac Newton, using Arthur Koestler's <i>The Sleepwalkers</i> as the major source of information. For we are still sleepwalkers, living in the dark ages, driving our business affairs having very little understanding of what we are doing.</p>		
<p>The struggles of Copernicus and Galileo, in particular, show the difficulties that evolutionary pioneers have in establishing new world-views in a conservative culture. This is only natural, for structures have a tendency for self-preservation, maintaining the status quo, called homeostasis in systems theory terms. However, such tendencies inhibit open-mindedness, leading some scientific initiatives to go unrecognized. As a consequence, some pioneers, such as Robert Mayer and Ignaz Semmelweiss, went insane because of the lack of acceptance of their work. We might think that we are beyond scientific fundamentalism today. But scientism is as strong an inhibiting force in society today as religious and economic fundamentalism. In the 1960s, the BBC broadcast a documentary on Semmelweiss's struggle. It would be enlightening to show some scenes from this programme if it is still available.</p>		
<p>Newton was an alchemist, so this is possibly a suitable place to provide a brief history of the way that alchemy gave rise to chemistry, on one side, and to a metaphor for spiritual transformation, on the other.</p>		Jay Ramsey, Anne Baring
<p>We can also document the evolution of our understanding of evolutionary processes, from Darwin through Aurobindo, Smuts, Teilhard, and Wilber, to today's evolutionary organizations, such as the Foundation for Conscious Evolution, led by Barbara Marx Hubbard, and EnlightenmentNext, led by Andrew Cohen, who is engaged in evolutionary enlightenment. Another important voice here is Peter Russell, who writes and talks much about our next evolutionary leap.</p>		Ken Wilber, Ursula King, Barbara Marx Hubbard, Andrew Cohen, Peter Russell
<p>In physics, the theories of relativity and quantum physics have also revolutionized our view of reality, leading us towards the unification of science and spirituality, recognizing that Consciousness is all there is, true Reality.</p>		Amit Goswami, Chris Clarke
<p>But it is the invention of the stored-program computer that really demands that we make major changes in the Western world-view that has held sway for hundreds and thousands of years. We shall look at this in the next episode.</p>		

Episode 9: Extending the mind

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
Just like <i>Homo habilis</i> , we have been using our tools over the years to make ever more powerful tools to extend our rather limited physical abilities. But in the programmable computer, we have invented a machine that extends our mental abilities, and in some cases can replace them. This episode will therefore concentrate on the development of our mental tools.		
To set the development of mental tools into perspective, we can begin with some physical extensions, from the wheel (when was this actually invented for the first time?) through the steam engine to spacecraft.		
Tracing the development of mental tools, we can begin with the abacus, Leibniz and Pascal's machines, and on to Babbage's machines, particularly the Analytical Engine, and Ada Lovelace's memoir on this machine. Ada was the poet, Byron's daughter, and one of the most fascinating characters in the evolution of ideas.		Benjamin Wolley
Next, we can trace the evolution of the computer, from Konrad Zuse's Z3 computer, the first program-controlled computer built in Germany in 1941, through the first practical stored-program computer, built at Cambridge University in 1949, to today's modern computers. We can learn a very great deal about what it means to be a human being from this invention. The central question here is "Have we built a machine that will one day have artificial intelligence, consciousness, and life, exceeding human intelligence?" In other words, have we invented a machine that is effectively a new species, like <i>Homo habilis</i> , that can use existing tools to build new tools? In computer terms, could a computer program itself without human intervention, and if not, why not? The answer to this question is very simple. Machines, like computers, work solely in the horizontal dimension of time, while human beings function in both the horizontal and vertical dimension of time. So if we are to rise above our mechanistic, conditioned minds, to realize what it truly means to be a human being, we need to focus our attention on the timeless, on the eternal Now, as spiritual teachers, like Eckhart Tolle are teaching. Although the basic idea here is very simple, it involves looking at the stored-program computer and its programming languages in a radically new manner. As understanding this point is key to understanding that computer technology is limited, we shall make every endeavour to explain the key distinction between human beings and machines for those who still believe that they are machines and nothing but machines.		
Being free of the linear way that computer programs execute, which is similar to deductive reasoning and mathematical proof, we are able to create a nonlinear science of reason that truly represents how we think, learn, and organize our ideas, called relational logic. Again this is very simple, which we can illustrate with many examples in everyday experience. There is a close relationship between relational logic, which provides the framework for the unified relationships theory, a generalization of Einstein's unified field theory, and Christopher Alexander's pattern language, a holistic approach to the development of life-enhancing buildings and their environments.		Paul Hague Christopher Alexander
The limitations of computer technology also have profound economic implications. It is not possible for technological development to drive economic growth indefinitely, indeed for more than a few more years. We therefore need quite new models of society, a new science of humanity called for by Erich Fromm, suitable for the Information Age we live in today. We can build such models by recognizing that the semantic business models created by information systems architects are more inclusive than management accounting and econometric models of financiers. For these models, which are based on the belief that money is an immortality symbol, prevent us from fully understanding what is happening to us all as a species.		

Episode 10: Unifying the opposites and building relationships

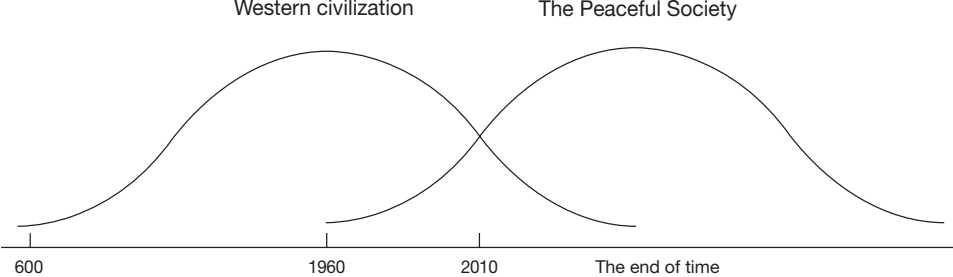
Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
It is, of course, evolution that is leading us to become conscious of the evolutionary forces present within each of us. Episode 8 showed how Newton unified terrestrial and extraterrestrial forces at work in the solar system. This was but just the first evolutionary step in the West to healing the split between the opposites, a form of yoga, for <i>yoga</i> means 'union' in the East.		
The next two steps were Einstein's special and general theories of relativity. The first unified the incompatibility between the principle of relativity and the constancy		

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
of the speed of light. And the second unified the notions of inertial and gravitational mass.		
Quantum physics revealed many other paradoxes, such as the particle/wave duality of light and electromagnetic radiation, resolved by Niels Bohr's notion of complementarity.		
David Bohm then resolved the incompatibilities between relativity and quantum physics with his notions of the holomovement and the implicate order.		
This evolutionary process of unifying all opposites was brought to its natural conclusion at evolution's Omega point through Paul Hage, through the unified relationships theory, whose framework is relational logic, a both-and logic that evolved from information systems modelling methods, thus freeing Western thought of its either-or emphasis, laid down by Aristotle with his Law of Contradiction. The URT is the ultimate yoga, based as it is on the universal truth, the fundamental design principle of the Universe: <i>Wholeness is the union of all opposites</i> .		
Finally, in this episode, we can show how the concept of field, from gravitational and electromagnetic fields, through Rupert Sheldrake's morphogenetic fields, to information fields, has evolved into the concept of the relationships that exist between all forms in the Universe. The binding energy in the nuclei of atoms, released in the nuclear fission of heavy elements such as uranium and plutonium, is a spectacular demonstration of the power of relational energy. On the other hand, the nuclear fusion of light elements releases the energy that causes stars to shine and hydrogen bombs to explode. In this way, we can show that the concept of energy that unifies the physical and psychospiritual can be defined in terms of meaningful, structure-forming, synergistic relationships—the web of life.		

Episode 11: Current evolutionary turning points

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
To provide an overview of the programmes so far, this antepenultimate programme will describe the seven evolutionary turning points that evolution is currently carrying us through as it passes through its most momentous transformation in its fourteen billion years history.		
We are passing from the third to the fourth of Teilhard's stages of evolution, from a predominance of the mind, to a society based on Spirit, which is Love.		
A new species is emerging from <i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i> , which we can call <i>Homo divinus universalis</i> , divine, cosmic human.		
We are passing from the second to the third epoch of human evolution, from the mental-egoic age (me-epoch) to the age of universal spirituality (us-epoch).		
We are moving into an age of both-and reasoning, becoming free of the either-or approach laid down by Aristotle, which leads to the belief that "if you are not with us, you are against us", to the belief that God is on the side of each nation when it goes to war.		
Western civilization, based on separation, is being transformed into the Peaceful Society, based on union with God, Nature, and each other.		
Scientific materialism and mechanism, laid down by the Copernican revolution, is being transformed into a vital science, unifying science and spirituality, in the unified relationships theory, the ultimate theory of science.		
The materialistic economies of capitalism and communism will be transformed into the Sharing Economy, enabling us all to realize our fullest potential as human beings.		
What George A. Miller called the 'magic number seven' also appears in the belief systems we hold about ourselves and the world we live in. Because of our deep sense of separation, Western civilization is built on seven pillars of unwisdom, to use Arthur Koestler's term, misconceptions of God, Universe, Life, humanity, money, justice, and reason. So to heal our sick society, we must base it on the seven pillars of wisdom, on the recognition that we are all one Whole, living in union with God, Nature, and each other at every instant of our lives.		

Episode 12: Living healthily in a sick society

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>Having described the cosmic evolutionary energies that are driving society today, this penultimate episode will look at the creative minority that is manifesting the new civilization that is emerging today, as illustrated by this diagram extended from Fritjof Capra's <i>The Turning Point</i>:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Western civilization The Peaceful Society</p>  <p>What this schematic shows is that there are two fundamental differences from the death and birth of earlier civilizations. During the past 5,000 years, there was nearly always an interregnum period between civilizations, while today the death of one civilization and the birth of the new are happening simultaneously within the psyches of each one of us. Secondly, we are the first civilization to be conscious of such a major cultural transformation, which this TV series will highlight.</p>		
<p>Many seekers today are engaged in a wide variety of spiritual practices, realizing that the exclusivity of the monotheistic religions does not allow people to discover what Gottfried Leibniz called the <i>philosophia perennis</i>, the common, eternal truth that underlies all religions, in particular the mystical streams within them. These practices are leading them to the Divine in their own direct experience, much as Richard Maurice Bucke prophesied in <i>Cosmic Consciousness</i> in 1901. These spiritual seekers are the creative minority who are leading the way into the Peaceful Society.</p> <p>However, communicating this fact to the general public presents some unusual difficulties. For the Divine is essentially ineffable; it is quite impossible to describe its radiant beauty in words and symbols. To do so is like trying to describe a beautiful sunset to someone over the telephone. So some of those who know the Divine deep in their hearts are not well-known. They neither write books nor even read them. So how can such people recognize each other? Well, the gateway to Love is through the eyes, which was well illustrated by Elizabeth and Darcy in the BBC's wonderful production of <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>. But to put this ineffable experience into words, we can call on some of the modern mystics who are helping their followers to reveal God.</p>	<p>Scene from <i>Pride and Prejudice</i></p>	<p>Ramesh S. Balsekar, Wayne Liguorman, Vijai Shankar, Ekhart Tolle, Andrew Cohen, Gangaji, Tim Freke, Tony Parsons, Shanti Mayi, Nukunu</p>
<p>The creative minority, who Paul H. Ray calls the cultural creatives, are also forming many intentional communities, focusing attention on quite new ways of living peacefully and lovingly together. These include ecological communities or ecovillages, developing permaculture systems, which are practical demonstrations of the unified relationships theory at work. Others are more spiritual in nature, while others are focused on cultural transformation. And some are addressing the spiritual, cultural, and ecological as a coherent whole. We can illustrate this with a few such communities.</p>	<p>Findhorn, Crystal Waters, Auroville, Damanhur, Tamera, etc.</p>	<p>Members and leaders in these communities</p>
<p>For much of the last century, there was a growing recognition that we need a quite new way of educating our children, focusing more attention on the spiritual and the awakening of Intelligence, rather than the development of the intellect, which leads to delusion and fragmentation. The Krishnamurti and Waldorf schools are well-known examples. But there are many others today, such as the California Institute of Integral Studies, Schumacher College, and the Wisdom University.</p>		
<p>When we admit the existence of nonphysical healing energies into science, including Life itself, as the unified relationships theory provides, this can have a profound effect on our mental and physical health. There are many stories of the healing power of psychospiritual energies that can be told here.</p>		<p>Marilyn Schlitz</p>
<p>Because materialistic science denies the existence of nonphysical energies, it is not able to explain parapsychological phenomena, unlike the unified relationships theory, which can. We can give a few notable examples to illustrate these fascinating phenomena.</p>		<p>Dean Radin</p>
<p>Perhaps the most obvious symptom of our grievously sick society is the fact that some 97% of all financial transactions by volume are concerned with trading in financial products, viewing money as a commodity with value, not with buying and selling of products and services we need for our daily lives. Another symptom of</p>		<p>James Robertson, Hazel Henderson,</p>

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>the sickness of our financial institutions is the fact that some 97% of all money in circulation is issued by the banks as debt, not by governments, as previously. Many are attempting to heal this deep malaise in society, which we can report on. However, we should remember that all these remedies are but short-term measures, not going to the root of the human malaise. Eventually, a superconscious and superintelligent society will live without money as it is conceived today.</p>		<p>Michal Linton, Bernard Lietaer, David Boyle, Margrit Kennedy.</p>
<p>As a new species of human is evolving at the present time, we can illustrate this with the Indigo children, those with sufficient confidence and authority within themselves to question the beliefs and assumptions of the ruling authorities in their lives. They often have a particularly tough time because they do not fit into the prevailing culture. They are destined to be the vanguard of the emerging civilization, becoming increasingly free of dominant authorities in their lives, such as parents and teachers. Since these children were identified by Nancy Ann Tappe in 1982, some of these children have grown into adulthood. But the existence of such Indigo children goes back much further. Some of those who were children during the Second World War were so deeply affected by this traumatic experience that they devoted their lives to the search for Love and Peace. We can illustrate this fact with people who are now in their 60s and older.</p>		<p>Lee Carroll, Jan Tober, and examples Indigo children.</p>

Episode 13: Working harmoniously together

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>This TV series will have shown how we are all subject to divine, evolutionary forces, which Western civilization tends to prevent us from seeing because it teaches us that we are separate from God, Nature, and each other, creating laws and institutions to maintain our fears and delusions.</p> <p>Many are quite content with this unhealthy situation, putting the survival of our entire species at risk. This means that we actually need to pass through a catastrophe in the next five to ten years if today's children are to have any chance of growing old enough to have children of their own. For we can only make the changes that are absolutely essential right now if the pain of not doing so is greater than the pain of letting go of the past.</p> <p>We can compare this liberating process to the tsunami that hit south-east Asia in December 2004. For a tsunami is presently arising from the depths of the ocean of Consciousness, which will sweep away all before it, enabling us to start afresh at the very beginning. So this TV series is really a tsunami warning, giving us the opportunity to prepare for what will be the most amazing change in fourteen billion years of evolution.</p> <p>In essence, we shall only be able to pass through the momentous times of the next decade or two if we work harmoniously together with a common vision. To adapt harmoniously to the accelerating pace of evolutionary change, virtually everything in society must change, including politics, economics, education, science, medicine, law, and religion. This programme will look at just some of these changes.</p>		
<p>The most obvious change that will affect all of us is that the way we work and serve our fellow human beings will radically change. The diagram below shows the way that the jobs people do changed between 1860 and 1980 in the USA. However, we should remember that the primary purpose of work today is to drive the economic growth of joint-stock companies, dominated by corporate America. So even though it is natural for people to provide for themselves and their communities, this is actually a secondary consideration in today's sick society. As this obsession for money is driving humanity to the brink of extinction, we need to make two fundamental changes. First, we need to create an environment in which people can spend a considerable proportion of their lives in learning and self-development. In this way, we can all truly serve humanity. Even the hermits sitting in their caves are making a more significant contribution to the health and well-being of our species than those suffering stress, strain, and burn-out in today's world of work.</p>		

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists																																													
<table border="1"> <caption>Estimated data from the line graph</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Agriculture (%)</th> <th>Industry (%)</th> <th>Service (%)</th> <th>Information (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1860</td><td>40</td><td>17</td><td>17</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>1870</td><td>48</td><td>33</td><td>25</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>1880</td><td>45</td><td>25</td><td>25</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>1900</td><td>35</td><td>25</td><td>25</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>1920</td><td>32</td><td>18</td><td>25</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>1940</td><td>18</td><td>22</td><td>25</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>1960</td><td>8</td><td>18</td><td>30</td><td>42</td></tr> <tr><td>1980</td><td>2</td><td>18</td><td>30</td><td>48</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Agriculture (%)	Industry (%)	Service (%)	Information (%)	1860	40	17	17	5	1870	48	33	25	10	1880	45	25	25	15	1900	35	25	25	15	1920	32	18	25	18	1940	18	22	25	25	1960	8	18	30	42	1980	2	18	30	48		
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<p>Secondly, we need to abolish those organizations that separate us from each other and Nature, in particular the stock markets of the world and joint-stock banks. This will enable joint-stock companies to focus attention on their true articles of association, which originally defined what they were in business for. Today, the primary purpose of companies is to make money, driven by rampant consumerism, with baking bread for us to eat and making bricks for houses for us to live in being secondary considerations. In such an unhealthy environment, human beings are but numbers in management accounting spreadsheets, treated no differently from office furniture and travel expenditure.</p> <p>Also, the notion that we are separate beings who can own or do anything will disappear, as the Advaita sages teach. By recognizing that we are all one Whole, we shall quite naturally share our resources in the Sharing Economy, giving of ourselves without any consideration of receiving any return. In the Sharing Economy, the distinction between employed and unemployed and between pensioners and nonpensioners will disappear. This will make the white paper called 'Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system', issued on 25th May 2006 by the British government, redundant. Their plans are that retirement age should rise from 65 to 66 in 2024, to 67 in 2034, and to 68 in 2044. But long before then, the global economy will have collapsed, requiring us to create quite new ways for caring for the elderly.</p>																																															
<p>One consequence of the way that the analytical mind has evolved over the past few thousand years is that academia has become deeply fragmented, inhibiting both students and teachers from seeing the Whole. So universities are very far from living up to their name. For the word <i>university</i>, which is cognate with <i>universe</i>, derives from the Latin word <i>universus</i> meaning 'turned into one whole'. So we can expect educational establishments to evolve that will help students to heal their minds. Such educational establishments can do no better than to be guided by J. Krishnamurti's definition of education given in <i>Education and the Significance of Life</i>: "Intelligence is the capacity to perceive the essential, the <i>what is</i>, and to awaken this capacity, in oneself and in others, is education." For our self-reflective Intelligence can only act with utmost clarity when we are free of the scientific, religious, and economic conditioning that causes us to behave more like machines than the divine, cosmic beings we truly are.</p>																																															
<p>We can also expect to see radical changes in politics in the Peaceful Society. As we shall all be working harmoniously together, there will no longer be any need for political parties representing the selfish needs of a section of society. This means that democracy, as we know it today, will disappear. For ego-centred democracies are tyrannous, as Alexis de Tocqueville and John Stuart Mill pointed out some 150 years ago in <i>Democracy in America</i> and <i>On Liberty</i>, respectively. Furthermore, when we vote in elections for politicians to represent our fragmented and selfish views of the world, we give away our power. Then no one is responsible for the state of the world, neither the politicians nor the electors, as Barry Long points out in <i>Only Fear Dies</i>. This is not actually a very big change, for many people are no longer able to distinguish one political party from another. Political parties today must all function within the constraints of capitalism, effectively making the population powerless to create a society that is fit for our children and children's children to live in.</p> <p>And just as the city states of the Hellenic civilization evolved into the nation states of Western civilization, evolution will carry us naturally into a global state, led not by either-or leaders, as at present, but by both-and leaders, able to see both sides of any situation, the principal characteristic of Intelligence.</p>																																															
<p>During the me-epoch, the patriarchal religions had a most important role to play in</p>																																															

Synopsis	Visuals	Specialists
<p>maintaining order in a less than fully conscious population. But as evolution becomes increasingly conscious of itself, we can expect to see more and more people finding spiritual satisfaction outside of these religions. For unless the organized religions can evolve with the times, acknowledging that we are all, in essence, divine, they will naturally wither and die, having little relevance in a superconscious, superintelligent society.</p>		
<p>One critical issue that we shall need to address as our spiritual awakening accelerates at superhyperexponential speeds is the danger of spiritual emergency, as spirit emerges faster than the mind can handle it. Today, some psychiatrists diagnose such spiritual awakenings as psychotic episodes, which such organizations as the Spiritual Emergence Network are doing their best to counteract. However, this is not a new problem. There is some evidence that Arjuna went through a spiritual emergency described in <i>The Bhagavad Gita</i>. For when Krishna showed Arjuna “all the manifold forms of the universe united as one,” Arjuna said, “I rejoice in seeing you as you have never been seen before, yet I am filled with fear by this vision of you as the abode of the universe.”</p>		Christina and Stanislav Grof
<p>All this means that the divisions that we create today between science, philosophy, and religion will disappear. We shall develop a vital science, a coherent body of knowledge that corresponds to all our experiences, from the mundane to the mystical. This will free up huge resources currently focused on finding life, extraterrestrial intelligence, and the origin of the Universe in outer space and in particle accelerators.</p> <p>This will also transform medicine, particularly psychiatry and psychology. For when medical practitioners recognize the healing power of nonphysical energies, the use of drugs, which often have deleterious side-effects, will be greatly reduced. As Joseph Weizenbaum pointed out in <i>Computer Power and Human Reason</i>, physicians are increasingly becoming “mere conduits between their patients and the major drug manufacturers”.</p>		
<p>There are many organizations in the world as manifestations of the emerging civilization. These include the Alliance for a New Humanity, the Integral Institute, the Foundation for Conscious Evolution, the Institute of Noetic Sciences, the Scientific and Medical Network, the Great Rethinking, Be the Change, the Association for Global New Thought, the Club of Rome, the Club of Budapest, and many more. There are also many alternative magazines, such as <i>What is Enlightenment?</i> and <i>Resurgence</i>, to name but two. We can report on some of these developments with the aim of getting them to work together with a common vision, which is sadly lacking at the moment.</p>		
<p>In summary, this television series has endeavoured to present our evolutionary story as it is, as simply and clearly as possible, transcending any optimistic or pessimistic feelings about the future. For, in Reality, there is no past or future, there is only the eternal Now, when we discover that our divine Essence is Love. It is Love that will heal our grievously sick society, helping us all to realize our fullest potential as divine, cosmic beings.</p>		

My evolutionary story

I was born in south-east England in the middle of the Second World War and was educated primarily as a mathematician. In parallel with my formal education, I began my search for Wholeness and the Truth and for Love and Peace as an eight-year-old, when I saw that there would never be world peace until the war between science and religion came to an end. Specifically, until the contextual concepts of God and the Universe are unified in Wholeness, we cannot determine the truth or falsity of what we are taught or learn for ourselves. However, I did not make much progress with this project as a child and adolescent because neither science, based on physics and Darwinian evolution, nor religion, based on the Christian concept of God, could provide satisfactory answers to the fundamental questions I was asking. Nevertheless, the seed was sown for what was to become a giant oak in later life.



After four years as a mathematician/programmer and systems analyst in the electricity industry, I joined IBM in 1968 in London as a systems engineer in a sales office, supporting, designing, and proposing advanced computer systems in the public sector. This work experience gave me a sound understanding of the fundamental principles of information technology, particularly Ted Codd's relational model of data. I was promoted into management in 1974, being responsible for a number of prestigious customers, including the British Post Office (now British Telecom) and British Rail. Realizing that the IT industry was at a watershed, I transferred to marketing in 1979 to develop a UK marketing programme for decision support systems and personal computing.

This led me to become aware about how little we knew (and know) about the long-term psychological and economic implications of society's growing dependency on the computer. Puzzling over this problem, I could see that technological development cannot drive economic growth indefinitely and that both capitalism and communism would self-destruct within thirty years, by the time my children would presumably be bringing up children of their own.

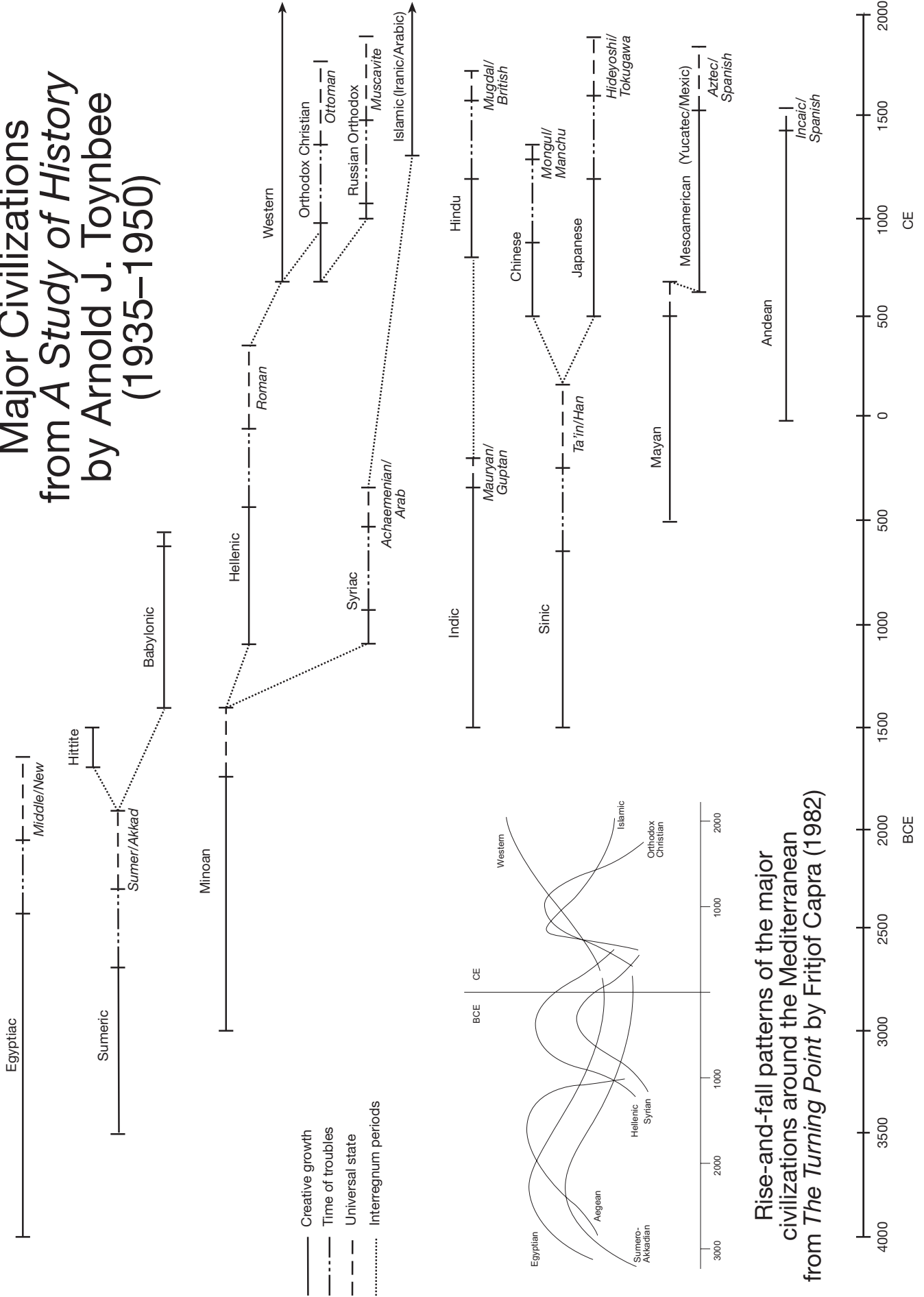
Seeking to understand what is causing scientists and technologists, like myself, to drive the pace of evolutionary change exponentially, I realized on 27th April 1980 that our knowledge and intellect, aided and abetted by corresponding constructs in computers, must be types of energy. Three weeks after this eureka! experience, which I now see as the beginning of my spiritual awakening, I resigned from my job with IBM and set out to unify the psychospiritual energies I had 'discovered' with the physical energies recognized by the physicists. I have thus now fulfilled my boyhood dream: the complete union of science and spirituality, reason and religion, and mathematics and mysticism.

My principal scientific mentor in this endeavour was David Bohm, who unified relativity and quantum theories with his theory of the implicate order. I have had many spiritual guides, both through their writings and in person. These include J. Krishnamurti, Osho, Barry Long, Ramesh S. Balsekar, and Vijai Shankar. However, my inner guru, meaning 'dispeller of darkness', has been the main guide in my life, carrying me Home to Wholeness, evolution's glorious culmination.

In worldly terms, having married a Norwegian woman in 1986, I rejoined IBM in 1990 at its Nordic Software Development Laboratory on Lidingö, a beautiful island in the Stockholm archipelago, as a human interface designer and technical writer. I was given early retirement in 1997, when the products we were developing were transferred to other countries.

Since then, I have been seeking a life-fulfilling way to serve my fellow human beings at these most momentous times in evolutionary history, writing and publishing a book and setting up a web site with the motto 'Healing our sick society'. As I have spent 44 of the last 56 years becoming free of the constraints of Western civilization in order to heal my fragmented mind, *Our Evolutionary Story* looks the most practical way forward in the immediate future. However, as evolution is in charge of all our lives, I don't know if this is actually going to happen. We must just wait and see.

Major Civilizations from *A Study of History* by Arnold J. Toynbee (1935-1950)



Rise-and-fall patterns of the major civilizations around the Mediterranean from *The Turning Point* by Fritjof Capra (1982)