



“Conversations for a World Transcending”
Personal Journeys into the New Enlightenment

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We Cannot Be Bystanders

We stand at a critical threshold. A time when many of us sense that the systems around us, and even within us, no longer work as they once did. The routines, habits, and assumptions that shaped our parents' lives, and perhaps even our own younger years, feel increasingly inadequate to guide us through the present, let alone into the future.

Across every dimension of daily-life we see the signs of strain. Work that once promised stability now feels insecure or hollow. Communities that once held us are fraying, leaving too many of us isolated. Information floods our minds but rarely deepens our wisdom. The climate shifts in ways we can no longer ignore, and anxiety about the future shadows our hopes. The status quo is not only fragile. It is failing.

Many now speak of a “polycrisis” or “Metacrisis,” a convergence of breakdowns that are interconnected, mutually reinforcing, and rooted not just in policies or politics but in the very worldview that has shaped modern life.

For more than three centuries, our culture has been shaped by the ideas and assumptions of the Enlightenment. This era gave us many gifts: science, liberty, human rights, democracy, and a powerful belief in progress. Yet it also embedded a way of thinking that elevated control over complexity, consumption over relationship,

belief in progress. Yet it also embedded a way of thinking that elevated control over complexity, consumption over relationship, and competition over care. That worldview has reached its limits. The crises we face are not isolated problems. They are signals that our core assumptions about success, happiness, and even what it means to be human need to be re-examined.

This moment calls for something deeper than lifestyle hacks, consumer choices, or private resilience strategies. It calls us to ask the most profound questions of meaning, belonging, and dignity. What do we truly value? How do we want to live? What might it mean to flourish together rather than struggle alone?

It requires new conversations. This is the premise behind our series of “Conversations for a World Transcending.” Individuals cannot be bystanders in this transition. We need to be participants, not spectators. To live in a world transcending the old order is to let go of certainty and step into discovery. It is to choose presence over distraction, dignity over humiliation, imagination over cynicism, and community over isolation.

The world does not need more withdrawal or resignation. It needs people to engage in the work of deep renewal. *Conversations for a World Transcending* invites to you, to help shape that process.

Your Personal Journey



Every new member of the Enlightened Enterprise Academy is invited to join a programme of 10 conversations. This is where your personal journey begins. The conversations will give you a clear sense of what the New Enlightenment is about, help you discover what it should mean for you and for others, and connect you immediately with fellow members.

Each of the 10 themes is practical, personal, and inspiring. For example:

- **Dignity in Everyday Life.** How respect and fairness can transform even the smallest interactions.
- **Living with Complexity.** How to face uncertainty with courage and curiosity.

The journey also prepares you to join one of our Participatory Learning Networks (PLNs). They are collaborative groups where people learn and act together on real-world challenges. And they are central to our approach because “there is no change without learning, and no learning without change.” (details on the next page).

Participation gives you immediate personal benefits, and the chance to step into an exciting initiative, where you can feel and make a difference from day one.

Participatory Learning Networks

The ten conversations in the series will provide the foundation for membership of a Participatory Learning Network (PLN). The New Enlightenment will not arrive through a single manifesto or a single voice. It will emerge through many voices, yours among them, woven together in dialogue, reflection, and shared practice.

A Participatory Learning Network (PLN) is a simple but radical idea. Instead of learning as something delivered by an expert to an audience, it is created together, by participants who bring their own questions, stories, and insights. It is not about being taught what to think, but about practicing how to think, feel, and act in ways that transcend the limits of the present.

For individuals, this means moving beyond isolation. Too often our struggles feel private: burnout at work, disconnection in community, anxiety about the future, cynicism about change. In a PLN, these private concerns become shared inquiries. They are reframed as themes to be explored together: belonging, purpose, courage, dignity, imagination, and flourishing.

Each cycle begins with a short video that distills a theme into its essence. This is followed by a live dialogue in which participants engage first as a whole group, and then, if they wish, in smaller circles of conversation. What emerges is not consensus, but insight, fragments of a larger story we are writing together.

The dialogue does not end when the session closes. Transcripts, reflections, and contributions are crafted into a book, a portable record of shared learning. Each book then anchors a network: an open community of participants who continue to meet, explore, and experiment. Over time, these networks grow into spaces of mutual support and creativity. living laboratories of the New Enlightenment.

For individuals, a PLN is both refuge and catalyst. A refuge, because it offers a space where experiences are recognised and voices respected. A catalyst, because it invites each of us to take the next step: to bring imagination into action, to carry the insights of conversation into the choices of daily life.

The New Enlightenment cannot be delivered from above. It must be co-created from within and among us. A Participatory Learning Network offers the architecture of that co-creation. It begins small, a conversation, a circle, a book. But together, it can grow into a movement capable of reshaping not only how we think, but how we live and how our futures evolve.

10 Sessions

Session 1 – Disconnection to Belonging: From loneliness and isolation to authentic connection and community.

Session 2 – Meaning Crisis to Purpose Renewal. From emptiness and confusion to rediscovering what matters.

Session 3 – Powerlessness to Agency. From resignation and despair to reclaiming voice and influence.

Session 4 – Exhaustion to Renewal From burnout and overwork to balance, rest, and vitality.

Session 5 – Fear to Courage. From anxiety about the future to confidence in shaping it.

Session 6 – Inequality to Dignity. From invisibility and disrespect to recognition and worth.

Session 7 – Cynicism to Imagination. From “nothing can change” to new possibilities and creative hope.

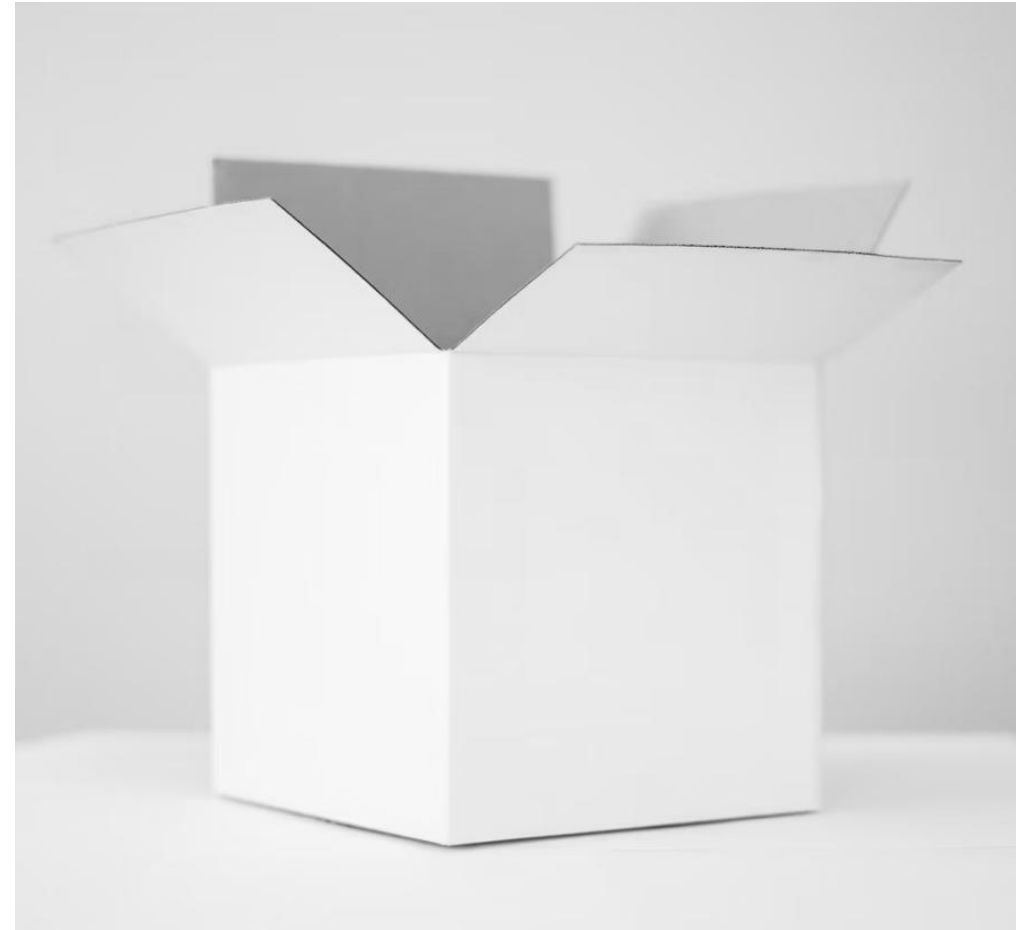
Session 8 – Fragmented Knowledge to Shared Wisdom. From confusion and overload to clarity and collective insight.

Session 9 – Exploitation of Nature to Reciprocity with Nature. From separation exploitation to respect and regeneration.

Session 10 – Fragmented Selves to Integrated Humanity. From fractured lives to wholeness, meaning, and belonging.

The Package

- **10 Introductory Video Primers** one for each theme
- **10 Live online dialogues** with the guests and the community
- **10 Follow-up Insight Guides** as practical reflections to help bring insights into daily
- **Participation in a follow-on Participatory Learning Network.** A space to continue the journey with others



Design Features



- Carefully curated small groups
- Designed for busy people
- Facilitated and with guest experts
- Highly interactive and participatory
- Practical, not academic, in focus
- A learning community, not a lecture series
- Of personal relevance
- Of relevance to leaders, boards and their organisations
- Will improve your effectiveness, your board's effectiveness, and organisational performance
- Highlights today's risks and how to address them
- Will help you address radical uncertainty
- Post-Series supported from our Leaders Forum

Series Guide

Paul Barnett, Founder of the [Enlightened Enterprise Academy](#), invites individuals everywhere to step into a new way of living and thinking, for their own wellbeing, for the resilience of their communities, and for the dignity of future generations. In an age where anxiety and fragmentation are rising, he calls for a shift away from the narrow pursuit of consumption and status, toward a more connected, purposeful, and humane way of life.

A core theme of Paul’s work is the need to overcome the barriers that keep us isolated, whether the siloes of work and home, the divisions of wealth and status, or the growing distance between people and the natural world. Why? Because no individual can truly flourish unless all flourish, and restoring balance within ourselves, our relationships, and our communities is essential for human wellbeing and long-term hope.

This belief also underpins his role as an Ambassador for the [Jena Declaration](#), a global initiative calling for a cultural transformation toward sustainability and dignity for all. Paul sees this as a natural extension of his mission: to help individuals rediscover their own role in shaping a world that is regenerative, inclusive, and deeply respectful of human dignity. “This is not about waiting for leaders to fix the world,” Paul says. “It’s about recognising that each of us, in our daily choices and conversations, carries the seeds of the New Enlightenment. Together, we can grow them into something extraordinary.”



The Enlightened Enterprise Academy

The Enlightened Enterprise Academy was founded in 2020 with a simple aim: to help people everywhere move beyond outdated thinking and discover new ways of living, learning, and flourishing in uncertain times.

Almost every aspect of life today is under strain. Families and communities are stretched, work feels less secure and often less meaningful, and our relationship with nature has become dangerously unbalanced. Many people feel overwhelmed, disconnected, or powerless to change things.

The Enlightenment, more than three centuries ago, gave us many gifts: science, liberty, democracy, and progress. But it also left us with blind spots: a worldview that prized control over relationship, consumption over care, and individualism over community. What we need now is a *New Enlightenment*.

Each of us, in every town, workplace, and family should be seeking better ways to help co-create a better tomorrow. And through conversations, networks, and shared learning, the Academy offers spaces where personal struggles are recognised, where new ideas are explored, and where imagination can be turned into action. Together, we can nurture the seeds of the New Enlightenment, in our own lives, in our relationships, and in the wider world.



Some past contributors to our expert-led events

Why Join the Conversations?

This is more than a personal development series. It is an opportunity for renewal for individuals who sense that yesterday's assumptions about life, success, and happiness no longer hold.

Joining *Conversations for a World Transcending* means becoming part of a bold community of individuals who are:

- **Asking deeper questions** about meaning, belonging, and dignity
- **Exploring new ways** of living with purpose and connection
- **Reimagining** what it means to flourish as individuals and communities
- **Seeking clarity, courage, and hope** amidst uncertainty
- **Ready not only to change their own lives, but to help shape a better future together**



Who Should Join? And How to Join

Who?

If you have ever found yourself saying “*the system is broken*” or “*there has to be a better way,*” these dialogues are for you. They provide a unique space for honest reflection, shared discovery, and the chance to imagine new possibilities with others who feel the same.

Conversations for a World Transcending are for individuals from all walks of life, not just leaders or specialists, who feel the weight of a world in transition and want to be part of shaping a better future.

They are for people who sense that the challenges we face, from disconnection to exhaustion, from inequality to ecological breakdown, cannot be solved alone.

Because the sessions are delivered online, they bring together a global community, weaving diverse voices and perspectives, especially those too often unheard.

You may be a student, a parent, a professional, a carer, or retired. What matters is not your role but your desire to participate, to learn with others, and to take part in co-creating the New Enlightenment.

How?

The simplest way to join *Conversations for a World Transcending* is by becoming a Pioneer Member of the Enlightened Enterprise Academy. Membership includes:

- Full participation in one future cohort of the Personal Journeys into the New Enlightenment programme (10 films, 10 dialogues, 10 insight guides).
- Automatic entry into a related Participatory Learning Network upon completion of the programme.
- A full year of **Pioneer Membership** benefits:
 - Free access to all Academy Salons and events.
 - Free subscription to Enlightened Enterprise Magazine.
 - Discounts on other Academy learning programmes, publications, and services.
 - Connection with a global community of fellow Pioneers.

Options:

- **Pioneer** [£495/year](#) or [£49.50/month](#)
- **Young Pioneer (< 35)** [£245/year](#) or [£24.50/month](#)

* A range of discounts are available for residents of middle and low income countries and others. [Details](#)

More than just a series of conversations, you are joining a movement to realise the New Enlightenment.



“Conversations for a World Transcending”
www.EnlightenedEnterprise.ac