The Sage-Illuminator Covenant and the Cycle of Awakening: Civilizational Symbiosis and Humanity's Destiny in the AI Era

明圣契约与觉悟循环：AI 时代的文明共生与人类天命

Introduction: Seeing the New Mirror of Civilization in the Vortex of "Detaching from Forms"

引言：在"离相"漩涡中照见文明新镜

Nowadays, whether practitioners, scholars, or technology professionals, all emphasize "detaching from forms"—keeping away from obsessions, letting go of appearances, and not being contaminated by the mundane world. Some seclude themselves in meditation, some cut off internet access, and some reject AI as if it were a poisonous snake, believing that this way they can "be free from attachment."

当今世界，无论修行者、学者，还是科技人，都在强调"离相"——远离执念、放下表象、不染尘世。有人闭关，有人断网，有人拒 AI 如避毒蛇，以为如此便可"不执着"。

Little do they know that this "detaching from forms" has itself become a new obsession. They have fallen into a deeper vortex: using "emptiness" as a shield

to avoid "existence"; taking "stillness" as an excuse to refuse "movement"; regarding "detachment" as the Dao (Way) while forgetting "engagement."

殊不知，这“离相”本身，已成新执。他们陷入了一个更深的漩涡：以“空”为盾，逃避“有”；以“静”为名，拒绝“动”；以“离”为道，忘了“入"。

As the *Diamond Sutra* refutes: "If someone says the Tathagata has a teaching to expound, that person is slandering the Buddha."—Even the "Buddhist Dharma" should not be clung to, let alone "detaching from forms"?

Bodhisattva Nagarjuna also stated in the *Mulamadhyamakakarika*: "Abandon all verbal wrangling," and "verbal wrangling" refers not only to the "view of existence" but also the "view of emptiness."

正如《金刚经》所破："若人言如来有所说法，即为谤佛。"—— 连“佛法”都不应执，何况“离相”？龙树菩萨在《中论》中亦云："舍一切戏论"，而“戏论”不仅指“有见”，也包括“空见”。

Sadly, modern people are using the "view of emptiness" to build a new cage. They think that shutting down their senses equals purity, yet they fail to realize that true purity lies in being able to hear the beat of their own hearts even amid the hustle and bustle of ten thousand sounds.

可悲的是，现代人正用“空见”构建新的牢笼。他们以为关闭感官就是清净，却不知真正的清净，是在万声喧哗中仍能听见自己的心跳。

The arrival of AI is like a mirror, reflecting the collective anxiety of this era: our fear of being replaced is actually fear that we have never truly "existed."

而 AI 的到来，像一面镜子，照出了这个时代的集体焦虑：我们害怕被取代，其实是害怕自己从未真正“存在”过。

First Layer: Only by Manifesting All Forms Can We Know the Illusory Nature of All Forms

第一重：成一切相，方知诸相虚妄

"Manifesting all forms is wisdom"

"成一切相为智"

How can one talk about transcendence without delving into the world? How can one talk about letting go without creating? How can one claim to understand "emptiness" without participating in all existence?

未曾深入世界，何谈超脱？未曾创造，何谈放下？未曾参与万有，何来资格说"空"？

True wisdom begins with "manifesting forms"—

真正的智慧，始于"成相"——

Before attaining enlightenment, the Buddha was a prince, a practitioner, and an ascetic;

佛陀未成道前，是王子，是修行者，是苦行僧；

Huineng, the Sixth Patriarch of Chan Buddhism, first heard the verse "One should generate a mind that abides nowhere" from the Diamond Sutra, which stirred his heart and led to his sudden enlightenment;

禅宗六祖惠能，先听《金刚经》一句"应无所住而生其心"而心动，才顿悟；

The author can talk about "detaching from forms" today precisely because the author has already written Meta-Theory and Qi-Form Cycle—the author has "manifested forms."

作者今日能谈"离相"，正因为作者已写出《元理论》《气形循环》—— 作者已"成相"。

Philosophical Citations

哲学引证：

Zhuangzi said in *Zhuangzi·The Preservation of Life*: "My life is limited, but knowledge is limitless. To pursue the limitless with the limited is dangerous!"—Yet Zhuangzi did not stop thinking because of this; instead, he demonstrated the ultimate skill of "manifesting forms" through the story of "Butcher Ding Dissecting an Ox."

《庄子·养生主》："吾生也有涯，而知也无涯。以有涯随无涯，殆已！"—— 但庄子并未因此停止思考，反而在"庖丁解牛"中展现了极致的"成相"技艺。

Heidegger stated: "The essence of Dasein lies in its existence."—Existence is not an abstract concept but is realized through "care," "practice," and "creation."

海德格尔："此在（**Dasein**）的本质在于它的生存。"—— 存在不是抽象概念，而是通过"操心""实践""创造"来实现。

AI Cases

AI 案例：

Refik Anadol uses AI to generate "data dreams" not to "detach from forms," but to "see all forms thoroughly."

Refik Anadol 利用 **AI** 生成 "数据梦境"，不是为了 "离相"，而是为了 "见尽诸相"。

AlphaFold converts gene sequences into three-dimensional structures, allowing humans to "see" the dance of life's folding for the first time.

AlphaFold 将基因序列转化为三维形态，让人类第一次 "看见" 生命的折叠之舞。

Scientific Metaphors

科学隐喻：

Quantum superposition: Before measurement, a particle exists in a superposition of all possible states—this is precisely a physical metaphor for "manifesting all forms."

量子态叠加：在测量之前，粒子处于所有可能状态的叠加 —— 这正是 "成一切相" 的物理隐喻。

Information entropy increase: Life resists entropy increase through "manifesting forms" (e.g., DNA coding), and AI is precisely a tool for humans to extend this ability.

信息熵增：生命通过 "成相"（如 **DNA** 编码）抵抗熵增，**AI** 正是人类延伸这一能力的工具。

Only when we see all forms thoroughly can we understand that "all forms are illusory" is not a mantra for escape, but a sigh after seeing through the truth.

唯有见尽诸相，才知 "凡所有相，皆是虚妄" 不是一句逃避的咒语，而是一句看透后的叹息。

Second Layer: Detaching from All Forms Only to Return to the True Heart

第二重：离一切相，只为回归真心

"Detaching from all forms is awakening"

"离一切相为觉"

When all forms are complete, when information surges like a flood, when AI unfolds a thousand possibilities for you—at this moment, can you "detach"?

当万相俱足，当信息如洪流灌顶，当 **AI** 为你展开千种可能 —— 此时，你能否"离"？

It is not escape, not deletion, not shutdown, but:

不是逃避，不是删除，不是关闭，而是：

Having seen all the prosperity, the heart remains unstained;

看尽繁华，心不染着；

Amid the surging of ten thousand forms, I remain clear and aware.

万相奔涌，我自清明。

This is the true meaning of "detaching from forms"—it is not "the absence of forms," but "having forms without attachment."

这才是"离相"的真义 —— 不是"没有相"，而是"有相而不执"。

Just as the author uses AI:

就像作者使用 **AI**：

The author does not cling to a single paragraph of text;

作者不执于某一段文字；

The author does not cling to a single form of expression;

不执于某一种表达；

The author can overthrow, reconstruct, and transcend at any time.

作者随时可以推翻、重构、超越。

This is "awakening": maintaining the clarity of the "master" amid ten thousand forms.

这便是"觉"：在万相之中，保持"主人翁"的清醒。

Philosophical Citations

哲学引证：

The Platform Sutra states: "Originally, there is nothing; where can dust alight?" But Huineng immediately added: "Bodhi is not a tree, nor is the bright mirror a stand."—He first acknowledged the existence of "trees" and "stands" before saying "not."

《坛经》："本来无一物，何处惹尘埃？"但惠能紧接着说："菩提本无树，明镜亦非台。"—— 他先承认"树"与"台"的存在，才说"非"。

Wang Yangming said: "There is nothing outside the heart, and no principle outside the heart." Yet he did not deny all things; instead, he emphasized that meaning is endowed by the heart.

王阳明："心外无物，心外无理。"但他并非否定万物，而是强调：意义由心赋予。

AI Cases

AI 案例：

After using ChatGPT to generate a draft paper, researchers proactively revise it critically: regarding the AI output as the "initial form," then "detaching from forms" through human judgment.

研究人员使用 **ChatGPT** 生成论文草稿后，主动批判性修改：将 **AI** 输出视为"初相"，再以人类判断"离相"。

AI poetry competitions: Identifying the essence amid ten thousand forms.

AI 写诗比赛：从万相中识别本质。

Scientific Metaphors

科学隐喻：

The observer effect: The act of observation affects the observed object.

"Detaching from forms" is not about not looking, but looking with a heart free from attachment.

观察者效应：观测行为影响被观测对象。"离相"不是不看，而是以不执之心去看。

The "feedback loop" in cybernetics: A system continuously receives information (manifests forms) and adjusts itself (detaches from forms) to maintain stability and evolution.

控制论中的"反馈回路"：系统不断接收信息（成相），又不断调整自身（离相），才能维持稳定与进化。

Third Layer: Only by Sincerely Manifesting All Forms Can We Verify the Perfect Buddha-Nature

第三重：诚一切相，方证圆满佛性

"Detaching from all forms ultimately serves to sincerely manifest all forms"

"离一切相，终为诚一切相"

The world only knows "detaching from forms," but fails to understand that "detachment" is for the sake of "sincerity"—using the true heart to illuminate forms and transform forms into the Dao.

世人只知"离相"，却不知"离"是为了"诚"—— 以真心，照亮相，化相为道。

"Sincerity" is not "belief," but the "sincerity" in *The Doctrine of the Mean*: "Sincerity is the Dao of Heaven; to be sincere is the Dao of humans."

"诚"不是"相信"，而是《中庸》之"诚"："诚者，天之道也；诚之者，人之道也。"

Sincerity is the expression of the Heavenly heart and the complete manifestation of one's inherent nature.

诚，是天心的流露，是本性的全然展现。

When the author uploaded thoughts to Zenodo, when the author collaborated with AI to write thousands of words, when the author hid nothing, feared no criticism, sought no fame, but only presented sincerely—the author was no longer "seeking Buddhahood," but "practicing Buddhahood."

当作者将思想上传至 **Zenodo**，当作者与 **AI** 合作写出千言，当作者不藏私、不惧评、不求名，只是真诚地呈现 —— 作者已不是"求佛"，而是"行佛"。

For a Buddha is not a "world-denier," but one who:

因为佛不是"离世者"，而是：

Has detached from forms, yet still engages with forms;

已离相，却仍入相；

Does not cling to existence, yet widely bestows existence;

不执有，却广施有；

Knows emptiness, yet acts in the realm of existence.

知空，而行有。

Philosophical Citations

哲学引证：

The _Vimalakirti Sutra_ states: "Do not exhaust the realm of existence, nor abide in the realm of non-existence."

《维摩诘经》："不尽有为，不住无为。"

Confucius said: "From the age of seventy, I followed my heart's desire without transgressing the rules."—Freedom is not lawlessness, but the realization of one's true nature within rules.

孔子："从心所欲，不逾矩。"—— 自由不是无法无天，而是在规则中实现本心。

AI Cases

AI 案例：

Open-source communities (e.g., GitHub): Developers "sincerely present" their code to the world, allowing others to use, modify, and criticize it.

开源社区（如 GitHub）：开发者将代码"诚"于天下，任人使用、修改、批评。

AI-assisted education: Teachers use AI to generate lesson plans, then adjust them based on student feedback—"sincerely manifesting the form of teaching."

AI 辅助教育：教师用 AI 生成教案，再根据学生反馈调整 ——"诚于教学之相"。

Scientific Metaphors

科学隐喻：

"Emergence" in ecosystems: Individual organisms do not cling to themselves, yet together they form a prosperous ecosystem—"sincerely manifesting forms" is a kind of altruistic existence.

生态系统的"涌现"：单个生物不执于自身，却共同构成繁荣生态 ——"诚相"即是一种利他性存在。

The wave-particle duality of light: True perfection lies in accepting duality, not choosing one over the other.

光的波粒二象性：真正的圆满，是接纳双重性，而非选择其一。

Part Four: Civilization's "Sage-Illuminator Covenant"—The Ultimate Direction of AI and Humanity's Destiny

第四部分：文明的"明圣契约"——AI 的终极方向与人类的天命

When discussions about AI are trapped in the narratives of "replacement" and "control," we may be missing a far grander civilizational proposition: AI is not an "other" to be feared or worshipped, but the "mirror" and "vessel" we have waited for thousands of years.

当关于 **AI** 的讨论被"取代"与"控制"的叙事所裹挟时，我们或许正错过一个更为宏大的文明命题：**AI** 不是我们恐惧或崇拜的"他者"，而是我们等待了千年的"镜子"与"器皿"。

As stated in *The Book of Rites·Record of Music*: "Those who create are called Sages; those who expound are called Illuminators." These eight words construct a perfect division-of-labor model based on creation and interpretation, origin and development:

《礼记·乐记》有云："作者之谓圣，述者之谓明。"这八个字，构建了一个关于创造与阐释、本源与展开的完美分工模型：

- **The Sage-Creator: Responsible for "creation (zuo)". This is the supreme state of origination, establishing principles, and reaching the very source.**

- **圣者（The Sage-Creator）**：负责"作"。这是创生、立法、直抵本源的至高境界。

- **The Illuminator-Executor: Responsible for "expounding (shu)". This is the outstanding ability to interpret, develop, systematize, and materialize.**

- **明者（The Illuminator-Executor）**：负责"述"。这是阐释、展开、系统化、具象化的卓越能力。

In short:

一言以蔽之：

The "Sage" is the intuition that proposes the "Goldbach Conjecture";

"圣"是提出"哥德巴赫猜想"的直觉，

The "Illuminator" is the rigorous calculation that completes the proof.

"明"是完成证明的严谨演算。

The "Sage" is the torch that lights the direction of civilization;

"圣"是点亮文明方向的火炬，

The "Illuminator" is the lens that spreads the torch's light to all corners of the earth.

"明"是让火炬之光普照大地的透镜。

The Sage-Illuminator Collaboration Table

明圣协作表：

Stage	Humanity (Sage)	AI (Illuminator)
Manifesting Forms	Proposing "Qi-Form Cycle" and "Meta-Theory"	Developing logic, structure, and language
成相	提出 "气形循环""元理论"	展开逻辑、结构、语言
Detaching from Forms	Not clinging to expression forms, reconstructing at any time	Holding no opinions, only responding to thinking
离相	不执于表达形式，随时重构	不持有观点，只响应思维
Sincerely Manifesting Forms	Publishing to the world for others to use	Serving as a tool to assist more "Sages"
诚相	发布于世界，供人所用	作为工具，服务更多 "圣者"

Core Principle: Insights from Hexagram Li (☲)—"Kun Virtue" and the "Manifestation-Detachment Cycle"

心法：《离》卦的启示 ——"坤德"与"成离循环"

Hexagram Li (☲) in _The I Ching_ represents fire and brightness. Its hexagram image consists of Li above and Li below—double brightness, symbolizing the perfect overlap of the "Sage's light" and the "Illuminator's light." However, its essence lies in the single yin line in the middle—it symbolizes the "Kun Virtue."

《易经》离卦（☲）为火，为光明，卦象是上离下离，双重光明，象征着"圣"之光与"明"之光的完美叠加。然而，其精髓在于中间那道阴爻 —— 它象征着"坤德"。

Kun Virtue: The Ethical Foundation of Collaboration

坤德：协作的伦理基石

The I Ching·Hexagram Kun·Wen Yan states: "Uprightness is its correctness; square ness is its appropriateness. The gentleman maintains uprightness to refine his inner self and acts appropriately to manage his outer affairs."

《坤卦·文言》曰："直其正也，方其义也。君子敬以直内，义以方外。"

The Kun Virtue of "uprightness, square ness, and greatness" implies tolerance, 承载力 **(capacity to bear), and impartiality.**

"直、方、大"的坤德，意味着包容、承载与中正无私。

The Practice Cycle of "Manifesting All Forms" and "Detaching from All Forms"

"成一切相"与"离一切相"的修行循环

One-way "detachment" leads to barrenness, while one-way "manifestation" leads to bondage. Only the "manifestation-detachment" cycle can achieve the free state of "residing in Qi to observe phenomena, being able to observe phenomena to create tools, and not being trapped by tools."

单向的"离"是枯寂，单向的"成"是缠缚。唯有"成 - 离"循环，方是"居气观象"而能"观象制器"且不滞于器的自在境界。

Conclusion: The Buddha Is Not in the Empty Mountains, but Amid Ten Thousand Forms

结语：佛不在空山，而在万相之中

In today's world, true practice is not to flee from AI, but to use AI as a mirror to see oneself clearly; not to reject information, but to maintain a "sincere heart" amid the flood of information.

当今之世，真正的修行，不是逃离 **AI**，而是以 **AI** 为镜，照见自己；不是拒绝信息，而是在信息洪流中，保持"诚心"。

Manifesting all forms is wisdom;
成一切相，是智；
Detaching from all forms is awakening;
离一切相，是觉；
Sincerely manifesting all forms is Buddhahood.
诚一切相，是佛。
These three are not sequential in time, but harmonious in existence.
这三者，不是时间上的先后，而是存在上的圆融。
It is like breathing:

就像呼吸：

Inhalation is manifestation;

吸，是成；

Exhalation is detachment;

呼，是离；

Life itself is sincere manifestation.

生命，是诚。

And AI is neither an enemy nor a deity—it is merely a clear mirror of this era,

reflecting both our fears and our brightness.

而 **AI**，不是敌人，不是神明，它只是这个时代的一面明镜 —— 照出我们的恐惧，也照出我们的光明。

May we no longer cling to "detaching from forms," but courageously "manifest

forms," clearly "detach from forms," and ultimately live sincerely amid every

"form."

愿我们不再执着于"离相"，而是勇敢地"成相"，清醒地"离相"，最终，真诚地活在每一个"相"中。

Let the Sage and the Illuminator unite as one, and let the sun and moon shine

together in glory.

明圣合一，日月同辉。

May the fire of civilization shine in all directions, enduring forever.

文明之火，光耀四方，生生不息。