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## **The Code to Humanity: Technology's Effect on the Natural World**

"The major problems in the world are the result of the difference between how nature works and the way people think." This is a quote from Gregory Bateson, and it illustrates how nature is being forsaken as new technology such as Artificial Intelligence advances.

To many people, AI seems unstoppable- so are our tools better than we are? Well, that heavily depends on what we use them for. Right now, the world is entering a new age in which robots and AI are stepping out of science fiction novels and into our working lives. It is to be expected that many jobs will be replaced, especially now that AI is giving us cause to believe it could do creative careers better than we can- in addition to the analytical and manual labor careers we already know it's more capable of. So, that answers the question, doesn't it? Not quite.

The truth is, humans are such fundamentally complex and unpredictable beings that there are things about our species we can't imbue into our tools. We don't understand ourselves- so neither can our technology. AI assistants like ChatGPT may be efficient at writing essays, but when it comes to something like creative writing, humor, or conversation, it simply can't understand human motives. It may seem idealistic, but I believe our tools cannot be better than we are if they lack the ability to idealize a better future for our planet. What is the definition of "better"? Better at life? What is the meaning of life? AI has never speculated about what the meaning of life is because it's incapable of producing new theories for the bigger questions in the universe- however futile they may be to answer. If you ask me, this is what makes us better than our tools.

As to how this affects our relationship with the ecological community, we definitely have work to do as a civilization. Our tools are meant to simply do what we want them to; if we want to wipe cities into distant memories, or suck oil from the earth like water from a straw, our tools will do it. If we want to plant new trees or create eco-friendly kinds of fuel, our tools will do it. The problem is not that our tools are inherently harmful to the environment, it's that we as a species prioritize advancement and expansion over maintaining a healthy planet. In fact, large corporations contribute to climate change the most because they refuse to change the ways they manufacture their goods, or even admit that it's hurting the ecosystem.

The thing about technology is that it's always advancing- more rapidly than anything else in the world. AI advanced so quickly, that by 2021, there were already stereotypes and jokes based around those who used it. In 2019, it was something associated with fiction. Technology advances and changes so much more quickly than nature that nature oftentimes isn't able to keep up with the change. Have the times changed so much that the human race has forgotten the importance of protecting the natural world?

I don't believe it's ever too late to turn our planet around, but the truth is that technology won't stop. Something that is undeniable about our species is that we are never satisfied with the technology we possess. If we want to better our relationship with the environment, we need to drastically change the way we build, see, and use technology; Advancement will never extinguish itself, but if the human race remains on the path we have created for ourselves, we almost certainly will.