

Jenna Kay

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Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2024 1:03 AM
To: Jenna Kay; Amy Koski; Ben Duncan; Sylvia Ciborowski; Dana Hellman; tlunsford@parametrix.com; Harrison Husting; Nicole Metildi
Subject: Daniel Schmachtenberger: "A Vision for Betterment" | The Great Simplification

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Daniel Schmachtenberger: "A Vision for Betterment" | The Great Simplification

<https://youtu.be/tmusbHBKW84?si=t2fc0ErM2sqg2vON>

Here is a concise summary of the key points from the conversation:

The conversation explores the difference between "immature progress" driven by narrow goals and profit, versus "authentic progress" that truly benefits the wellbeing of people, society, and the planet.

The host and guest discuss how the dominant "progress narrative" has often ignored or downplayed the negative externalities and harms caused by technological and economic advancement. Examples include leaded gasoline, DDT, and the green revolution.

They argue that true progress must be evaluated based on its impact on the whole, not just optimization of certain metrics. Factors like inequality, environmental destruction, and cultural/spiritual impoverishment are often ignored.

The conversation delves into how our language, social structures, and economic incentives are shaped to prioritize competitive, extractive, and short-term thinking - what the guest calls the "cancer cell" mentality. Shifting to a more holistic, interconnected worldview is seen as essential.

Ultimately, the discussion emphasizes the need for a major cultural and value shift - away from narrow self-interest and toward an attitude of reverence, restraint, and responsibility for the web of life. Small steps like "yellow teaming" to anticipate unintended consequences are proposed as ways to make progress more authentic.