

OUR MISSION

A Manifesto

drafted by Ervin Laszlo

- We have reached a critical juncture of our evolution on Earth. We face a challenge: evolve or perish. If we are to set forth our tenure on Earth, we need to evolve to a higher phase of our evolutionary path. This calls for fundamentally changing the way we think. In order to avoid an evolutionary dead-end, we need to re-think the way we relate to each other, and to the planet.
- The sciences of life tell us that evolution is not limited to the genetic pool of biological species. It is a fundamental process of change and development involving all facets of life, indeed all forms of organization in the universe. Evolution is a universal progression from the chaos that followed the Big Bang to the order and coherence we now find in space and time.
- On Earth, evolution in the higher realms of complexity unfolds in a nonlinear fashion. It is continuous and on the whole irreversible, but not smooth and even. The evolution of the complex systems we call living is interspersed with fluctuations, dramatic fallbacks and epoch-changing forward leaps. The fluctuation we experience today is a downward shift in the direction of disorder and chaos. But it is not the final word: the current downshift could be followed by an upshift toward order and coherence.
- If we are to reach the upshift phase of our evolution, we need to survive the challenges of the downshift. We must reverse the direction in which we have evolved in the modern age. This is a challenge, but the challenge can be met. We are at a tipping-point, and at that point many paths of development open for us. The choice between them is sensitive to our behavior, which in turn is sensitive to our thinking. The current bifurcation of our evolutionary trajectory could be a prelude to disaster — but it could also be the doorway to a higher phase of our evolution.

- We need to take the next phase of our evolution into our hands. We can do so: for a community of conscious beings, purposeful evolution need not be utopian. Consciously guiding humanity's evolution does not call for manipulating the conditions of life on Earth, nor for altering the genetic constitution of living species. It calls for better ways of thinking. With the narrowly self-centered mindset that dominated modern civilization, our very survival was placed in jeopardy. Our thinking must change: it must encompass humanity as a conscious and responsible part of the great wave of evolution that unfolds in on the planet. This would pave the way for the upshift that comes if we follow the evolutionary impetus present in nature present in every cell of our body: a subtle but powerful impetus toward coherence and wholeness, manifest as a sense of oneness and unconditional love.
- We can make our evolution conscious, and doing so we can consciously guide our development toward the higher rungs of the evolution that unfolds throughout nature and the universe. This is a cosmic task, an ineluctable responsibility of a conscious being.
- Allowing a conscious species to spiral downward toward extinction is a crime against nature; it is contrary to this evolving and evolution-generating universe. Reversing our current downshift is possible, and it has already started. Supporting it is not an option, but a mission. It is the cosmic mission of awakened people, responsible members of the human family.

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