

The background features a complex pattern of topographic contour lines in shades of brown and tan on the left side, transitioning into a grey and white circuit board pattern on the right. A prominent orange location pin icon is centered in the topographic area.

# **Listening to the Silence: Understanding the Secular & Post- Christian Imagination**



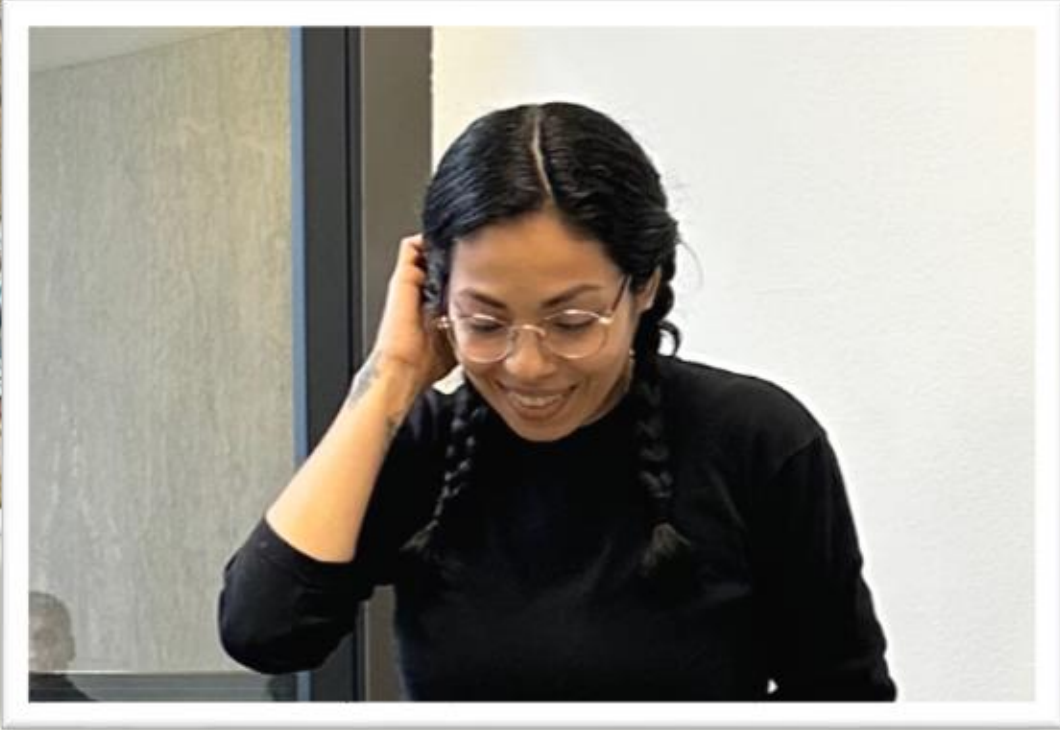
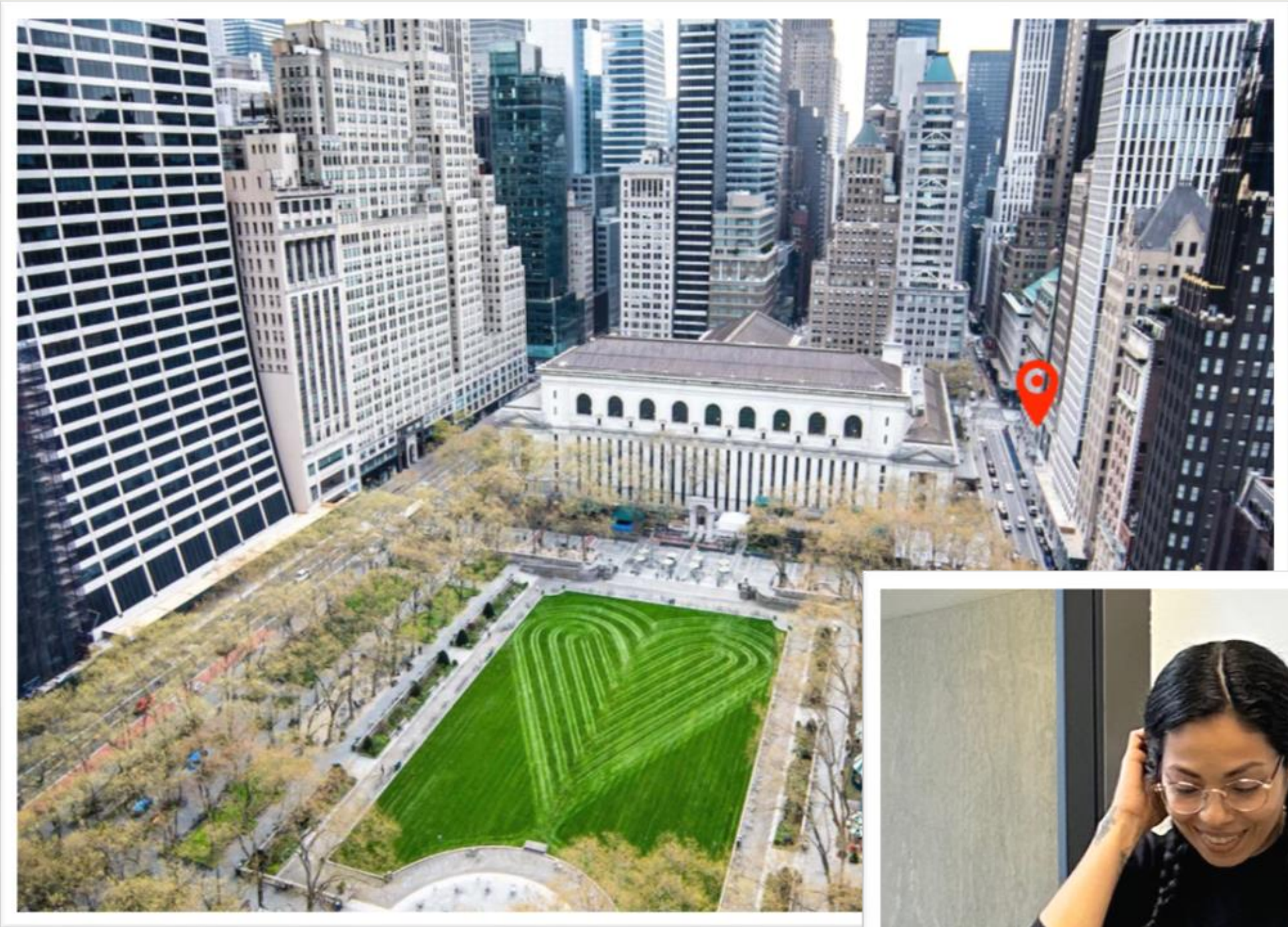
**Bledi Leno**



**Jonathan Contero**



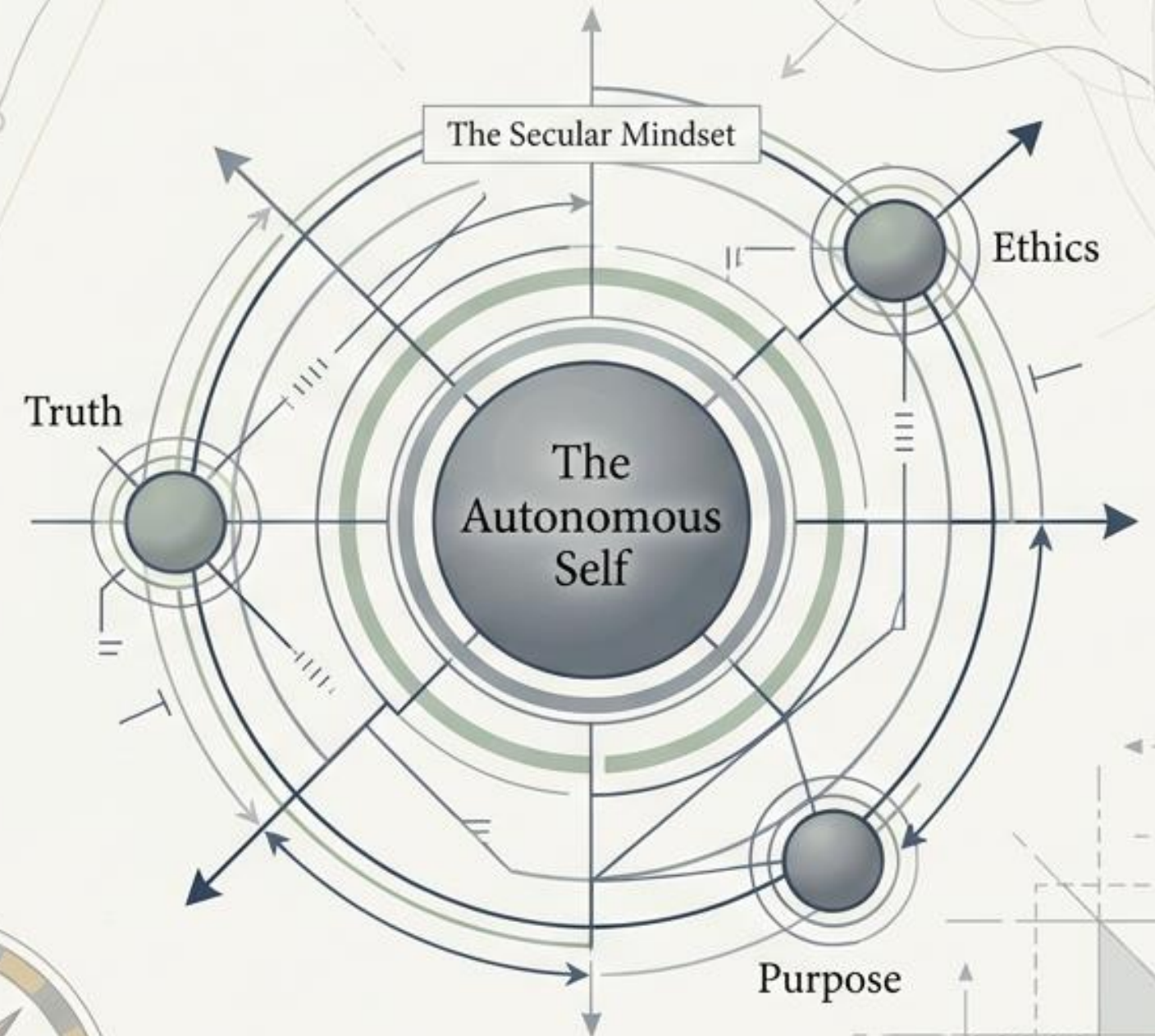
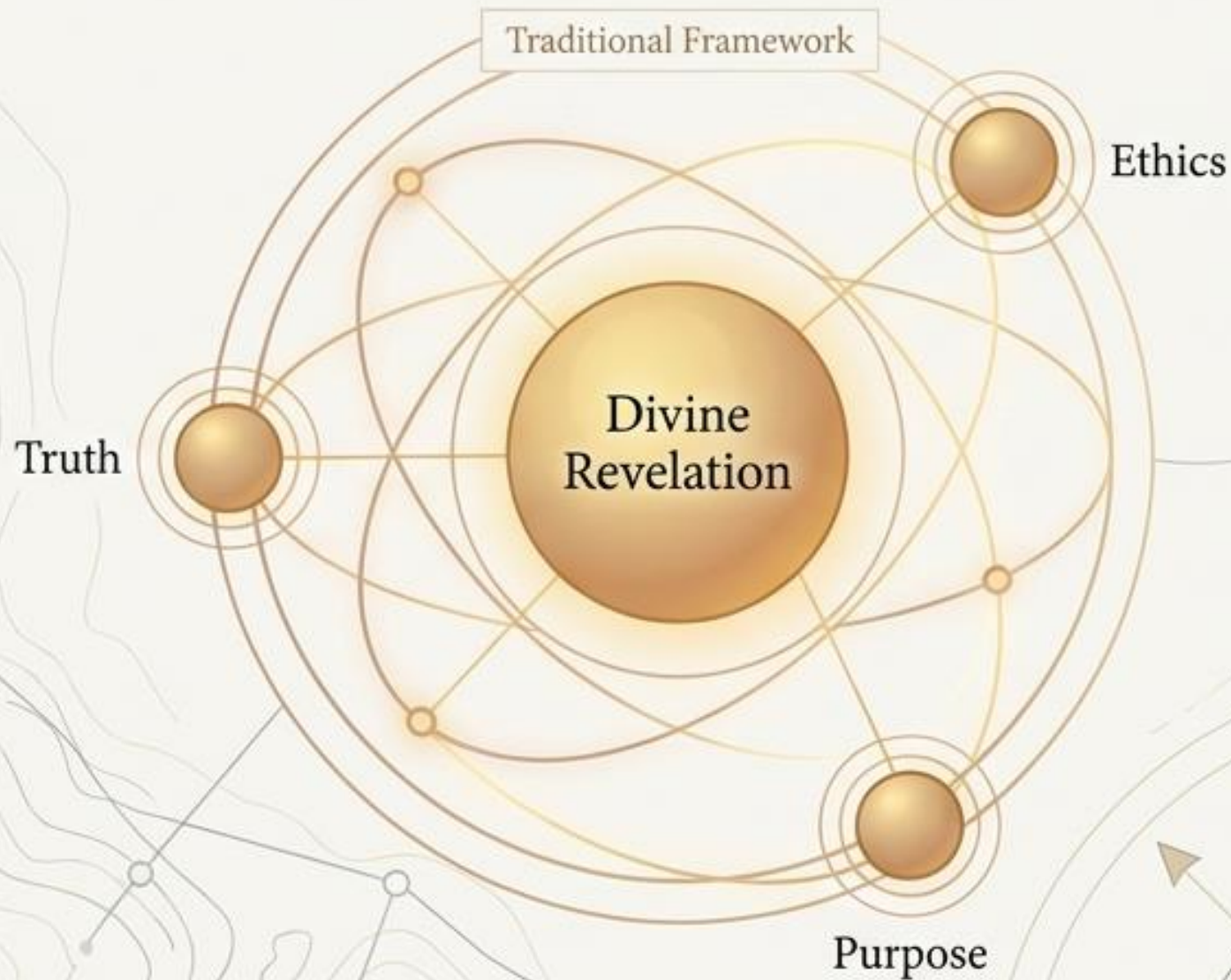
**GLOBAL MISSION**  
CENTER FOR SECULAR AND  
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# The center of reality has shifted.

Where faith once placed God at the heart of meaning and morality, secular thought places the autonomous self. Personal choice becomes sacred, and authenticity replaces transcendence. The human person is now the final measure of truth, purpose, and goodness.



# Defining the modern landscape.

Understanding the nuance between different cultural paradigms is the first step to mapping an engagement strategy.

## Traditional Framework

- Focuses on the sacred
- Public life actively references God
- Belief is a shared cultural assumption

## The Secular Mindset

- Focuses purely on the present age
- Public life operates independently of God
- Truth and ethics grounded solely in human reasoning

## The Post-Christian Reality

- Belief becomes just one option among many
- Retains Christian moral echoes
- Rejects original theological authority

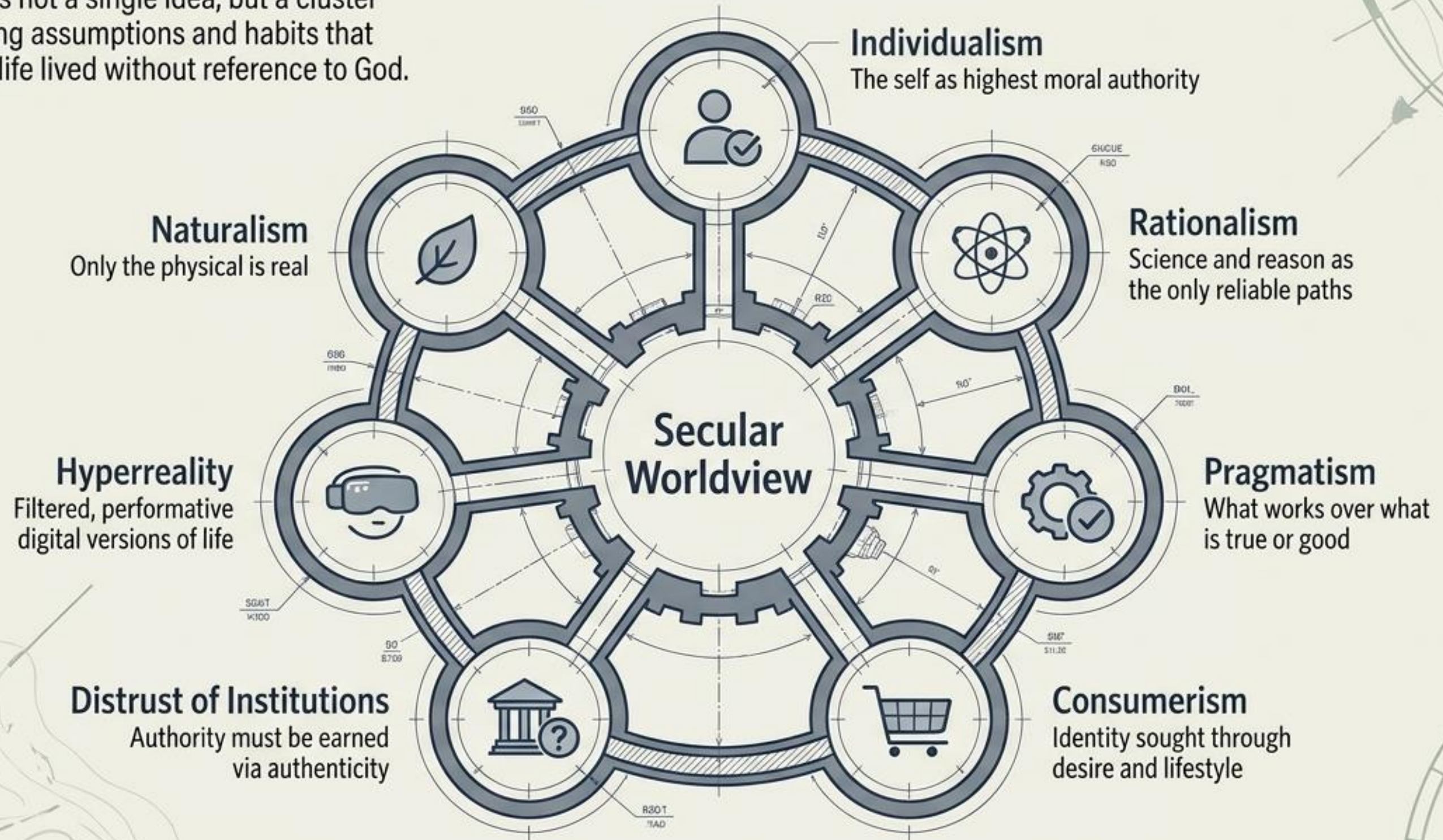
# Post-Christian cultures retain the fruit but reject the root.

Societies shaped by Christian moral values no longer live under their authority. They speak highly of compassion, justice, and dignity, but these ideas are now detached from their original theological roots.



# The architecture of the secular worldview.

Secularism is not a single idea, but a cluster of overlapping assumptions and habits that normalize a life lived without reference to God.



# *The paradox of absolute autonomy.*

These overlapping forces create cultures that deeply prize freedom. Yet, this architecture often generates an inescapable undercurrent of loneliness, fragmentation, and emptiness.





**B**

**Brittle**

The illusion of stability  
masking systemic  
vulnerabilities.



**A**

**Anxious**

The pervasive fear of  
unpredictable unraveling  
driving risk aversion.



**N**

**Non-Linear**

The decoupling of cause  
and effect in highly  
complex systems.



**I**

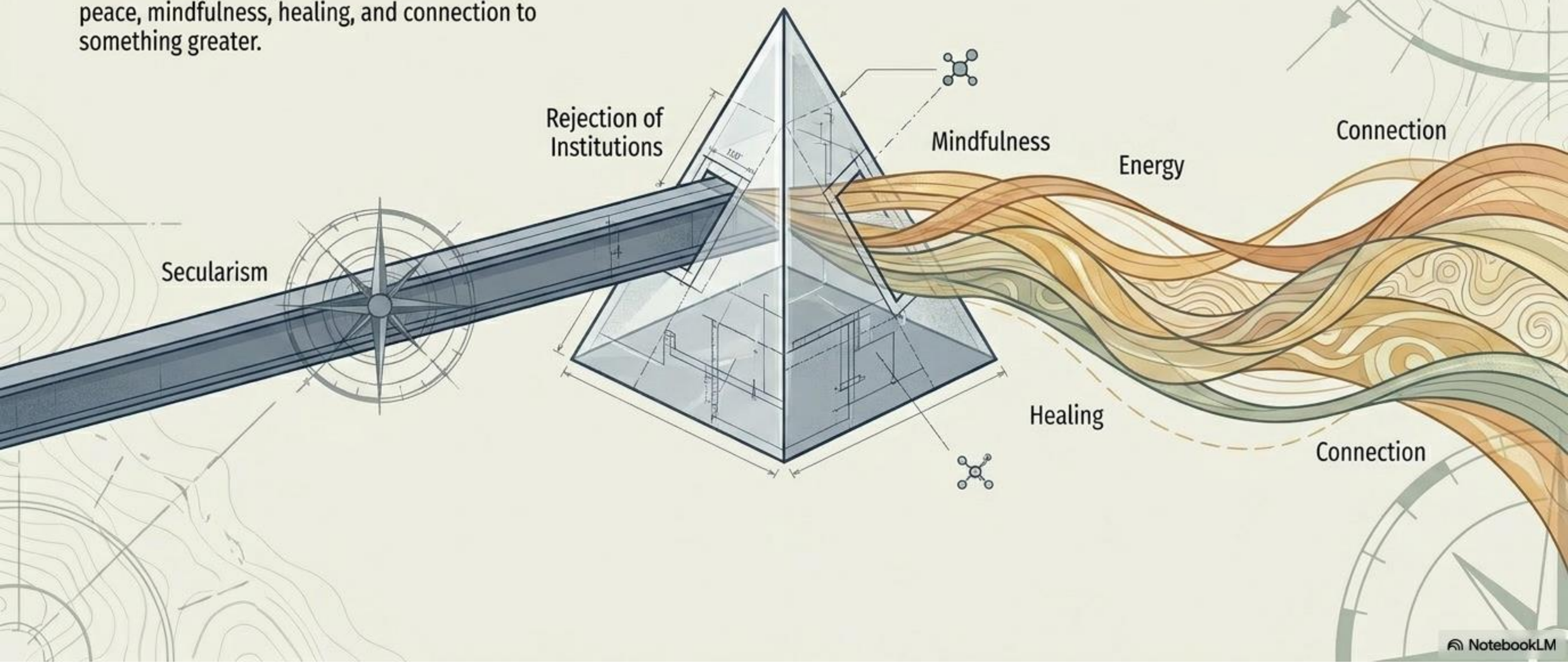
**Incomprehensible**

The breakdown of human  
understanding in the face  
of data overload.

**Core Insight:** BANI does not just describe the external world; it captures the psychological and structural realities of modern organizations.

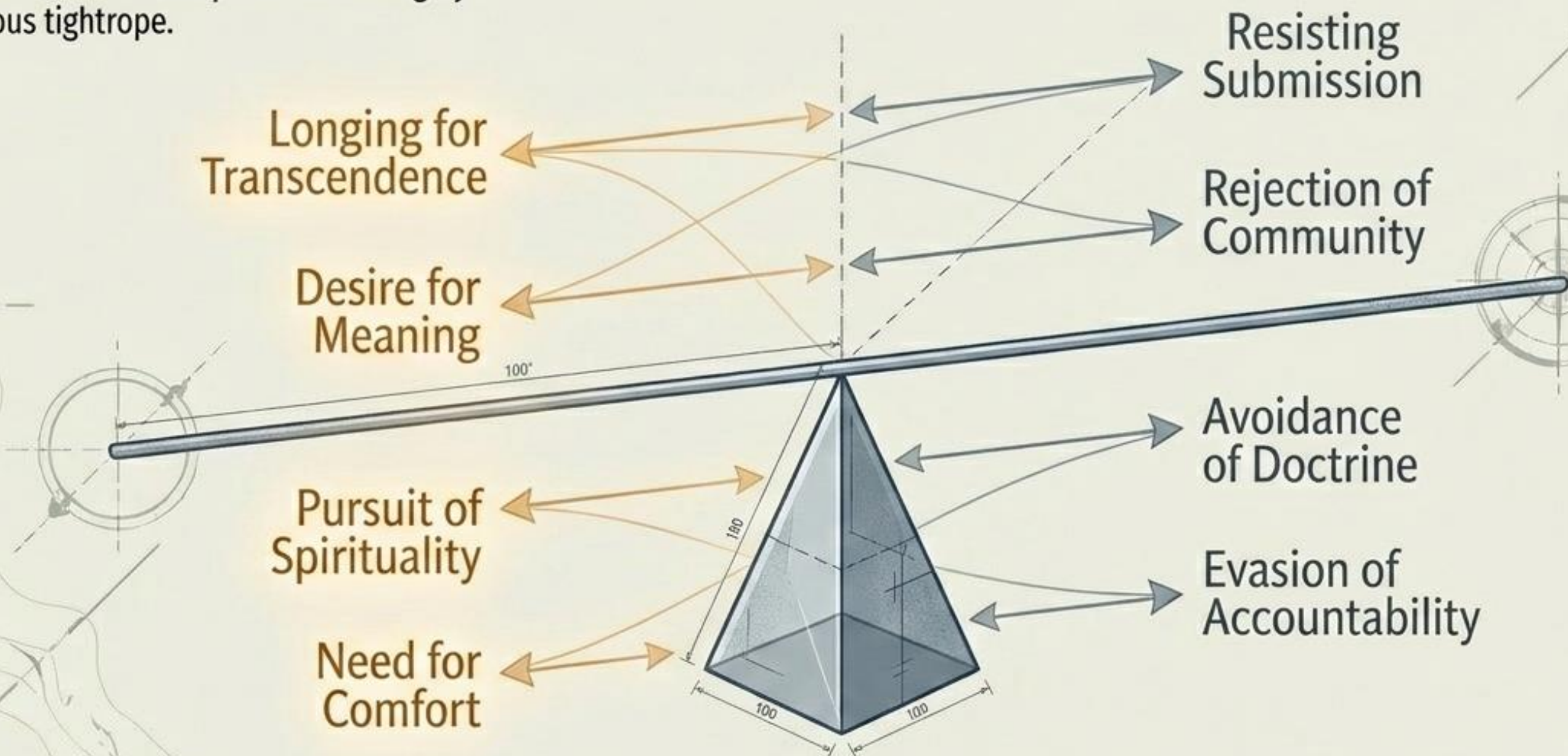
# *The diversification of spirituality.*

Paradoxically, as secularism grows, spirituality does not disappear. It diversifies. People reject formal institutions, yet continue searching for peace, mindfulness, healing, and connection to something greater.



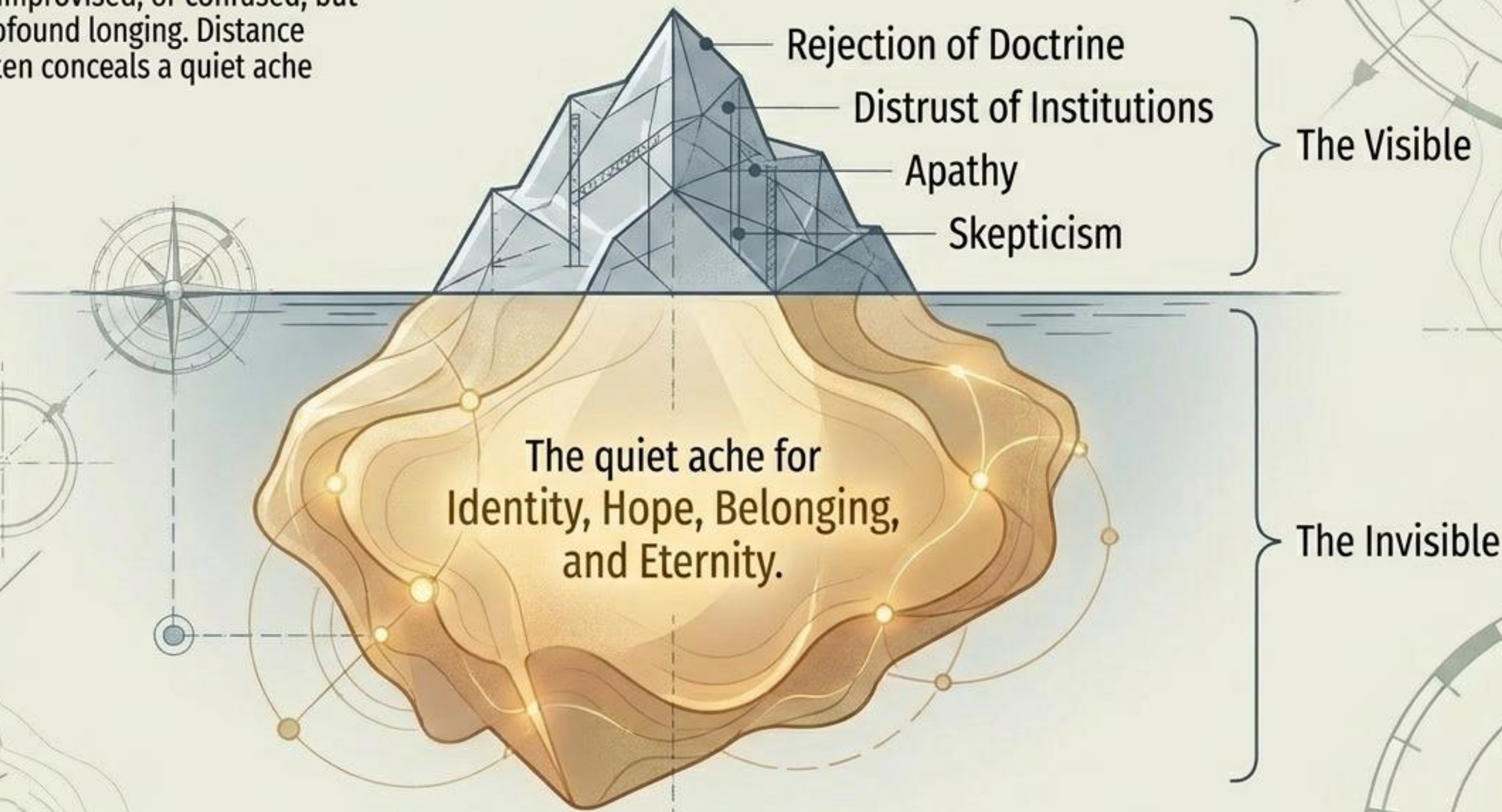
# *The tensions of the modern soul.*

This dynamic reveals a deep psychological tension in modern life. The "Spiritual but Not Religious" seeker attempts to walk a highly precarious tightrope.



# *Even skepticism can hide desire.*

This search must never be dismissed. It may be fragmented, improvised, or confused, but it points to a profound longing. Distance from religion often conceals a quiet ache for God.



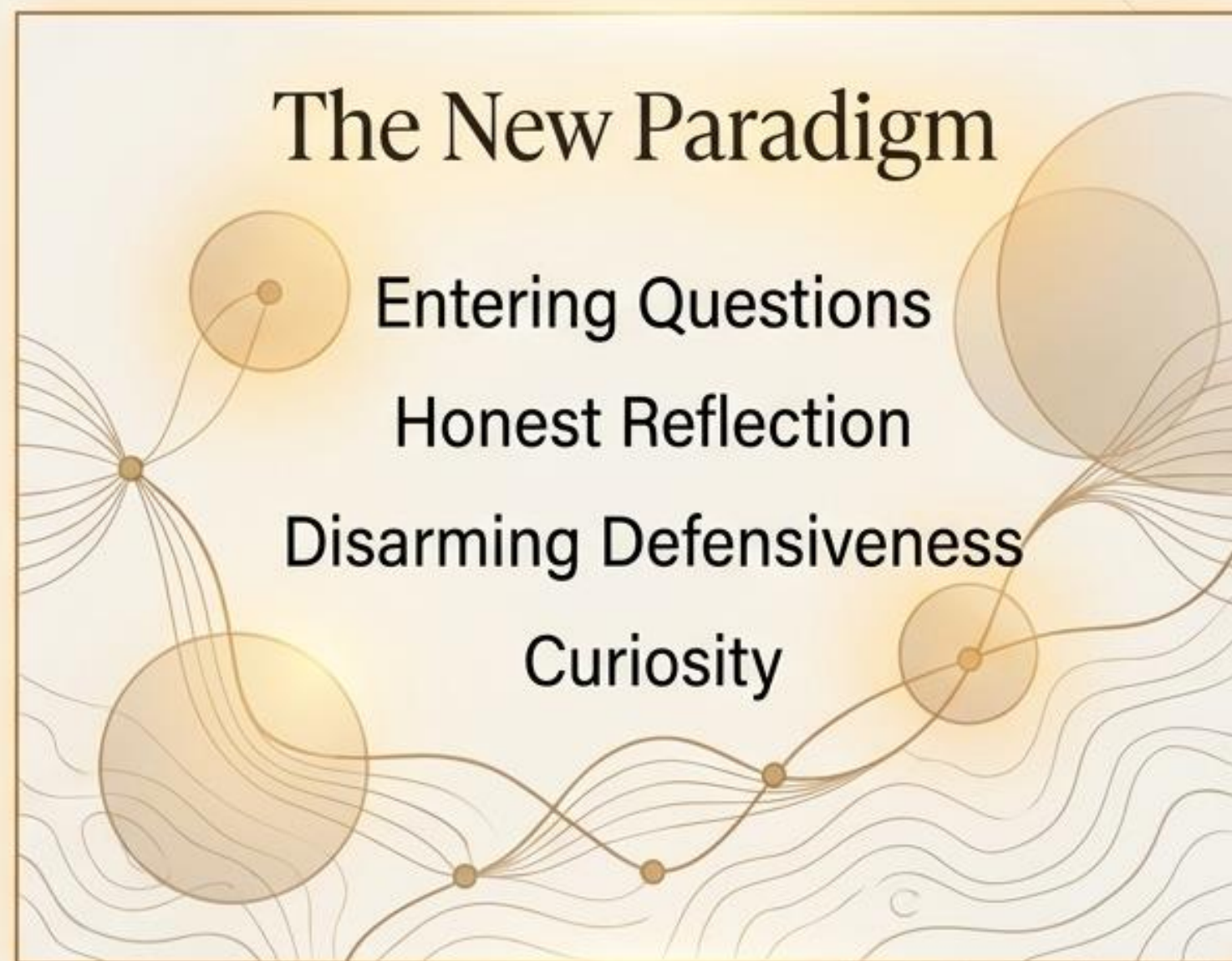
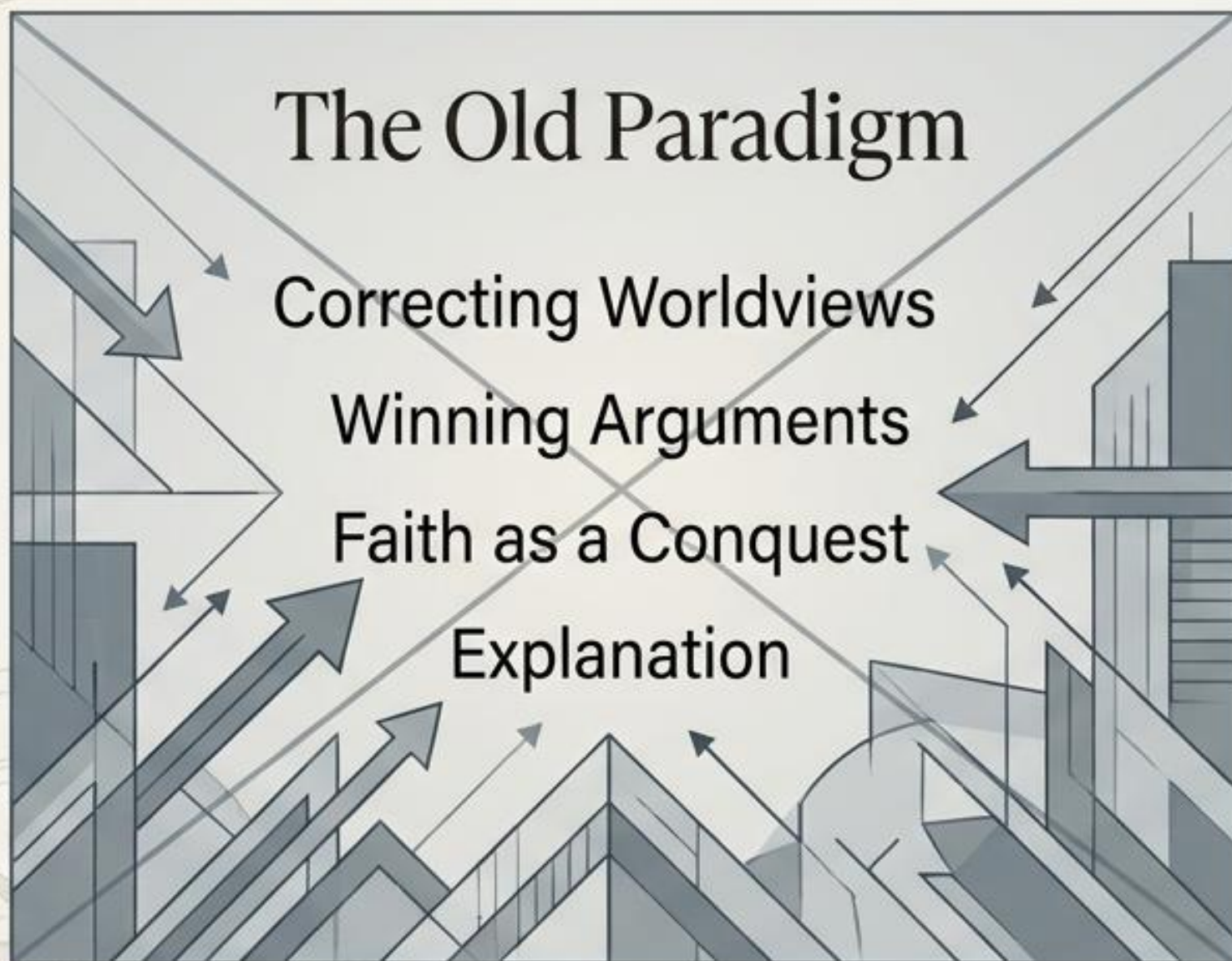


"Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, **declaring the end from the beginning** and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'"

Isaiah 46:9-10

# Discarding the old playbook.

Engaging post-Christian people is less about correcting their worldview and more about entering their questions with care. The doorway is not argument, but honest reflection.



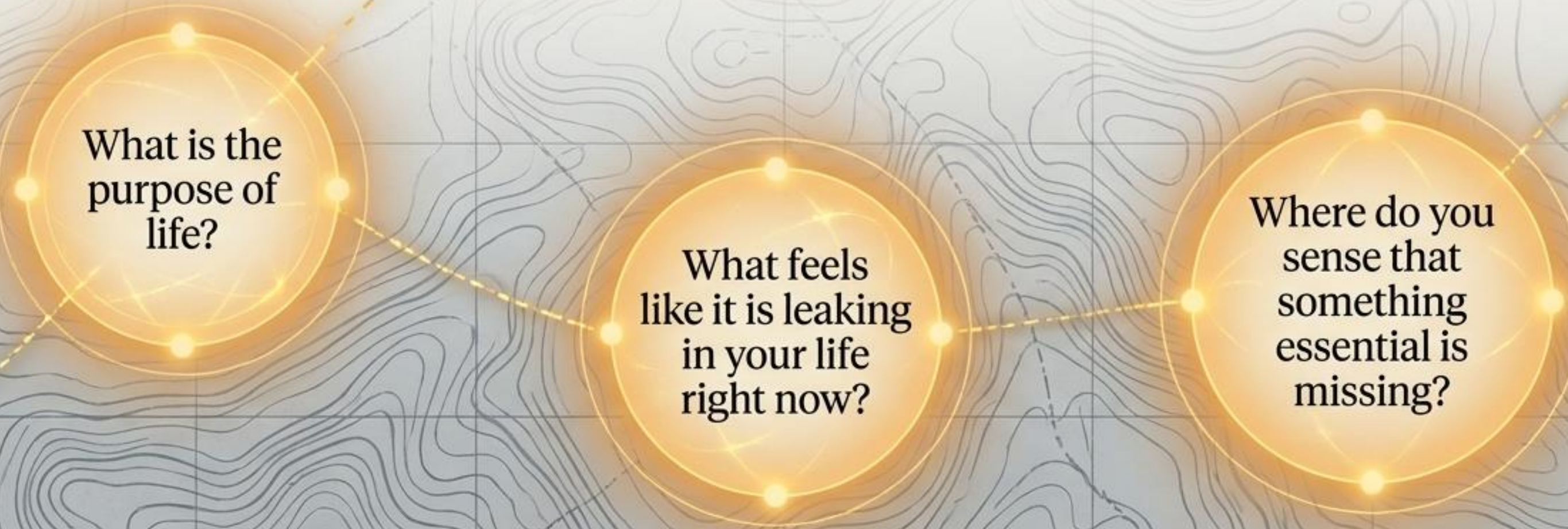
# Mission begins by helping people notice what they already long for.

People routinely describe anxiety, exhaustion, or disconnection without realizing that deeper spiritual questions are actively present in their fatigue.



# The art of the diagnostic question.

Carefully framed questions invite people to name their fragmentation. They bypass the defensive walls of rationalism and speak directly to the underlying ache.



What is the purpose of life?

What feels like it is leaking in your life right now?

Where do you sense that something essential is missing?

# The posture of engagement.

To navigate this terrain, leaders must adopt a posture that continually prioritizes presence over proclamation.



# Walking patiently in a secular age.

Mission in a post-Christian world cannot be rushed. It requires trusting the Holy Spirit to work through authentic presence, thoughtful questions, and a life shaped by Christ.

**...a parable**



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