



# CHAPTER ONE



**The final religion**





# Chapter Summary

In this chapter, Mark Manson explores the burgeoning role of artificial intelligence and the implications it has for humanity. He delves into how AI surpasses human capability, especially exemplified through the breathtaking victory of AlphaZero over established chess software. Manson argues that as AI continues to evolve, it will fundamentally alter society, leading us to worship new 'AI gods' akin to ancient deities. Through this relationship with technology, he cautions that humanity must adapt or risk losing its agency entirely. Ultimately, Manson invites readers to reconsider the essence of hope in a world increasingly dominated by intelligent algorithms.





# THE DAWN OF AI SUPREMACY



In 1997, IBM's Deep Blue became the first computer to beat a world chess champion, Garry Kasparov. This event sparked a revolution in understanding technology's potential and provoked questions about intelligence and humanity. What was once an extraordinary feat has now become the expected norm.



# THE RISE OF ALPHAZERO

Fast forward to 2018, Google's AlphaZero learned to play chess in under 24 hours and defeated the leading chess software, Stockfish, without losing a single game. This marked a pivotal shift in how we perceive machines, highlighting their potential to learn and innovate.



# THE IMPACT ON HUMAN COMPETITION

The increasing superiority of AI in games like chess and Shogi signifies broader implications for society. As computers continue to evolve and surpass human capabilities, the thought of human obsolescence looms large over various fields, from medicine to creative arts.



# SUBMITTING TO THE ALGORITHMS

Our dependence on algorithms is already deeply embedded in everyday life. From social media to navigation, we regularly yield our decision-making to technology that promises efficiency and ease. The concern is whether we are prepared for AI that governs more than just conveniences.





# THE NEW RELIGION OF AI

Manson suggests that as AI advances, we will inevitably develop new 'faiths' around it, akin to ancient religions centered on unknown forces. We will ascribe significance and rituals to these algorithms, viewing them as 'gods' that determine our fate.



# THE EVOLUTION OF HUMANITY

As humanity transitions into this new era, the story of our evolution may take an unexpected turn. Instead of mere survival, we may evolve toward a new understanding of existence that transcends individual consciousness and embraces collective intelligence.



# IDENTITY IN THE AGE OF AI

Manson discusses how our identities and sense of self may be challenged as AI becomes integral to our lives. The merging of human consciousness with AI suggests a future where individuality may dissipate, leading us to a collective humanity that is harder to define.

"Our identities might ultimately fuse with the machines we create."



# THE PERILS OF INACTION

Ignoring the implications of AI technology could lead to a loss of agency. Manson emphasizes the need for society to adapt, wisely integrating AI into our lives while enhancing human virtues instead of relegating them.

"If we don't adapt our technology, the consequences could be dire."



# BEYOND HOPE



In a world increasingly shaped by algorithms, Manson advises us against blind hope. Instead, he encourages cultivating personal growth and character, urging individuals to strive for a better version of themselves rather than waiting for external validation or reform.



# A VISION FOR THE FUTURE



Manson dares us to envision a future where technology serves humanity, promoting growth and ethical standards. He foresees a world where collective intelligence leads to greater outcomes, emphasizing that embracing our flaws could lead us to harmony with technology rather than conflict.





# Recap

- "We were astonished then, but now it seems natural that machines excel at chess."
- "AlphaZero taught itself chess and became the unparalleled champion."
- "The gods we revered will be replaced by the algorithms we depend on."
- "What we see as intelligence may soon evolve into something beyond human understanding."
- "Our identities might ultimately fuse with the machines we create."





# **Thank You**

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