

Abstractions

In Search of Truth

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See the invisible. Do the impossible. The unknown is intriguing, lying hidden and beckoning us to pursue in hopes of learning from it. We discover more mysteries even as our search makes the unknown known. This link between known and unknown binds us to future generations of seekers. The truth awaits us, however amazing or atrocious, and we go to impossible ends to discover it.

The pursuit of knowledge is ageless, existing long before organizations and institutions of learning were constituted. History is rife with discoveries by some of the most perceptive visionaries of their times. As crude as their technologies and as simple as their techniques were by today's standards, they invoked some of the most profound paradigms of thought.

Physical laws, biological propagation, socioeconomic constructs, chemical periodicity, and all such similar paradigms, now firmly entrenched among the belief system of the masses, arose from the enduring curiosity of the few. These precious few had the vision to see the unseen, to do what had not been done before. In so doing, they often endured the resentment of the established and the ridicule of the majority. Often questioned, was what they were seeking attainable? What if it went against all current beliefs? If so, should it be sought? Would the rewards of greater understanding outweigh the damnable ramifications of such a search? The past could not perceive a world with such profound understandings. In retrospect, we cannot perceive a world without them.

We live in a time full of promise and uncertainty. There are many who refuse the search, finding solace in what is, here and now. Yet, there will be a fated few who will engage the search to find out what can be. They are the unknown visionaries of our time, whose ideas may go unshared and whose ingenuity may go unrecognized. Could it be you? Or perhaps someone you know? Ask yourself this: can we afford not to foresee every possibility and seize every opportunity? The challenge lies before us. It will prove so trying that we may find ourselves surrendering to the dogma of the status quo. Or we may forge ahead, without rules or boundaries, to see what awaits us.

Be fearless.

All those who claim to perceive the invisible or accomplish the impossible are welcome to share their profound insights by writing to the *MIT Undergraduate Research Journal* at murj@mit.edu.

