

10th EUROTAS Conference

**Planet, Culture and Consciousness:
the Development of Humanity in the
21st Century**

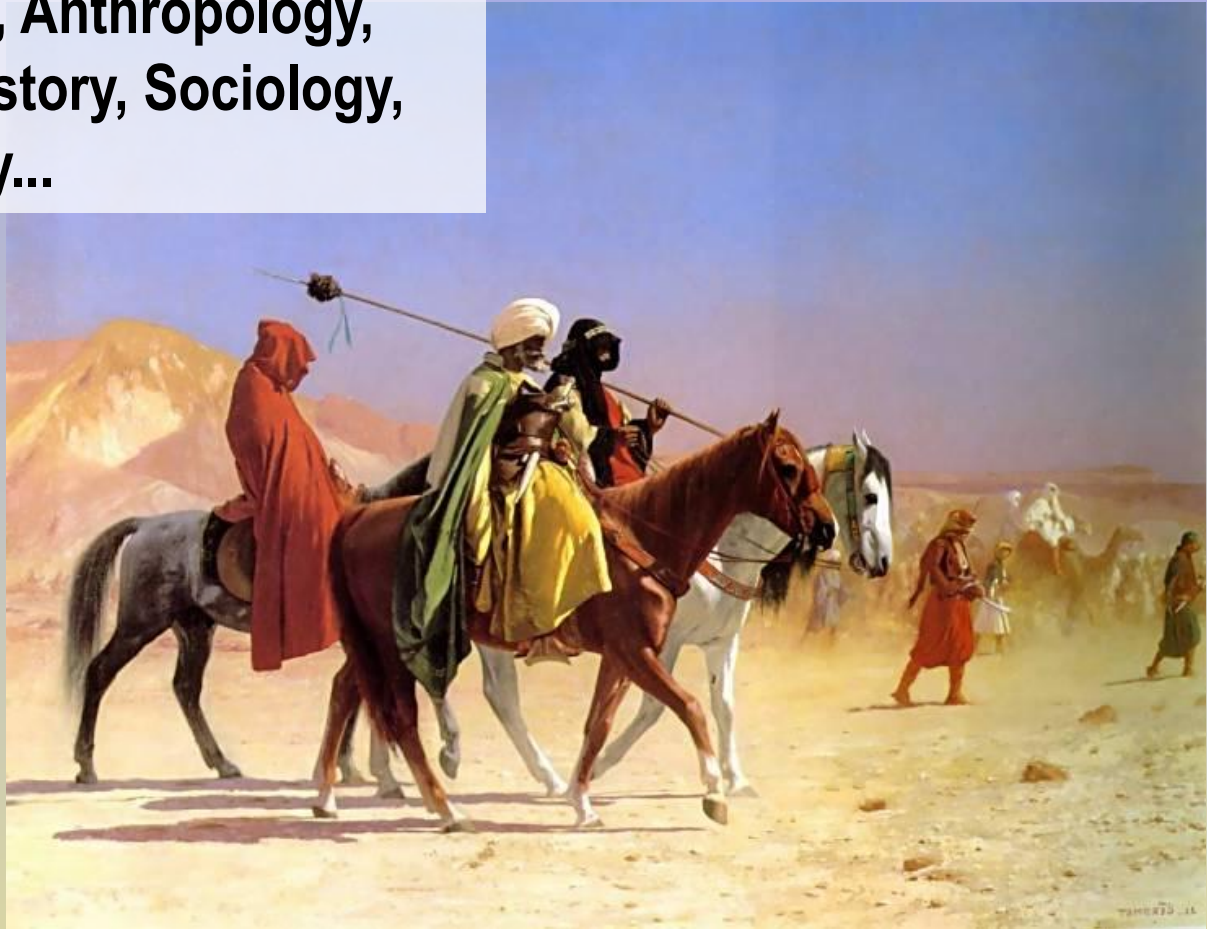
**Barcelona, October 29th - November
2nd 2008**

Developping Humans

Vitor Rodrigues, PhD



Human Development can be studied from Demography, Geography, Anthropology, Biology, History, Sociology, Psychology...



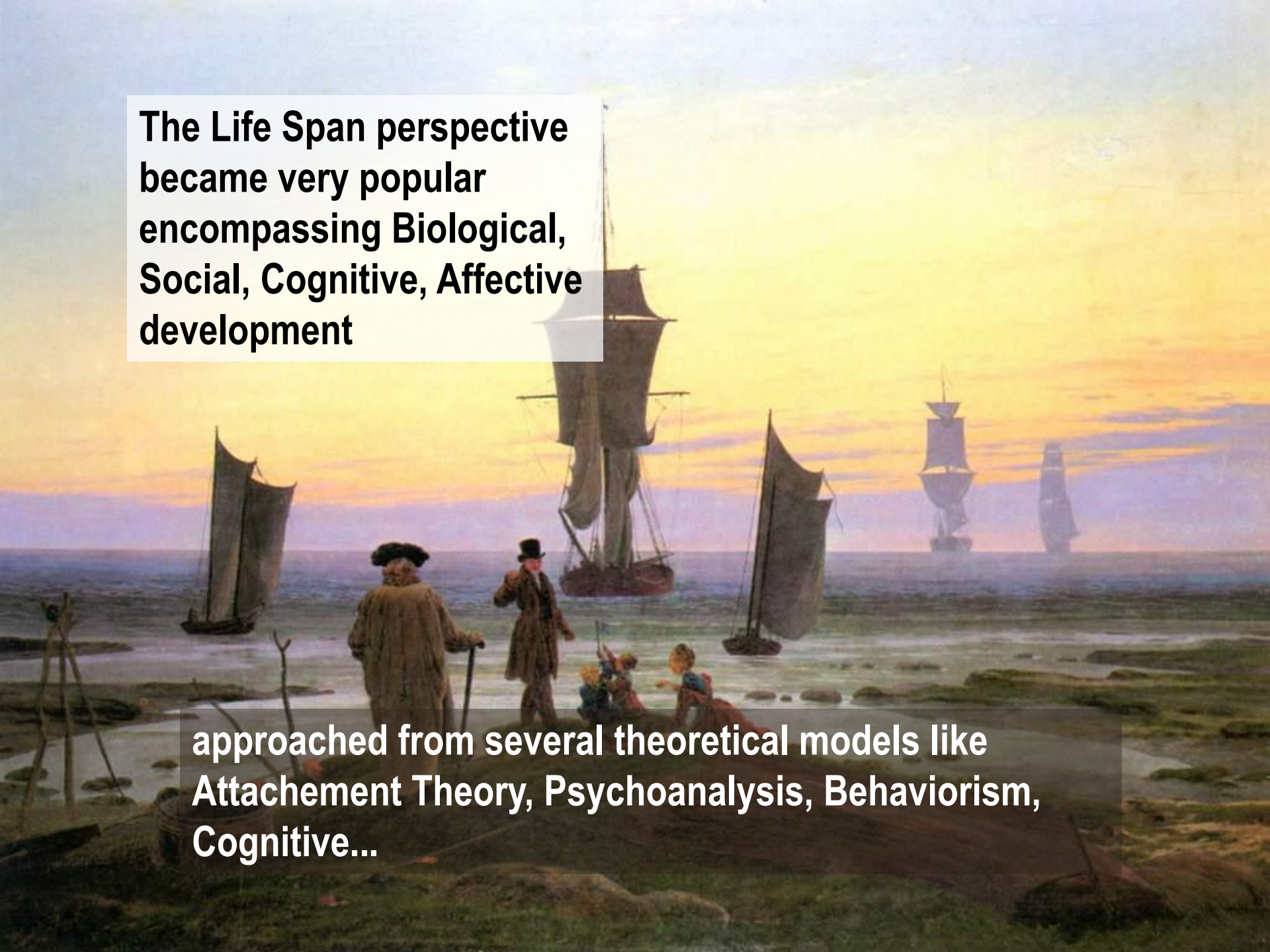
**Psychological
development can be
studied in many areas:**


**Social, Cognitive,
Psychomotor
and so on**



**The Life Span perspective
became very popular
encompassing Biological,
Social, Cognitive, Affective
development**

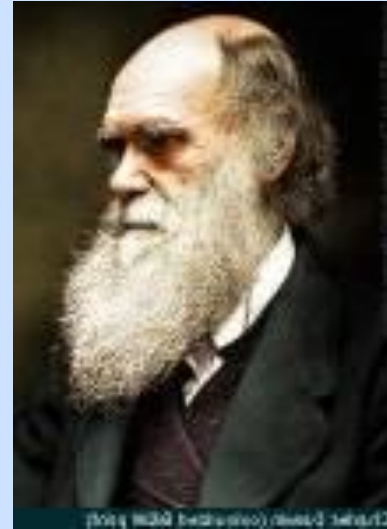
**approached from several theoretical models like
Attachment Theory, Psychoanalysis, Behaviorism,
Cognitive...**





with somehow different
emphasis on the issue of
Nature vs. Nurture as
chief developmental
influences

and different perspectives
on the driving forces
behind it



The usual ideas:

we are intelligent organisms adapting to, and trying to thrive, in our complex world.

Biologically hardwired motivations will make us search for what we need, be it love, security, food, shelter, sex and so on.

Becoming human implies a strong contribution from Society and socialization processes.

Our personal history is the full story to be told about us

while of course we are part of the larger story of Humankind, seen as one very special animal group.



**Internalizing Culture while
developping our bodies
makes us humans (Bruner
1983)**

**the way we use Culture and
contribute to its
preservation and
development makes us
differentiated individuals**



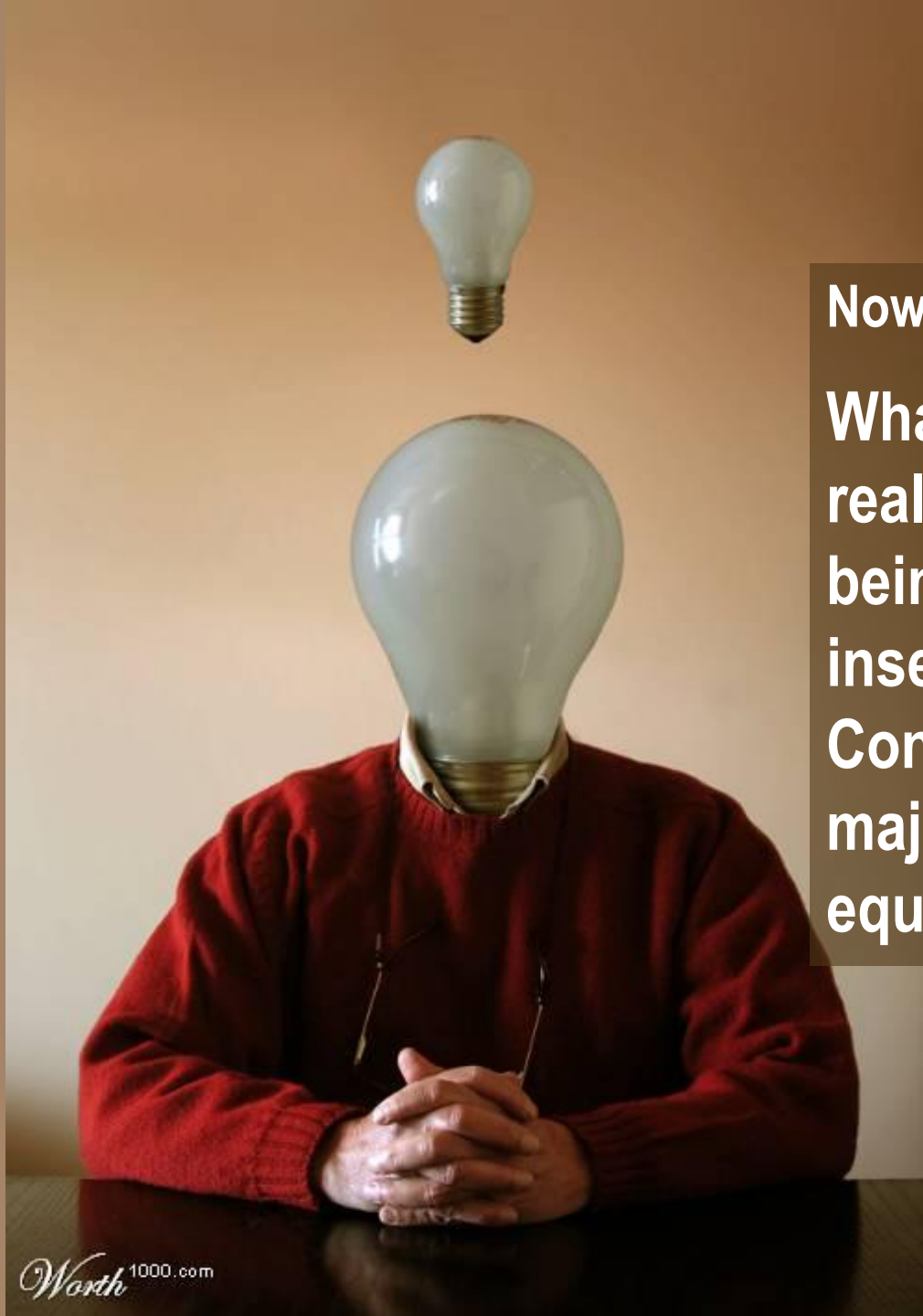


**Mainstream Psychology can
include psychomotor, emotional,
social, cognitive, moral,
self-development, identity
development, motivational
development, even consciousness
But... the general ideas will remain
the same**

**we are adaptive, intelligent animals, struggling
for pleasure and survival in a complex society**

**Self, consciousness, identity, are to be
explained (or explained away?) as adaptive
functions**





Now for alternatives:

**What if we could not
really define a Human
being without
inserting
Consciousness as the
major variable in the
equation?**



What if Consciousness - “mirror like” or experiential Consciousness - was the fundamental defining trait of humans?



What if human Culture and History would only make sense because we are conscious witnesses of them?

And what if Art, Philosophy, even Science were only possible because we are aware of the conscious experience they produce on us – we are a public?



**Studying Consciousness,
one notion comes forth:
Identity**

**Because we are conscious,
we identify ourselves with
something and keep doing
this.**

**Identity changes are the
observable face of the
development of
consciousness**

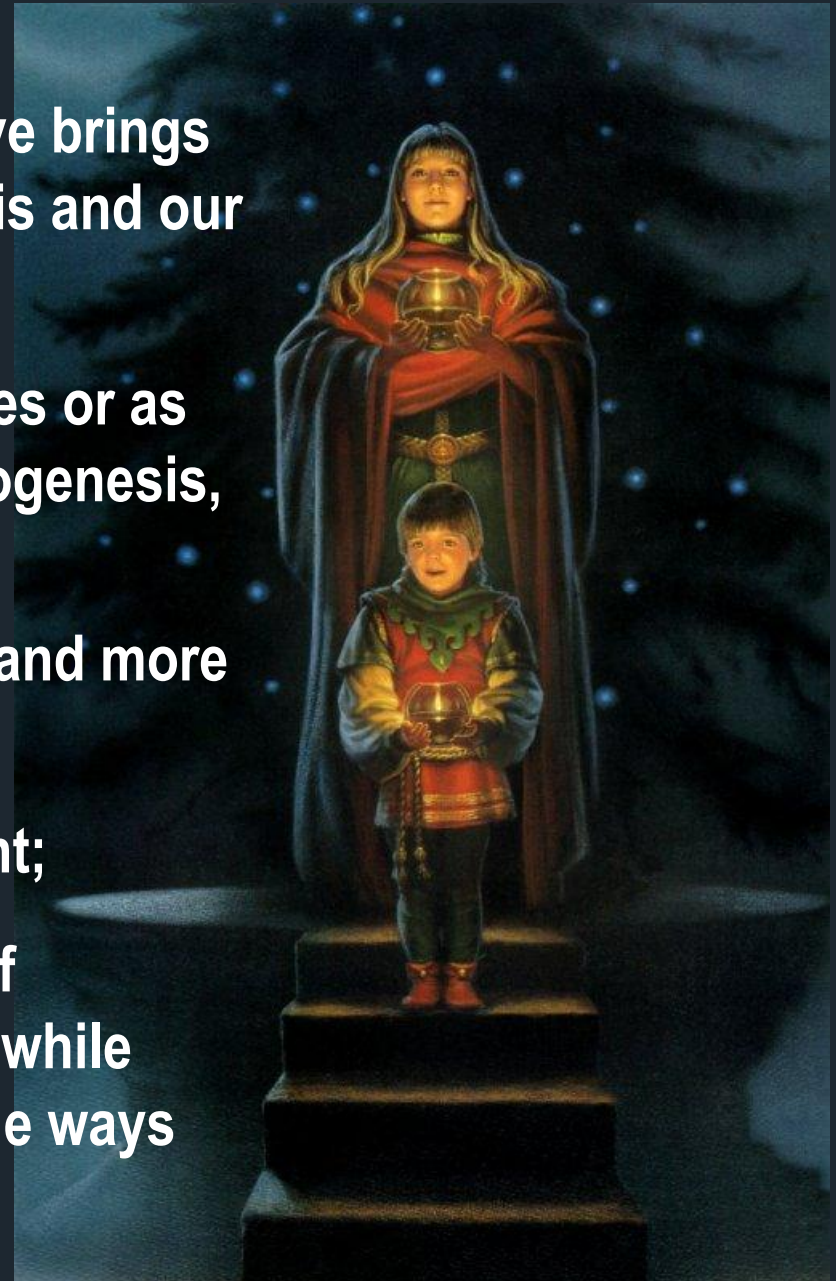
The Transpersonal perspective brings with it lots of ideas around this and our development

At first, both as Human species or as individual humans in our ontogenesis, we identify with our bodies;

then emotions become more and more important;

then thought gets more salient;

then we go for other modes of knowledge (namely intuition) while coordinating the rest in unique ways





**Perhaps in the future of
Humankind identification with
Divine realms will become
normal; for now we see it in some
very salient individuals**

**World Religions and Spirituality will
have a lot to say about this as they
are mostly consecrated to a
redefinition of identity.**

Now for consequences:

Perhaps we don't just bring to our individual development a biological-genetic nature; we will also bring along with us a spiritual nature, a sort of Soul genetics.

This is, of course, the same we find in traditions that speak about Karma.

An artistic illustration of a woman with long, flowing, reddish-brown hair, wearing a light blue, ethereal dress. She is holding a bright, glowing yellow orb in her right hand. The background is a deep blue with swirling, wavy patterns. Two yellow arrows originate from the text 'Nurturing humans:'; one points towards the lower-left text block, and the other points towards the upper-right text block.

**Nurturing
humans:**

**Biological
social
psychological**

**Transpersonal
Psychic
Spiritual**



How?

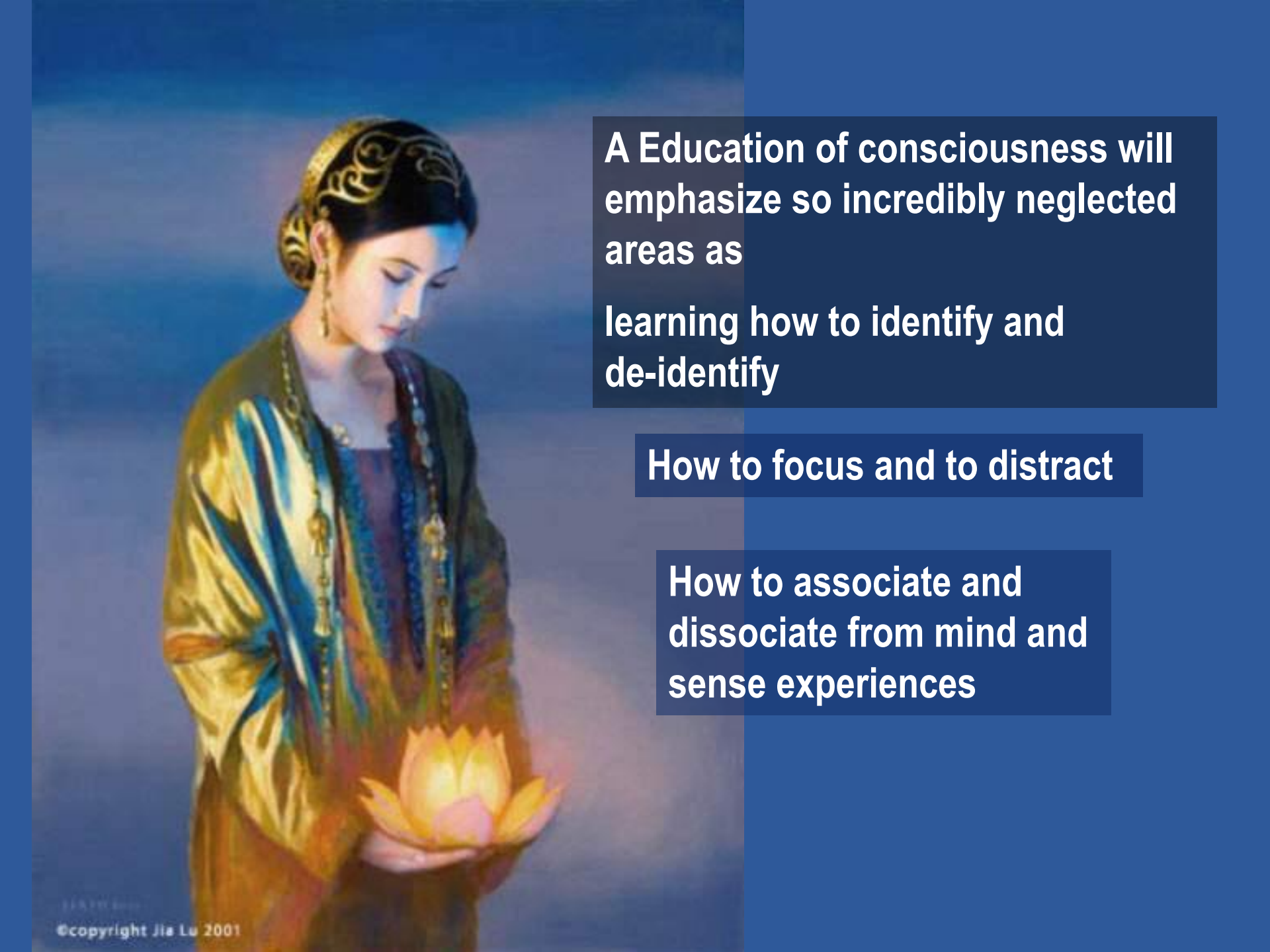
**Taking care of
the “energy”
environment**

**Taking care of
stimulation and the
social environment**

**During pregnancy -
perinatal education**

During life

**During death transitions
- death education**

A woman in traditional Chinese attire, including a yellow and blue robe and a gold headpiece, is shown in profile, looking down at a glowing yellow lotus flower she is holding. The background is a soft, hazy blue.

**A Education of consciousness will
emphasize so incredibly neglected
areas as**

**learning how to identify and
de-identify**

How to focus and to distract

**How to associate and
dissociate from mind and
sense experiences**

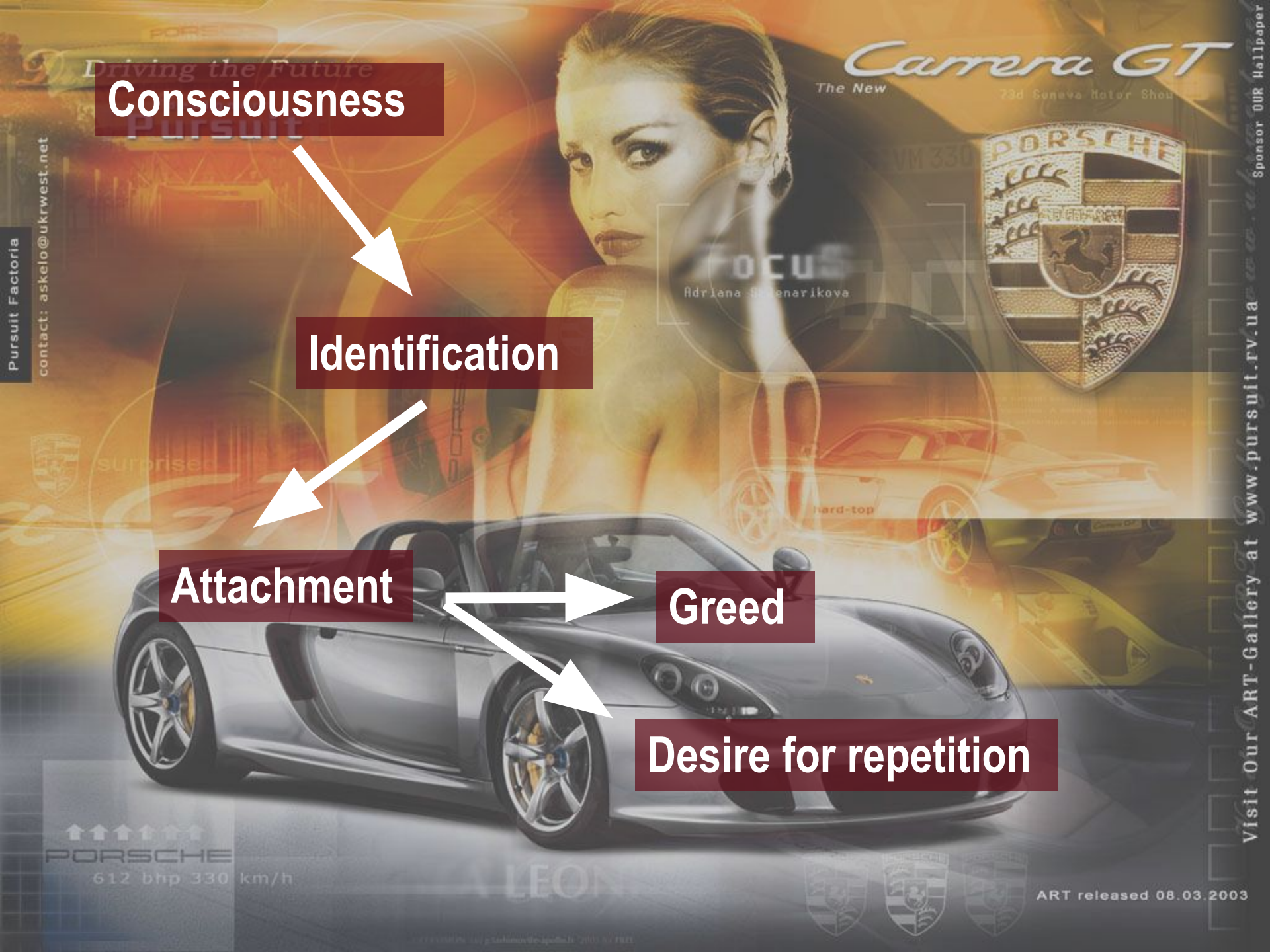
Consciousness

Identification

Attachment

Greed

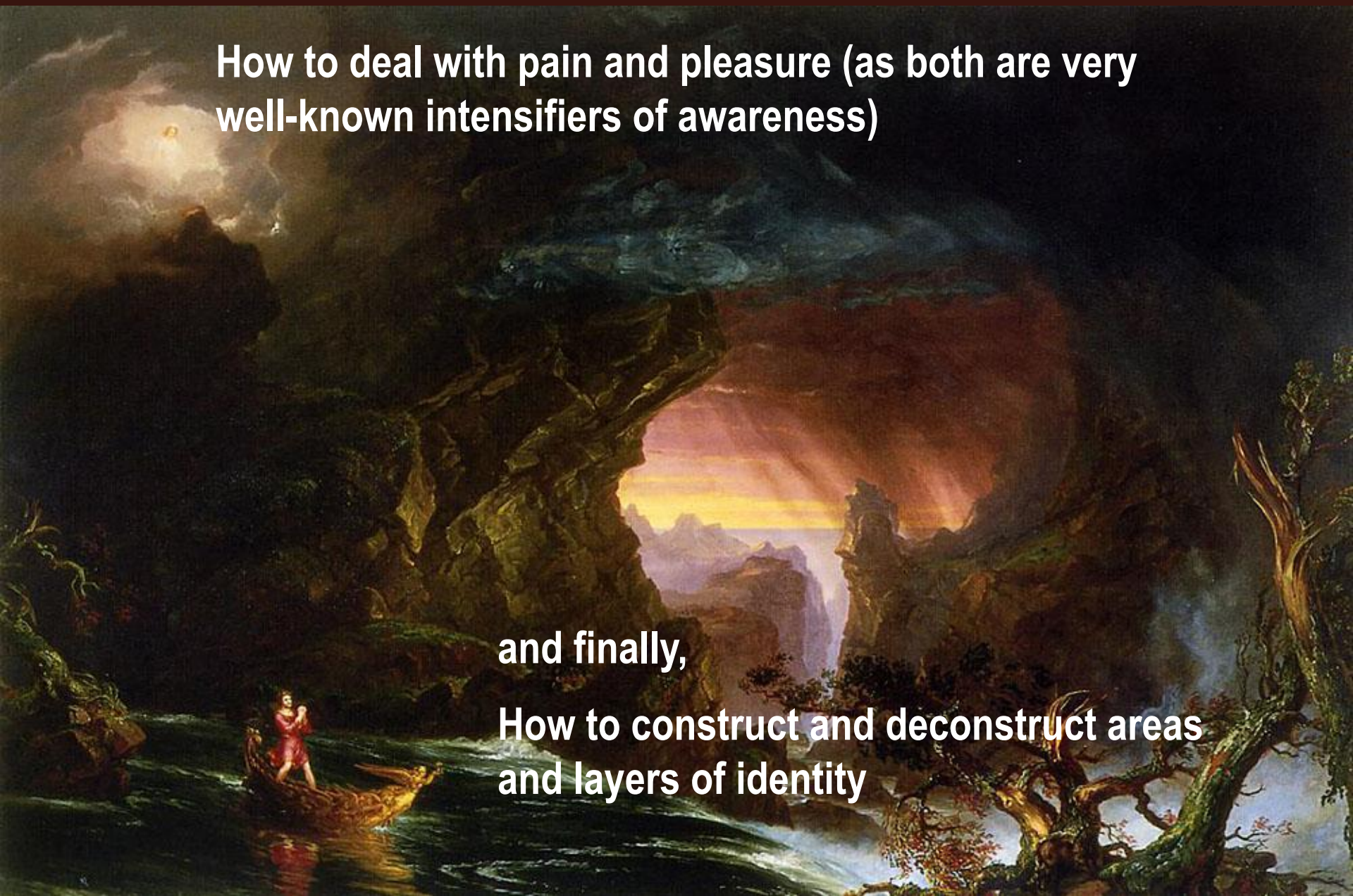
Desire for repetition



How to deal with pain and pleasure (as both are very well-known intensifiers of awareness)

and finally,

How to construct and deconstruct areas and layers of identity





We need cartographies of consciousness while of course keeping in mind that maps are not the territory.

Assisting the development of human individuals becomes the same as assisting their journey through:

physical and non-physical worlds;



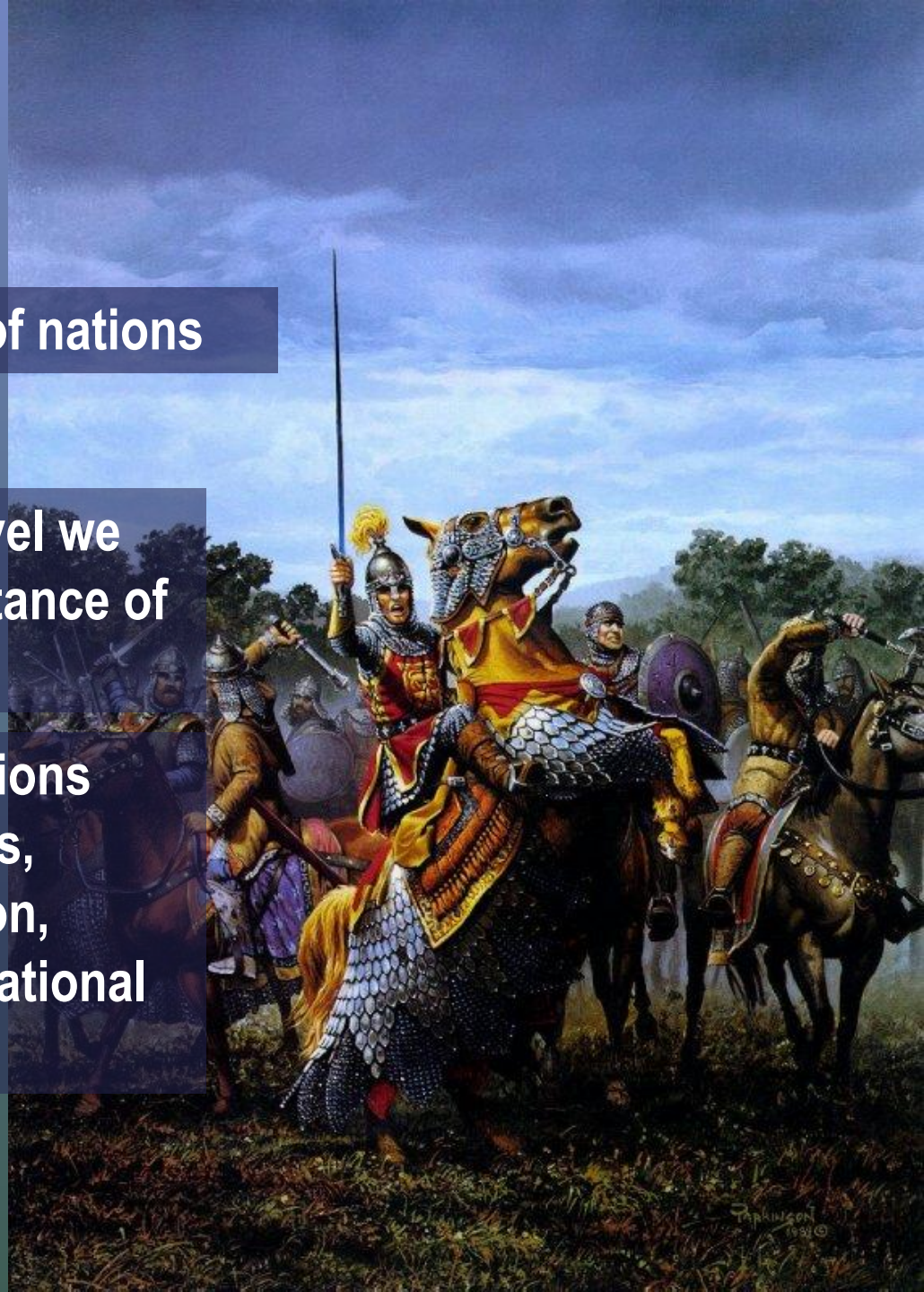
psychical and spiritual realms;

**retrieving some of their inheritance
from previous lives and going for new
developments, perhaps retrieving a
deeper divine inheritance**

Now for the development of nations

**Perhaps at the collective level we
can still consider the importance of
Identity**

**Past human groups and nations
valued Conquerors, Warriors,
Empires, Kingdom expansion,
Crusaders, Holy warriors, National
pride**



For thousands of years,
groups identified with
power, aggression,
armies, fortresses,
weapons, territories

expanding territory was a
way of expanding their
sense of worth



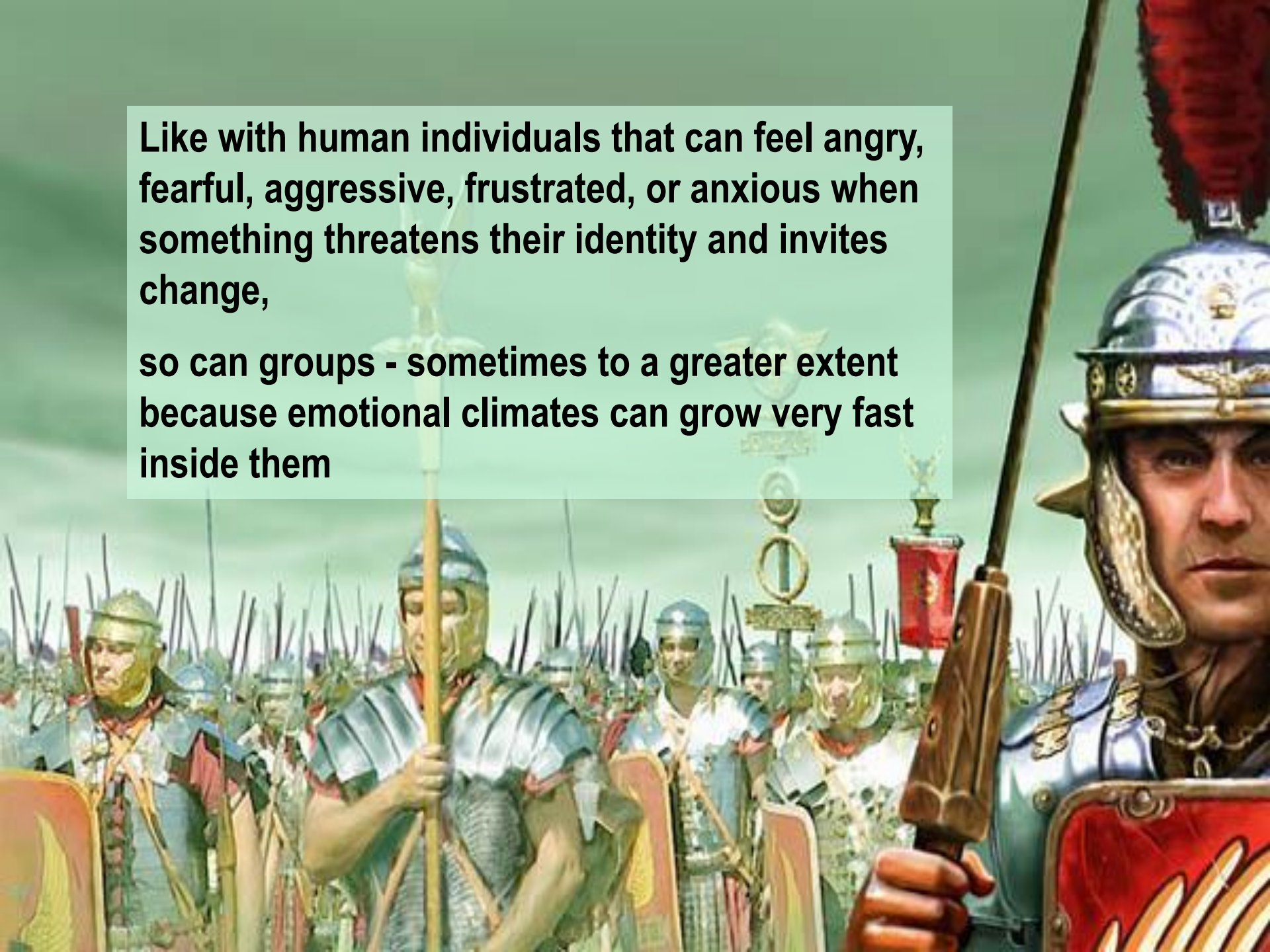


Growing as a nation was about growing in territory or possessions

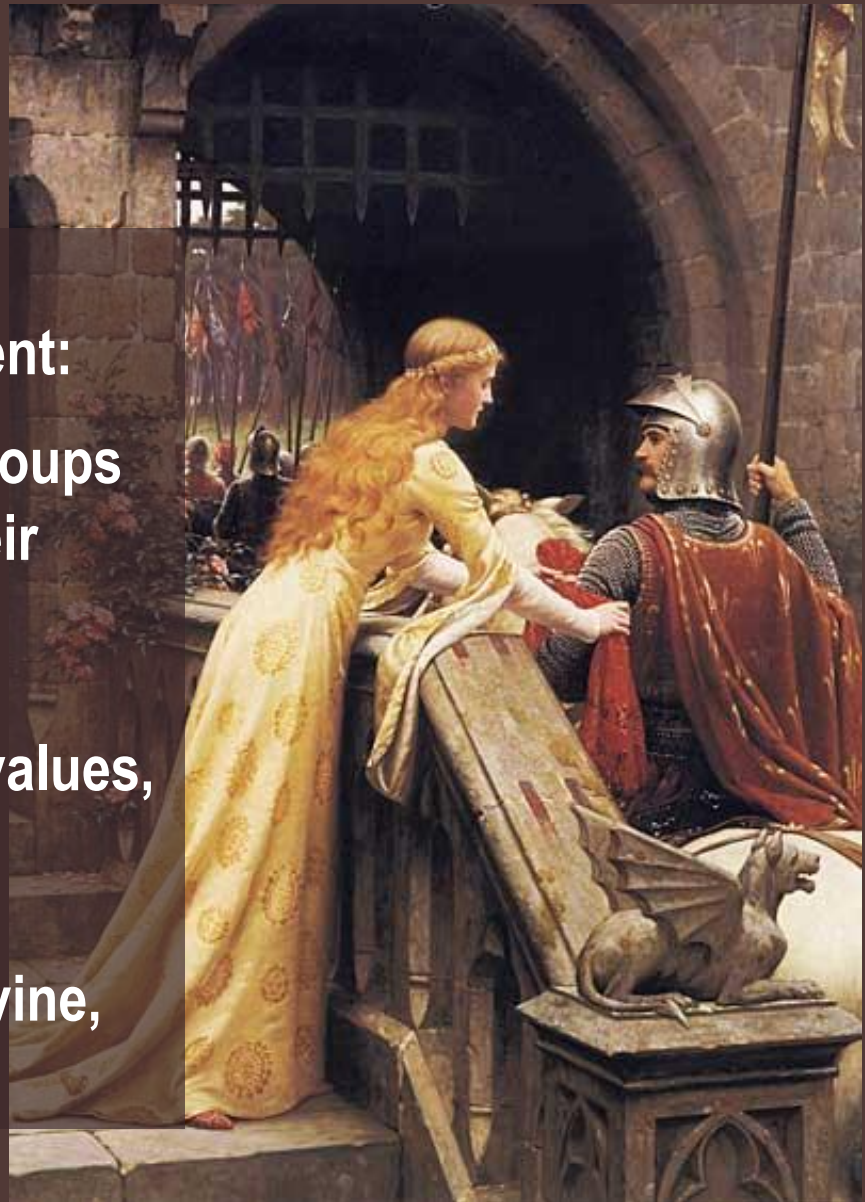
Different ideas or creeds would invite war as if religious or philosophical groups were protecting their right to live

Like with human individuals that can feel angry, fearful, aggressive, frustrated, or anxious when something threatens their identity and invites change,

so can groups - sometimes to a greater extent because emotional climates can grow very fast inside them



**Humankind needs a real
transpersonal development:
big national or smaller groups
must de-identify with their
group personalities
and
re-identify with abstract values,
impersonal love, Nature,
abstract feelings and
representations of the divine,
the Cosmos**



A painting depicting a group of people in white robes gathered on a rocky shore at night. They are looking up at a starry sky over a lake and mountains. The scene is illuminated by a soft, ethereal light, possibly from the moon or stars. The people are in various poses, some standing and some sitting, all appearing to be in a state of contemplation or awe. The background features a large, dark mountain range under a deep blue night sky filled with stars. A small waterfall is visible on the right side of the shore.

Helping the development of Nations or Humankind will need emphasis on new group identities.

Human groups will learn identification with constructive, abstract values and develop a sense of self esteem through devising their unique ways of contributing to a symphonic whole.

Nations must find ways of feeling that their expansion is now to be found in inner realms and the uniqueness of their cultural contribution to the whole through the Arts, Philosophy, and their specific qualities of energy



**fundamental impersonal
values are the landmark of
the Transpersonal
according to Descamps**

**as some of us like to think in Portugal,
the new Empires are not to be
established on Earth but to be found
in the Realms of national Souls**

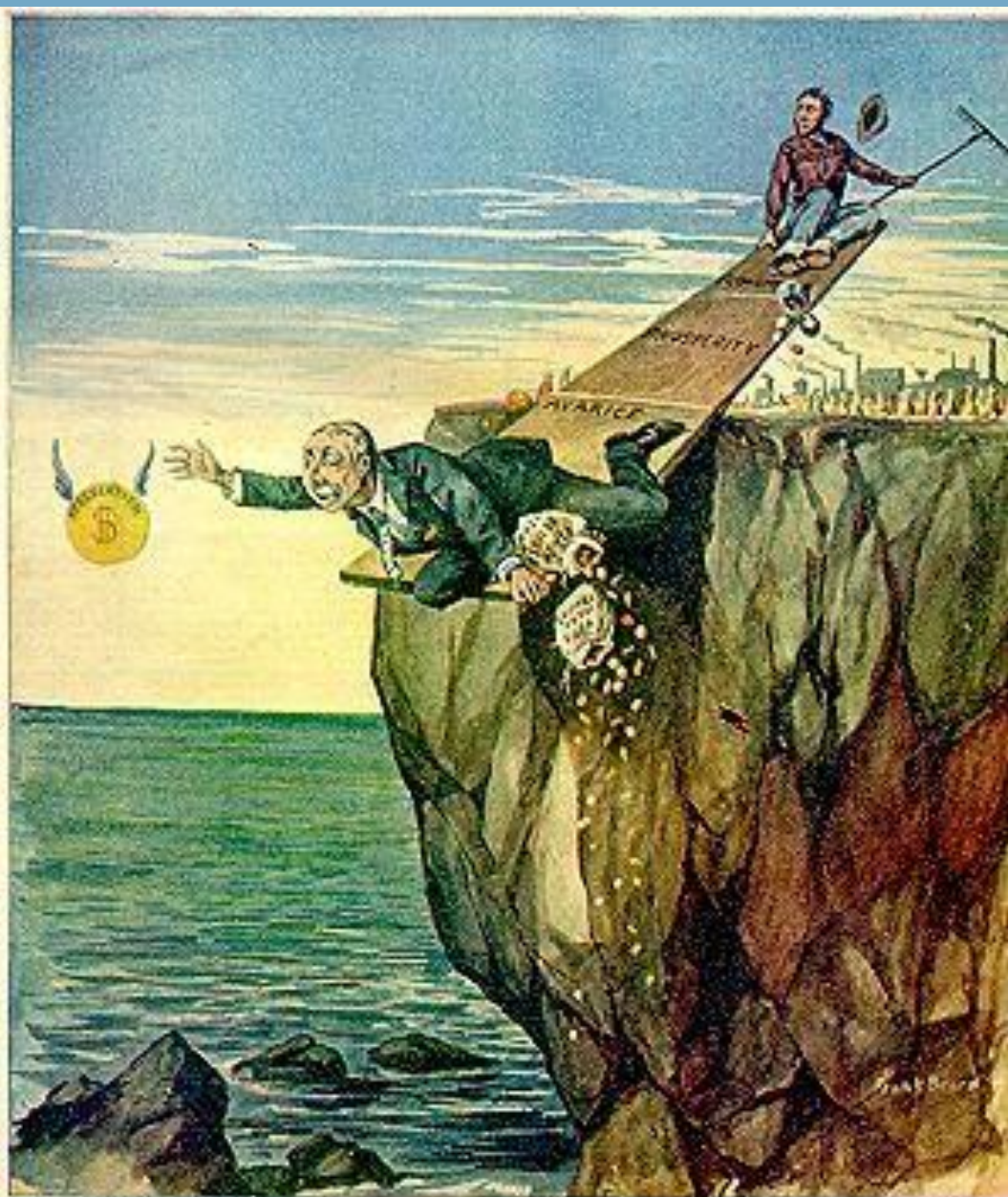


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QuickTime
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are needed to see this picture.

Humankind is quickly finding the limits to the untenable capitalistic philosophy of limitless economic expansion and limitless exploration of material and human resources everywhere



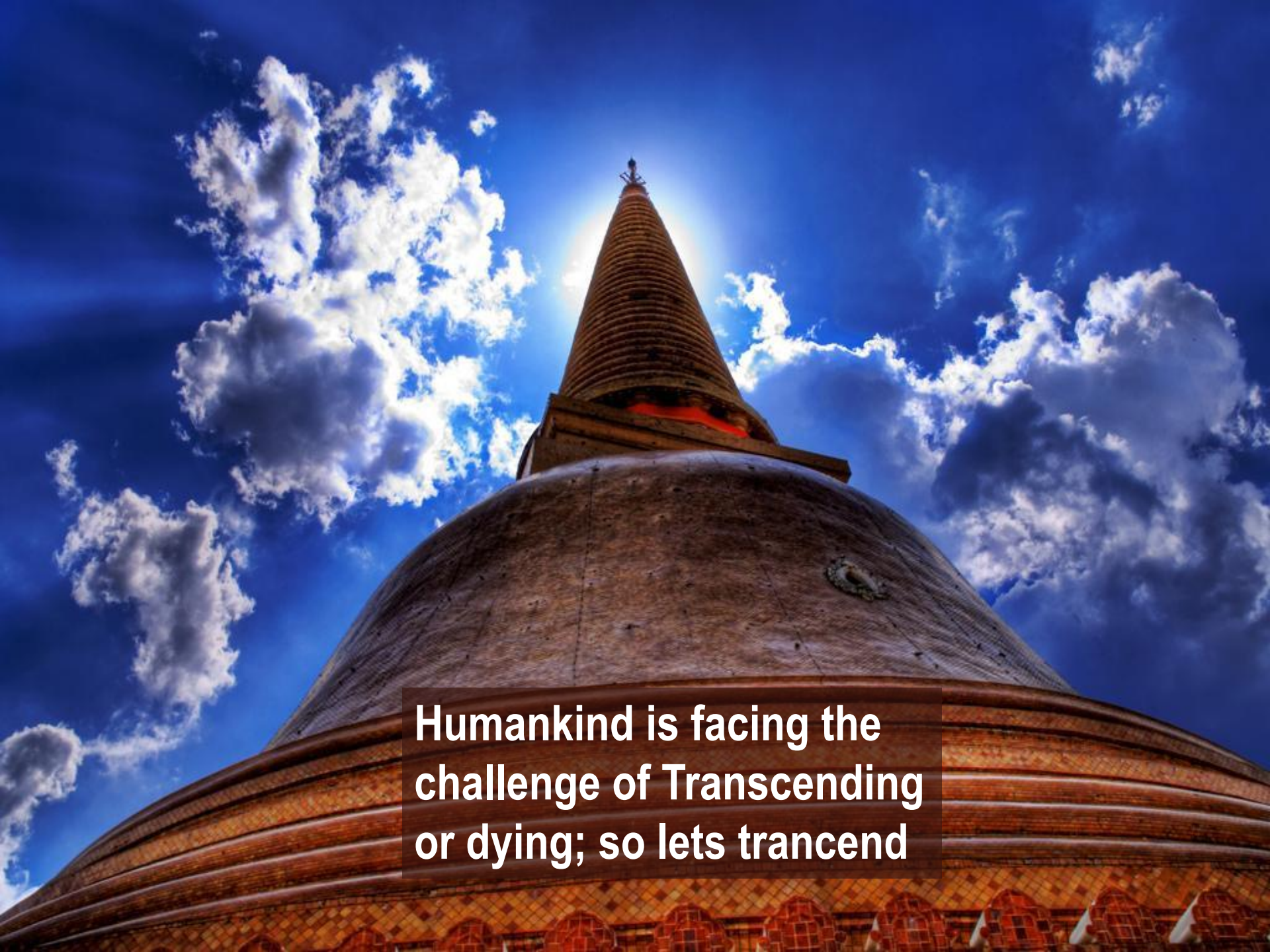
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THE INSANITY OF GREED.

A group of seven people, four men and three women, are standing on a sandy beach at sunset. They are all facing away from the camera, holding hands and raising their arms in a gesture of unity and expansion. The sky is a vibrant orange and yellow, with clouds catching the low light. The ocean is visible in the background, and a dark, forested hillside is on the right. The scene is reflected in the wet sand in the foreground.

**Now we can progress to the true area of limitless expansion:
consciousness and energy literacy – meaning the cultivation
of the knowledge of the kingdoms of the Psyche**

Deep Ecology is one example of such necessary changes



**Humankind is facing the
challenge of Transcending
or dying; so lets trancend**