

Eden
Engage

The ~~Secular~~ West:

How come doubting me feels wrong,
but doubting God seems natural?

Sunday 26th April 12-1pm



How did we get here?

1500



2000

How did we get here? A Subtraction Story?



The
Church

1500

2000

How did we get here? A Subtraction Story?



Faith

1500

2000

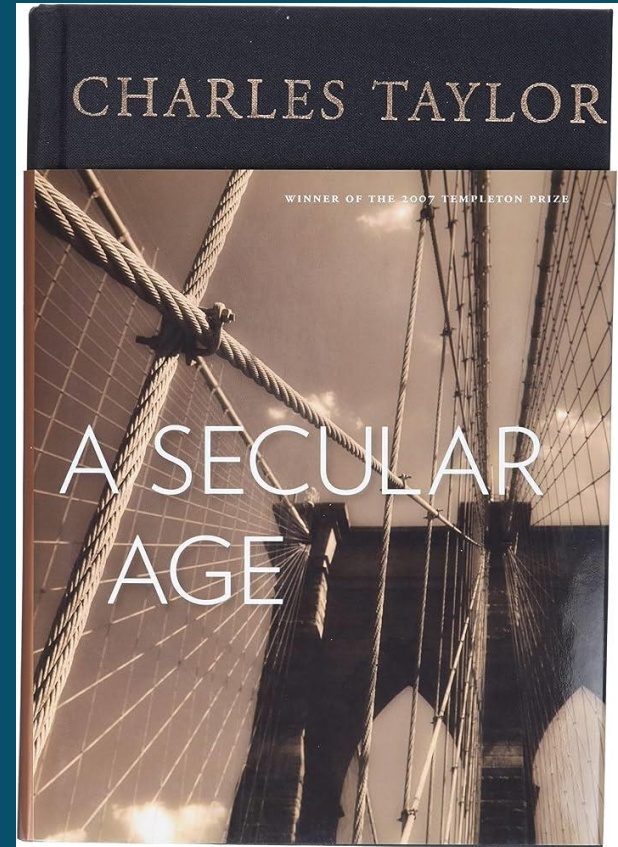
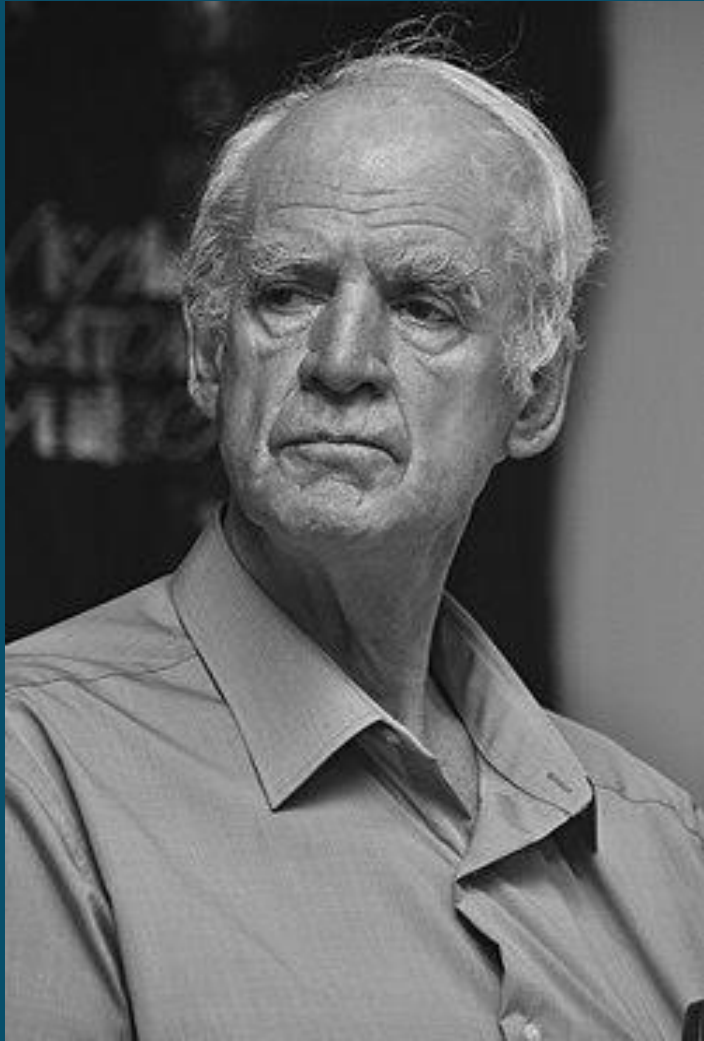
How did we get here? A Subtraction Story?



Secularism

1500

2000



Secularism(1): Secular vs Sacred

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Secularism(2): Secular as non-religious

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Secularism(2): Secular as non-religious

Secularism(3): Secular as a shift in the 'conditions of belief', belief is contested

How did we get here?

What does it feel like?

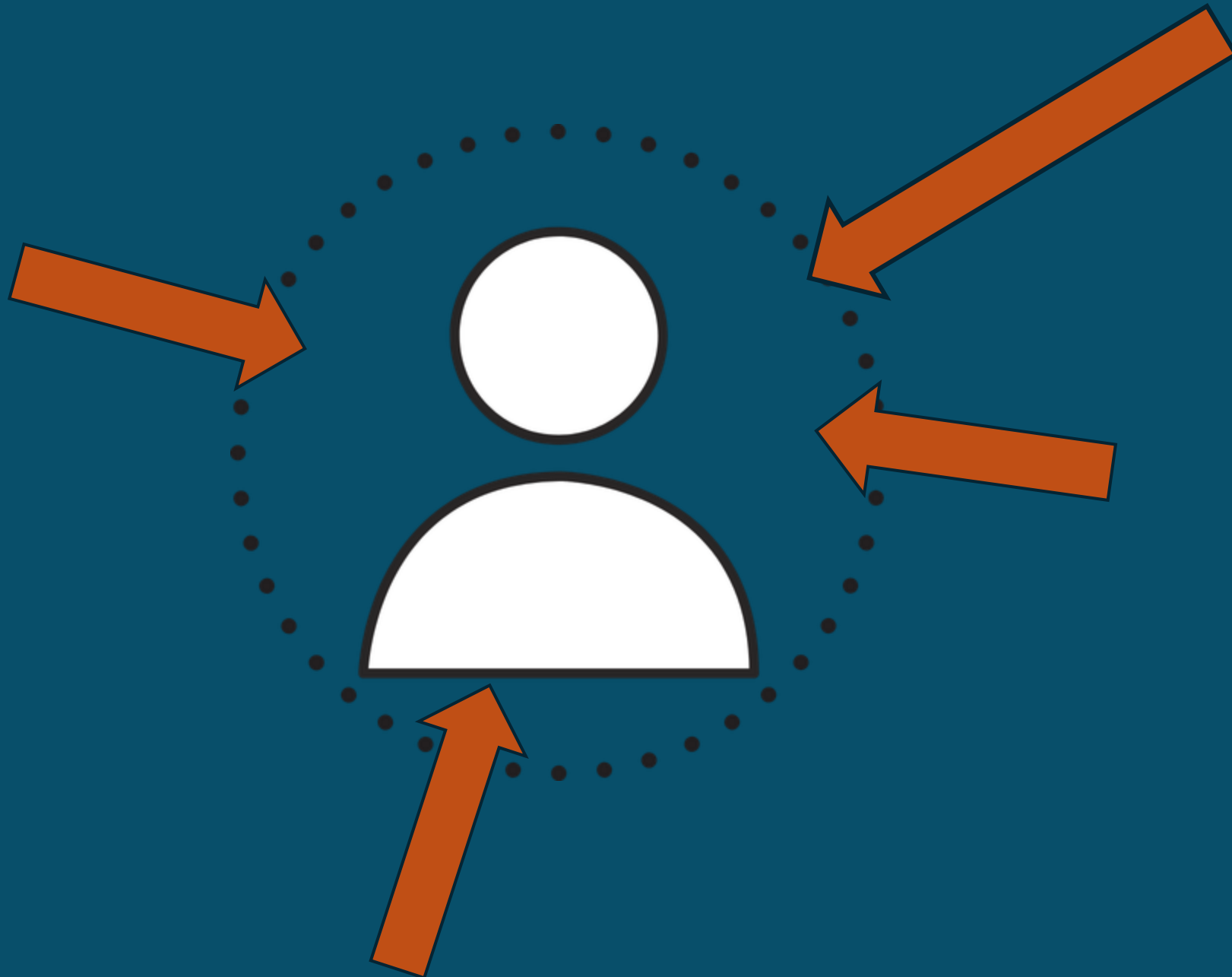
How did we get here?

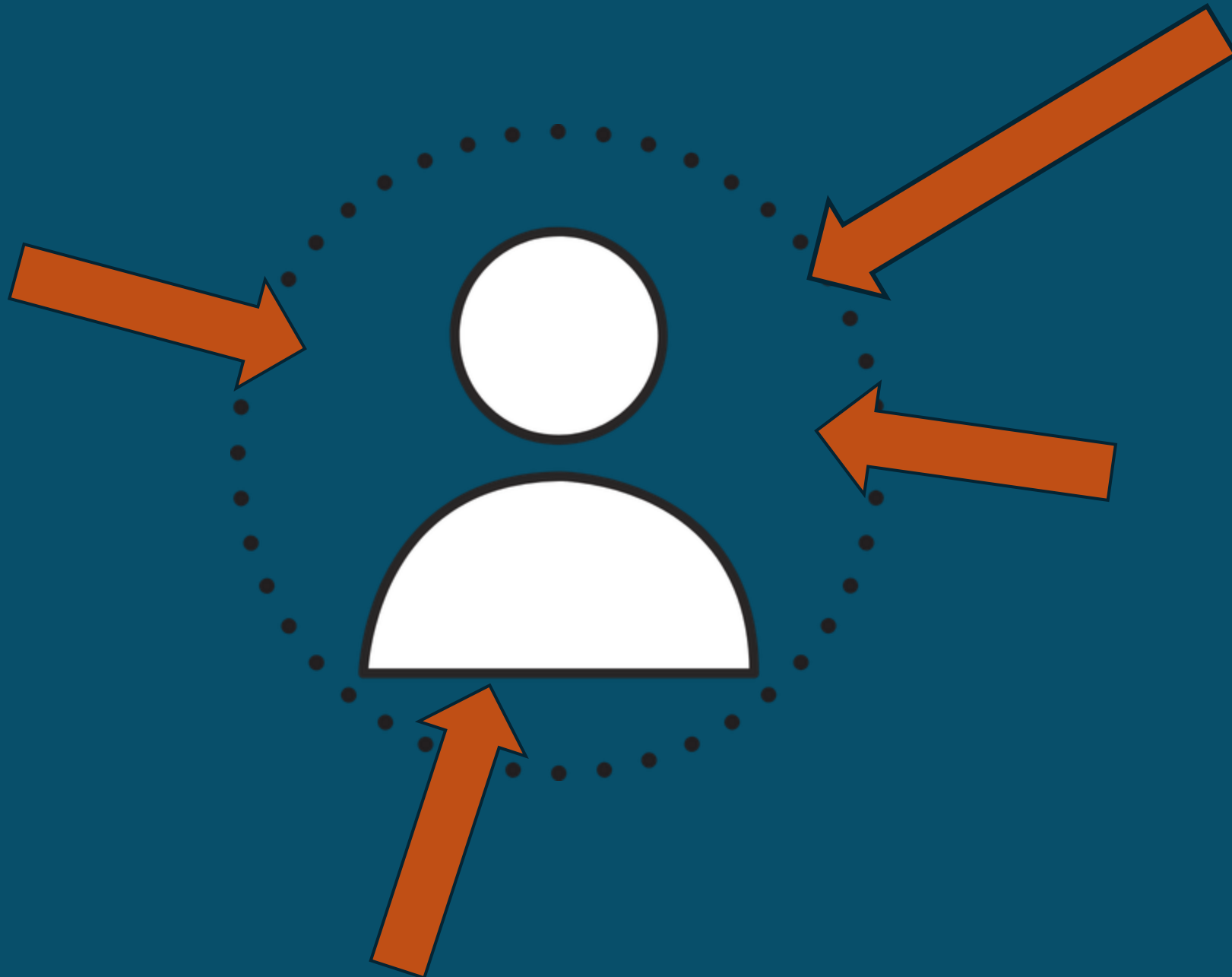
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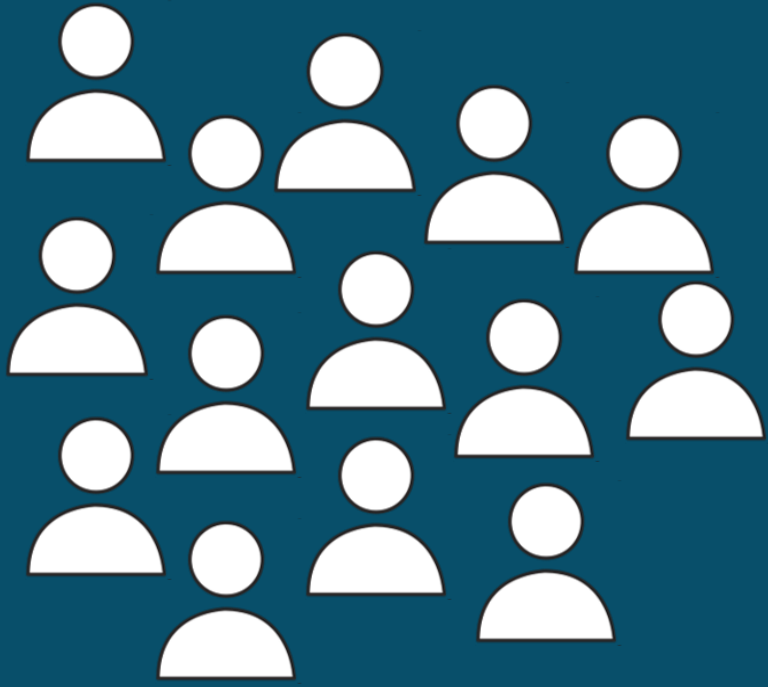
Time

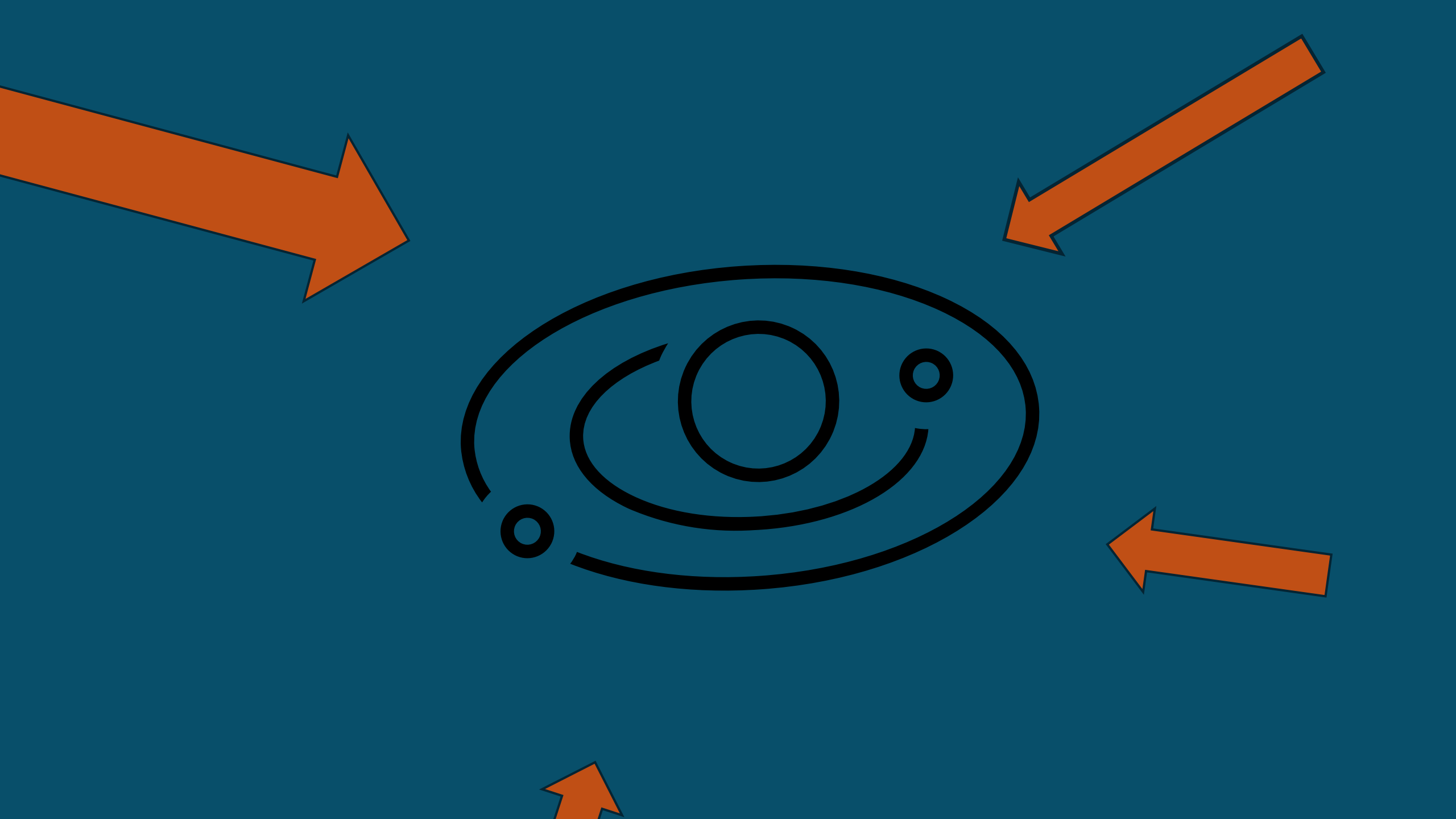


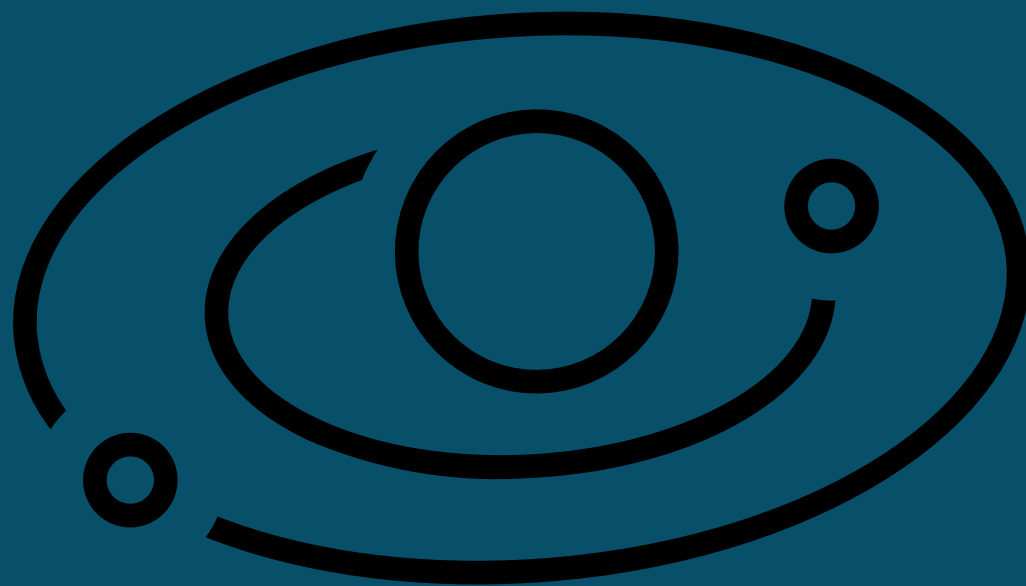
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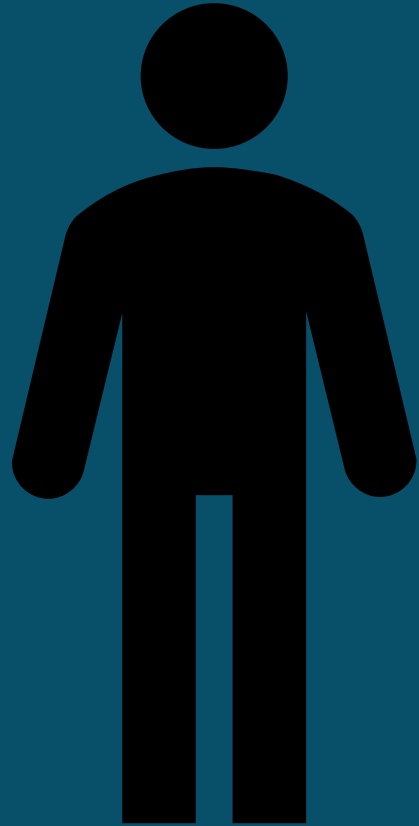


Morality primarily in relation to
God

Morality primarily in relation to
God



Morality primarily in relation to
functioning of society ('Modern
Moral Order')





MEANING

DISENCHANTED

Belief now:

Buffered Self



Immanent Frame

DISENCHANTED

Belief now:

Buffered Self

The Big Story:
Expressive Individualism
'The age of Authenticity'

Immanent Frame

DISENCHANTED

It's time to see
what I can do
To test the limits
and break through
No right, no wrong,
no rules for me
I'm free



“Everyone fails at who they’re supposed to be, Thor. A measure of a person, of a hero, is how well they succeed at being who they are.”



Discuss: Where have
you seen this story
being told?

Belief now:

Belief

Belief now:



Belief now:

Nova
Effect

Belief now:

Fragilisation

Belief now:

Fragilisation

Malaise/Loss/
Flatness

Belief now:

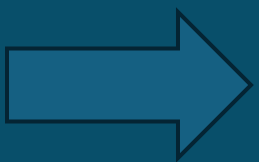
Fragilisation

Malaise

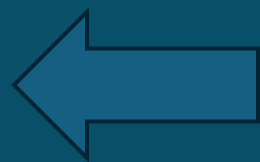
'Cross Pressured'

Enchantment

Transcendence



'Cross Pressured'



Immanence

Dis-Enchantment

An age in which 'Believers
are tempted to doubt, but
doubters are tempted to
believe'

'I don't believe in God, but I miss him.'

Julian Barnes *Nothing to Be Frightened Of*

I was raised up believing I was somehow unique
Like a snowflake distinct among snowflakes
Unique in each way you'd conceive
And now after some thinking I'd say I'd rather be
A functioning cog in some great machinery
Serving something beyond me

But I don't, I don't know what that will be

Fleet Foxes *Helplessness Blues*

I've been runnin' around in circles

Pretending to be myself

Why would somebody do this on

purpose

When they could do something else?

Phoebe Bridgers *Chinese Satellite*

I want to believe

Instead, I look at the sky and I feel
nothing

You know I hate to be alone
I want to be wrong

Phoebe Bridgers *Chinese Satellite*

'Closed World Structures' –
Stories of disenchantment:

'Closed World Structures' –
Stories of disenchantment:

Growing up is moving
beyond God

'Closed World Structures' –
Stories of disenchantment:

Growing up is moving
beyond God

Religious ethics attacks the self
and ignores nature

Fulness

Cross Pressures towards
the transcendent:

Cross Pressures towards
the transcendent:

Purpose

Cross Pressures towards
the transcendent:

Purpose

Ethics

Cross Pressures towards
the transcendent:

Purpose

Ethics

Beauty

What does this mean for
us?

The Future?

"In societies where the general equilibrium point is firmly within immanence, where many people even have trouble understanding how a sane person could believe in God, the dominant secularization narrative, which tends to blame our religious past for many of the woes of our world, will become less plausible over time"

The Future?

"At the same time, this heavy concentration of the atmosphere of immanence will intensify a sense of living in a 'waste land' for sub-subsequent generations, and many young people will begin again to explore beyond the boundaries"

The Future?

The Future?