

THE QUESTION CONCERNING TECHNOLOGY

By

Martin Heidegger

circa 1955

Biography

Martin Heidegger

Born September 26, 1889 in Germany

Background in Theology, Mathematics, and Philosophy

Being and Time (ca. 1927)

Joined the National Socialist party in 1933

The Question Concerning Technology is based on a series of lectures from 1949 to 1953



“*instrumental and anthropological* definition of technology”

technology is a means to an end
technology is a human activity

“Thus we shall never experience our *relationship* to the **essence of technology** so long as we merely conceive and push forward the technological, put up with it, or evade it. Everywhere we remain unfree and chained to technology, whether we passionately affirm or deny it.”

The instrumental definition of technology misses the essence of technology..

Leads to the idea that by making technology better, we will master technology and our surroundings

“the *essence* of technology is by
no means anything *technological*”

ENFRAMING

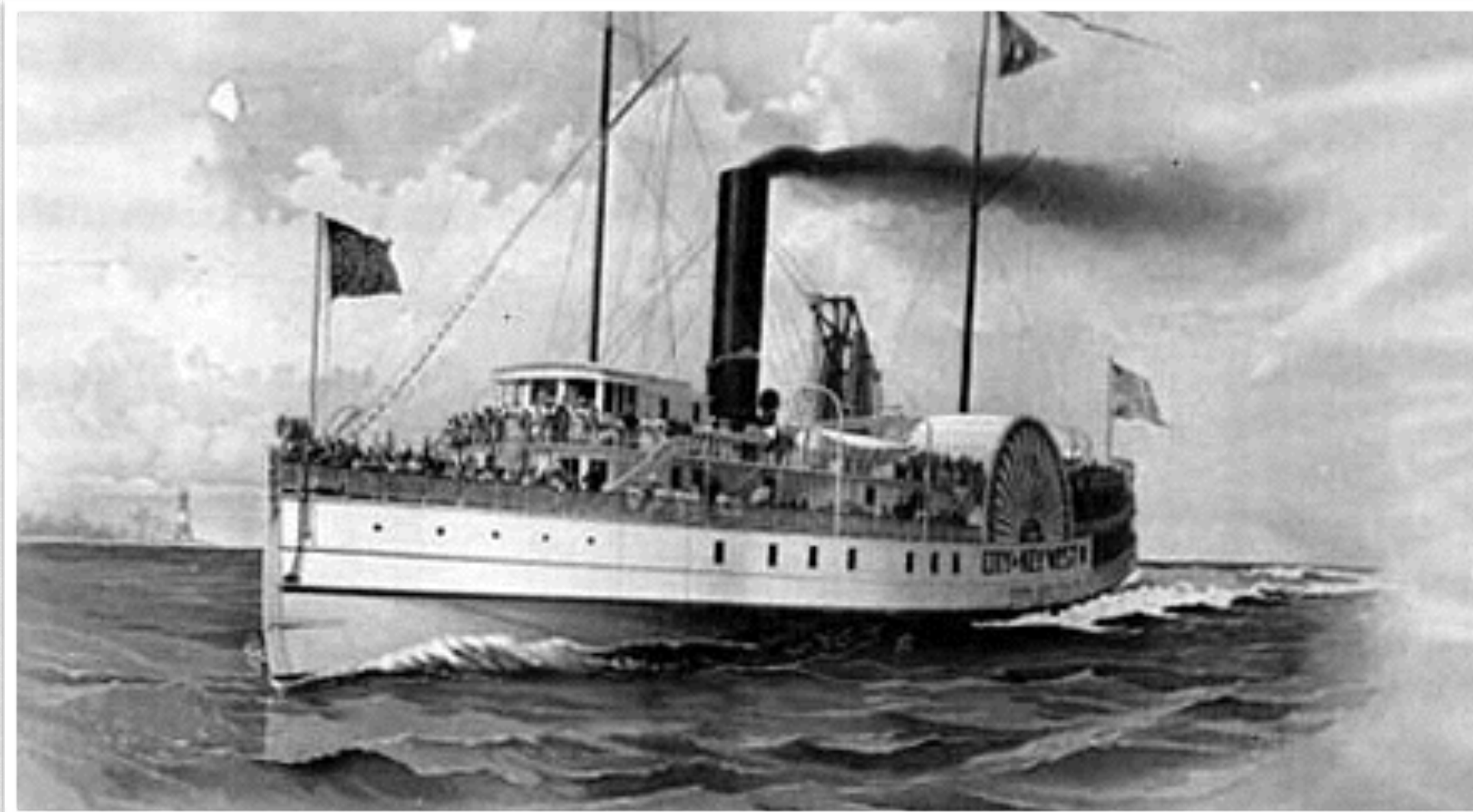
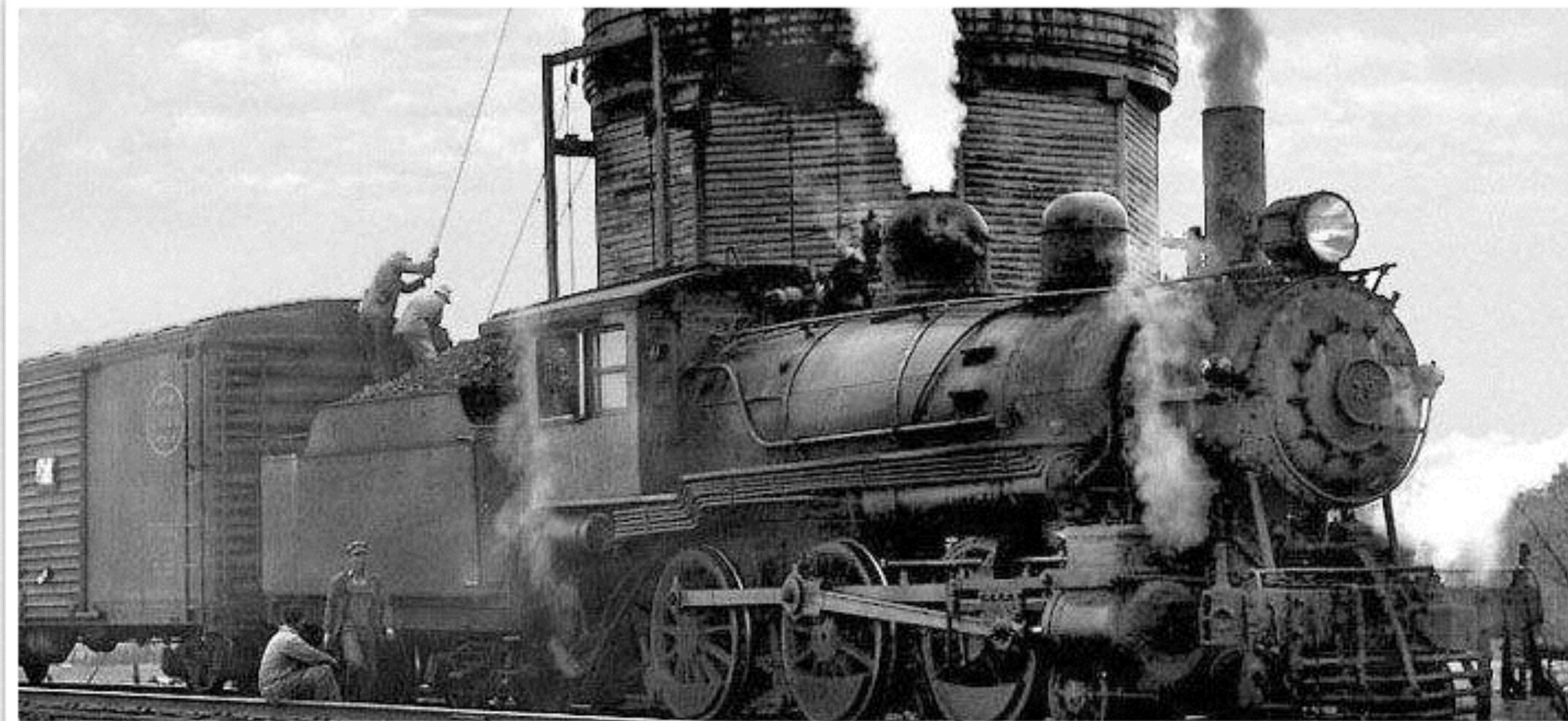
human tendency to put everything in boxes

Nature reveals itself on its own terms, over
which we have limited control

Human impulse is to put the world into
boxes and categories of understanding we
can control

laws of physics, mathematical equations, sets of classifications

This orientation to
technology views
the world only as a
“standing-reserve”
source of natural
resources







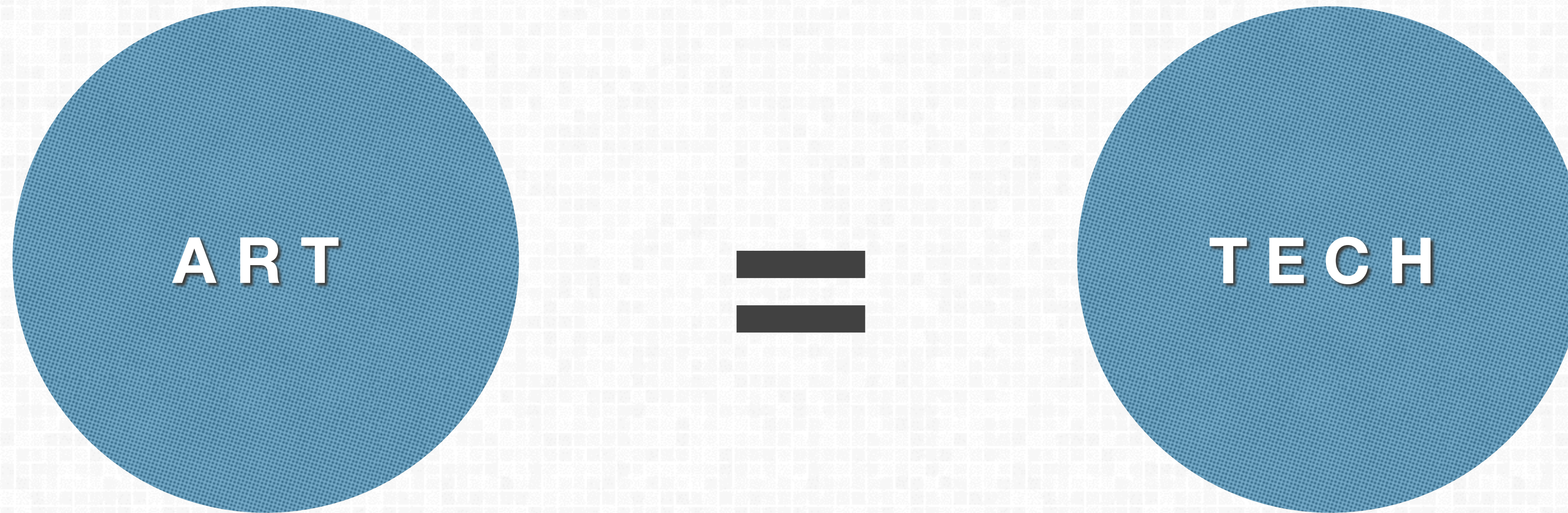
Paradox of Enframing

“On the one hand, **Enframing** challenges forth into the frenziedness of ordering that blocks every view into the coming-to-pass of revealing and so **radically endangers the relation to the essence of truth.**”

sets humanity towards
a destructive path

“On the other hand, Enframing comes to pass for its part in the granting that **lets man endure**—as yet unexperienced, but perhaps more experienced in the future—that he may be the one who is **needed and used for the safekeeping of the coming to presence of truth.**”

reveals the responsibility of
human beings to the world



alternate dimension of enframing

*human impulse to understand and
control our surroundings*

WHEN I heard the learn'd astronomer;
When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns
before me;
When I was shown the charts and the diagrams, to add,
divide, and measure them;
When I, sitting, heard the astronomer, where he lectured
with much applause in the lecture-room,
How soon, unaccountable, I became tired and sick;
Till rising and gliding out, I wander'd off by myself,
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,
Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars.

— Walt Whitman



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