The Blue Pill

A spiritual guide for the past, present, and future

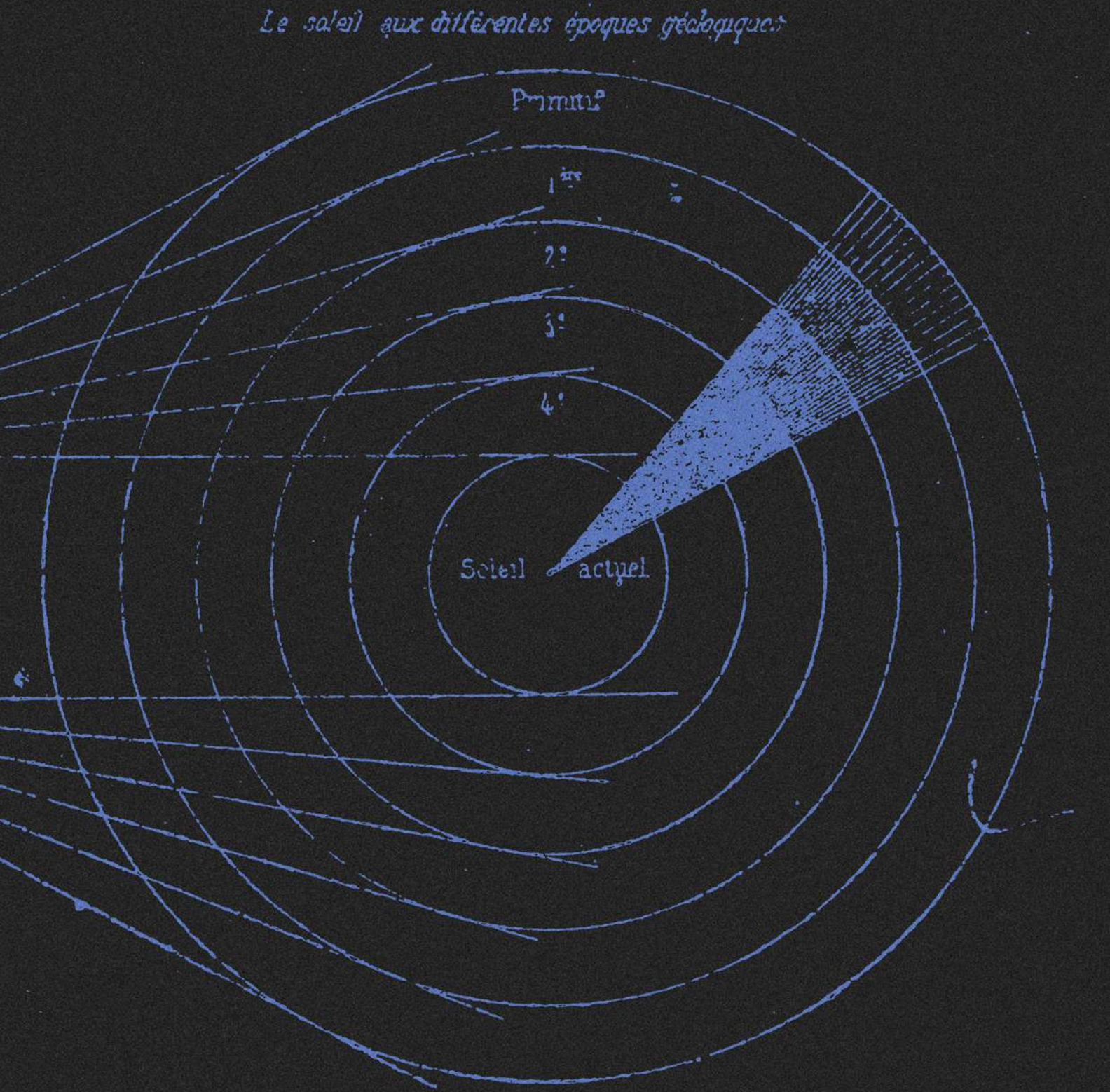
The Blue Pill

PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE

WHAT IS

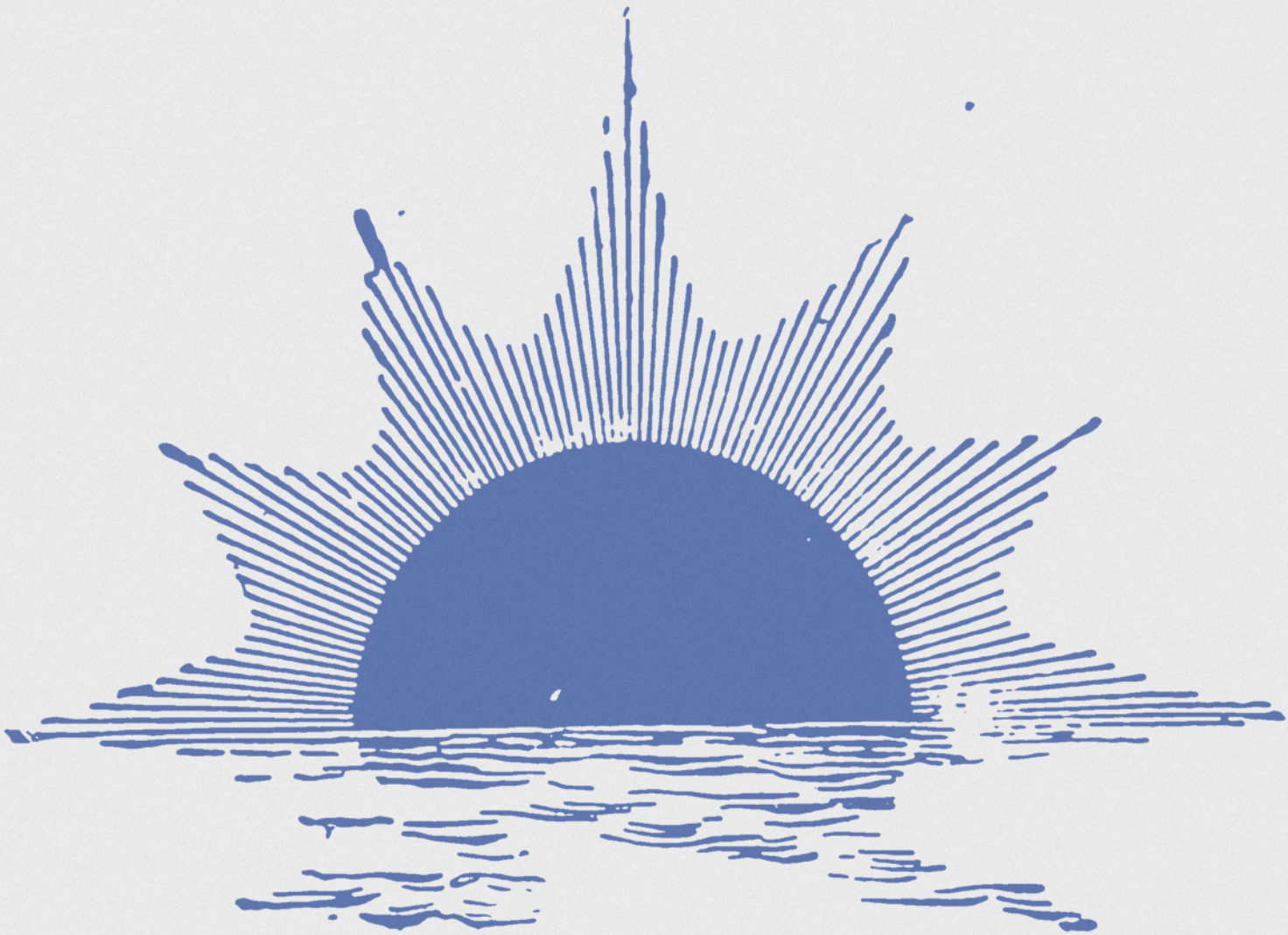
YEARN?

WHERE DID



YEARN COME FROM?

WHERE IS YEARN



GOING?

"We are like a baby bird just hatched. No one designed Yearn. It emerged from Andre's gift of all the YFI. It's sink or swim for us. The cells of Yearn either learn how to pulse together and move feathers and wings, or we die in the nest."

— Anon

PROLOGUE

IN THE LAND OF BLUE PILLS EVERYTHING YOU THOUGHT WAS IMPORTANT

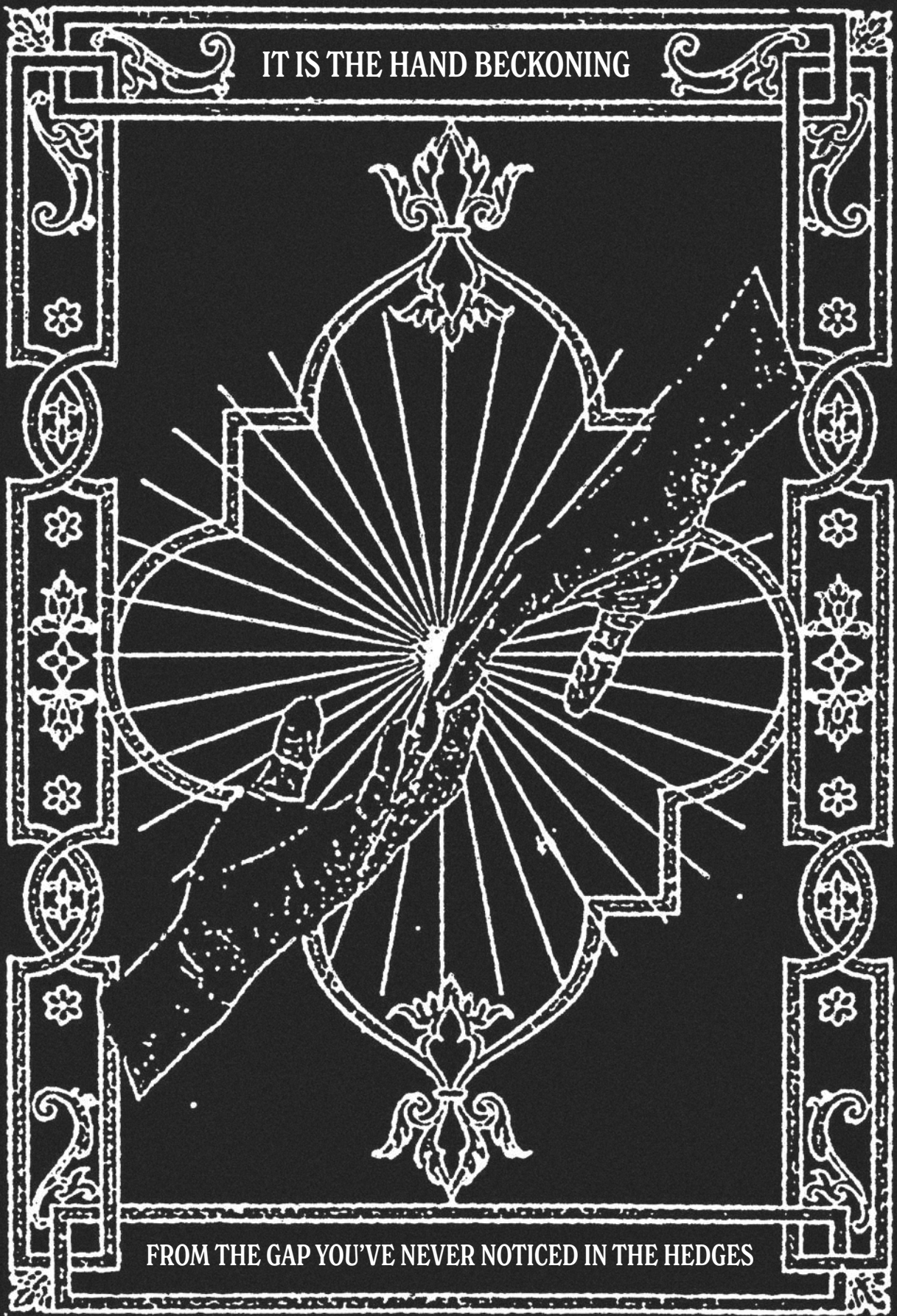
CEASES TO MATTER

YOUR TITLE
YOUR NET WORTH
YOUR NATIONALITY
YOUR DEGREES
YOUR LOOKS
EVEN YOUR NAME

All that matters is your contribution

This book is an invitation to contribute

IT IS THE HAND BECKONING

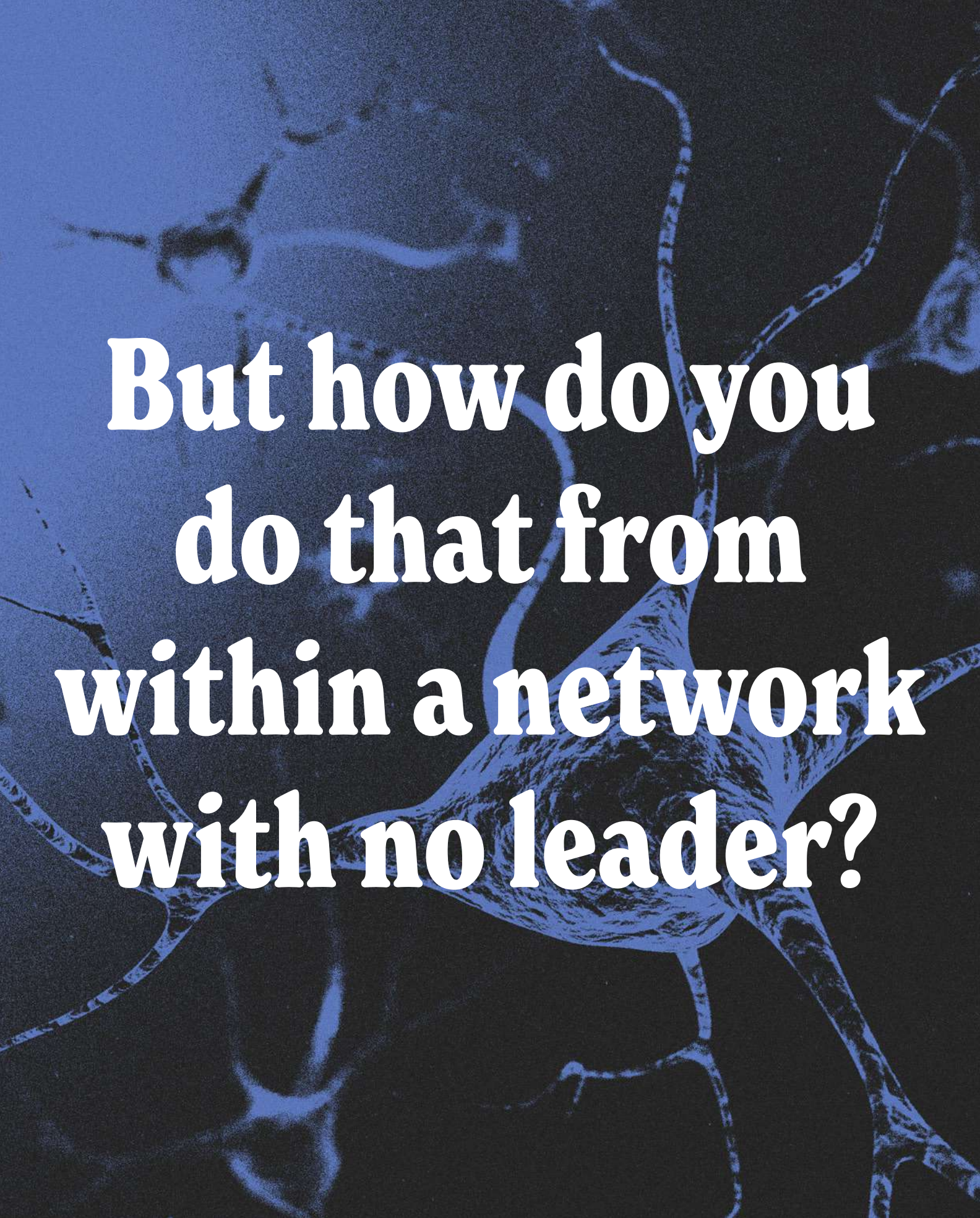


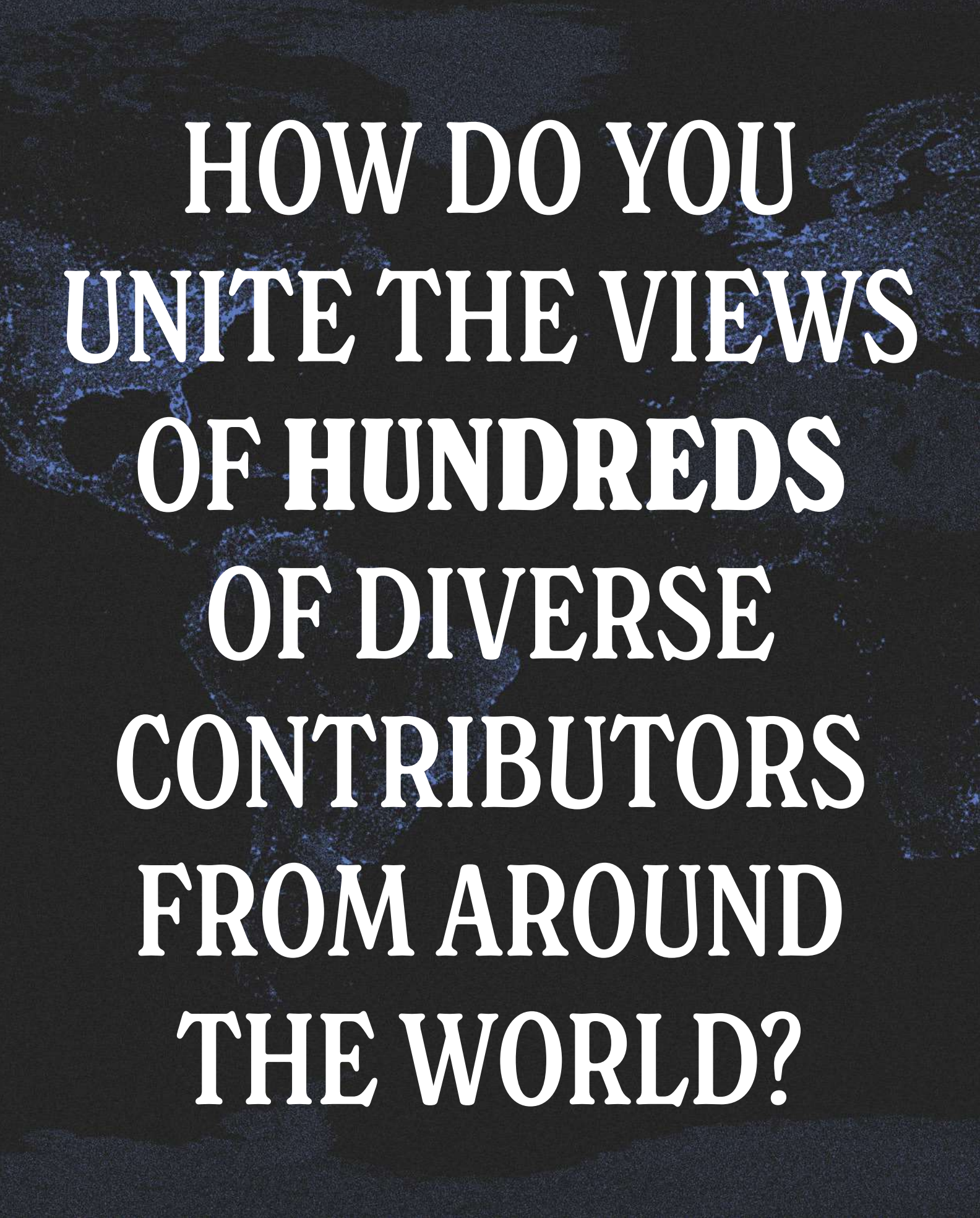
FROM THE GAP YOU'VE NEVER NOTICED IN THE HEDGES

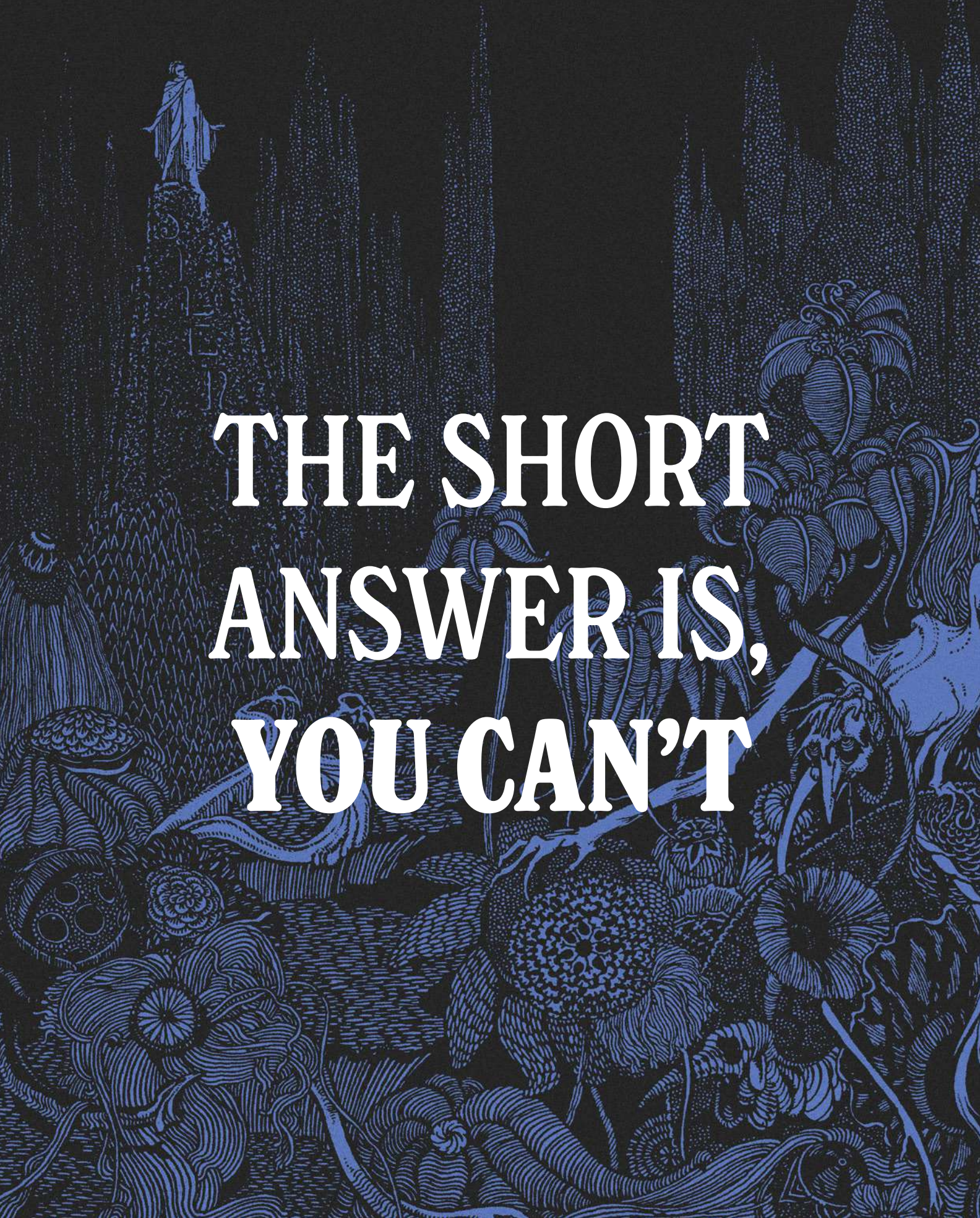
Will you take the well-worn paths of yesterday? It asks

Or do you wish to go somewhere new?

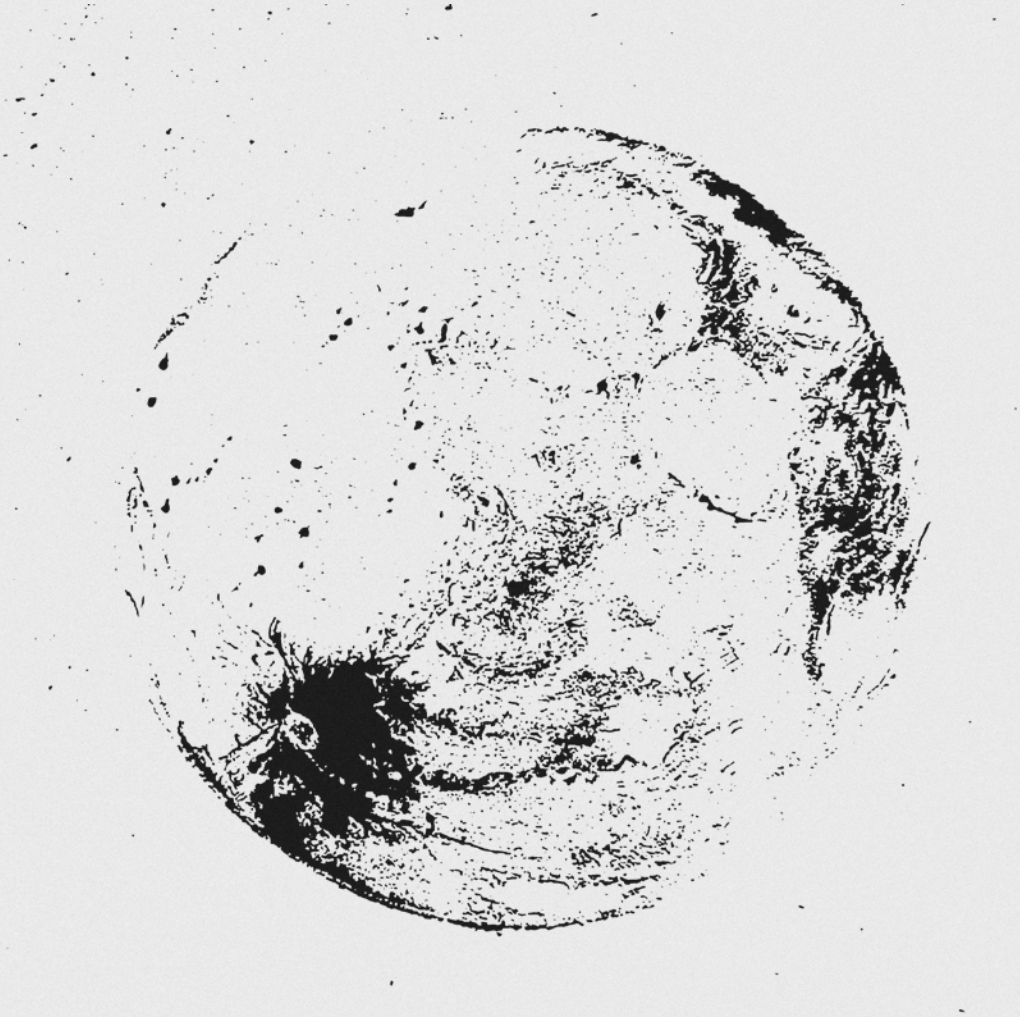
The Yearn Blue Pill has one overriding goal: to communicate Yearn's vision


But how do you do that from within a network with no leader?


HOW DO YOU
UNITE THE VIEWS
OF HUNDREDS
OF DIVERSE
CONTRIBUTORS
FROM AROUND
THE WORLD?


THE SHORT
ANSWER IS,
YOU CAN'T

We're all here for different reasons



We all have different goals

But through candid discussions with the community, we've found common ground

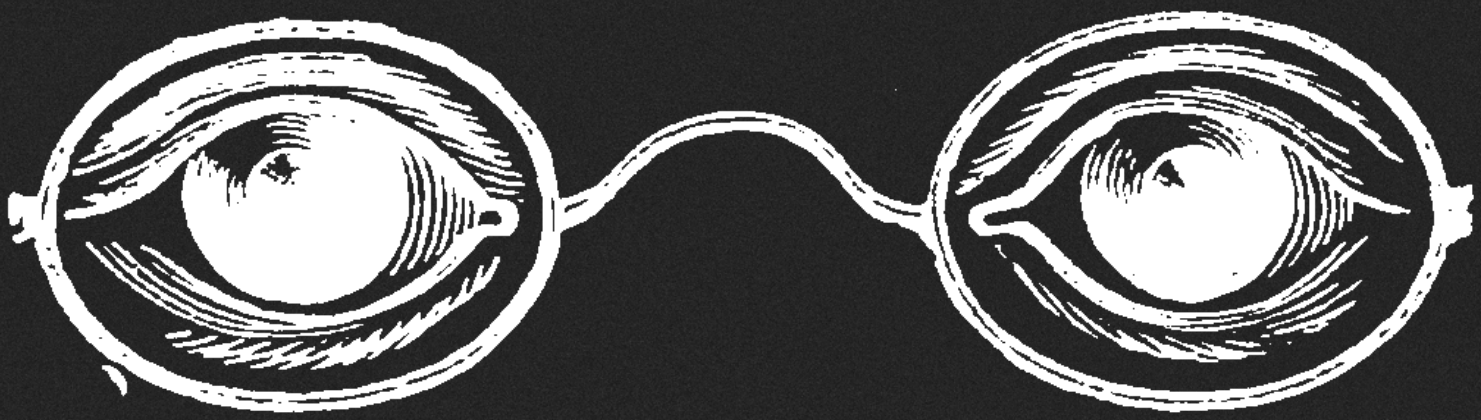
This document is the result of those conversations

We recognize these pages as dangerous

Naming our vision
could limit us
And we are
limitless

But today, one year after the birth of YFI

We've recognized the time has come



We're putting our vision on paper

So that when forks arise in the road, there is a place contributors can go

To get an answer to the question:

Is this Yearn?

Or is it not?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part One: Past 27
Part Two: Present 59
Part Three: Future 81

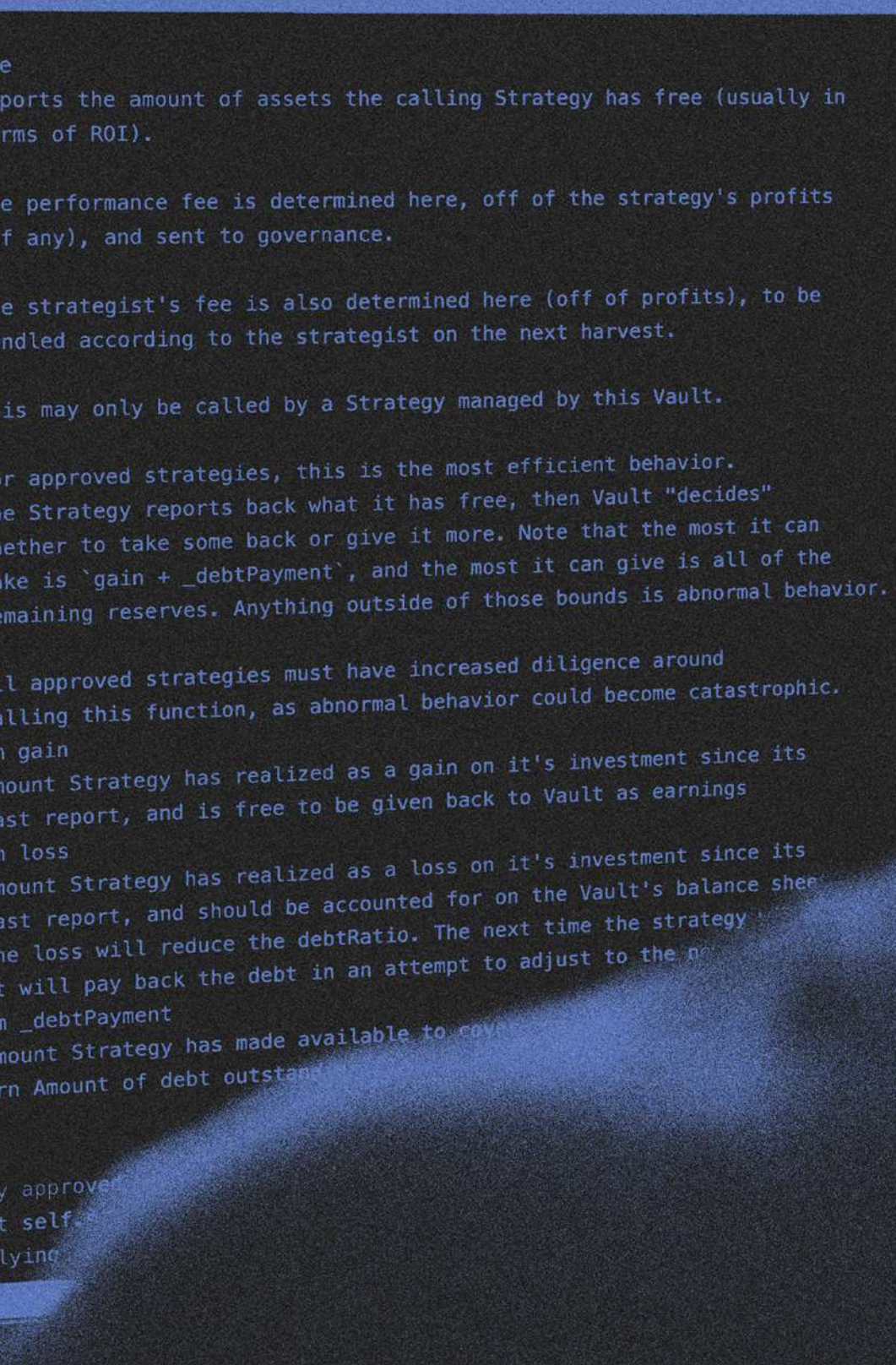
PART ONE: PAST

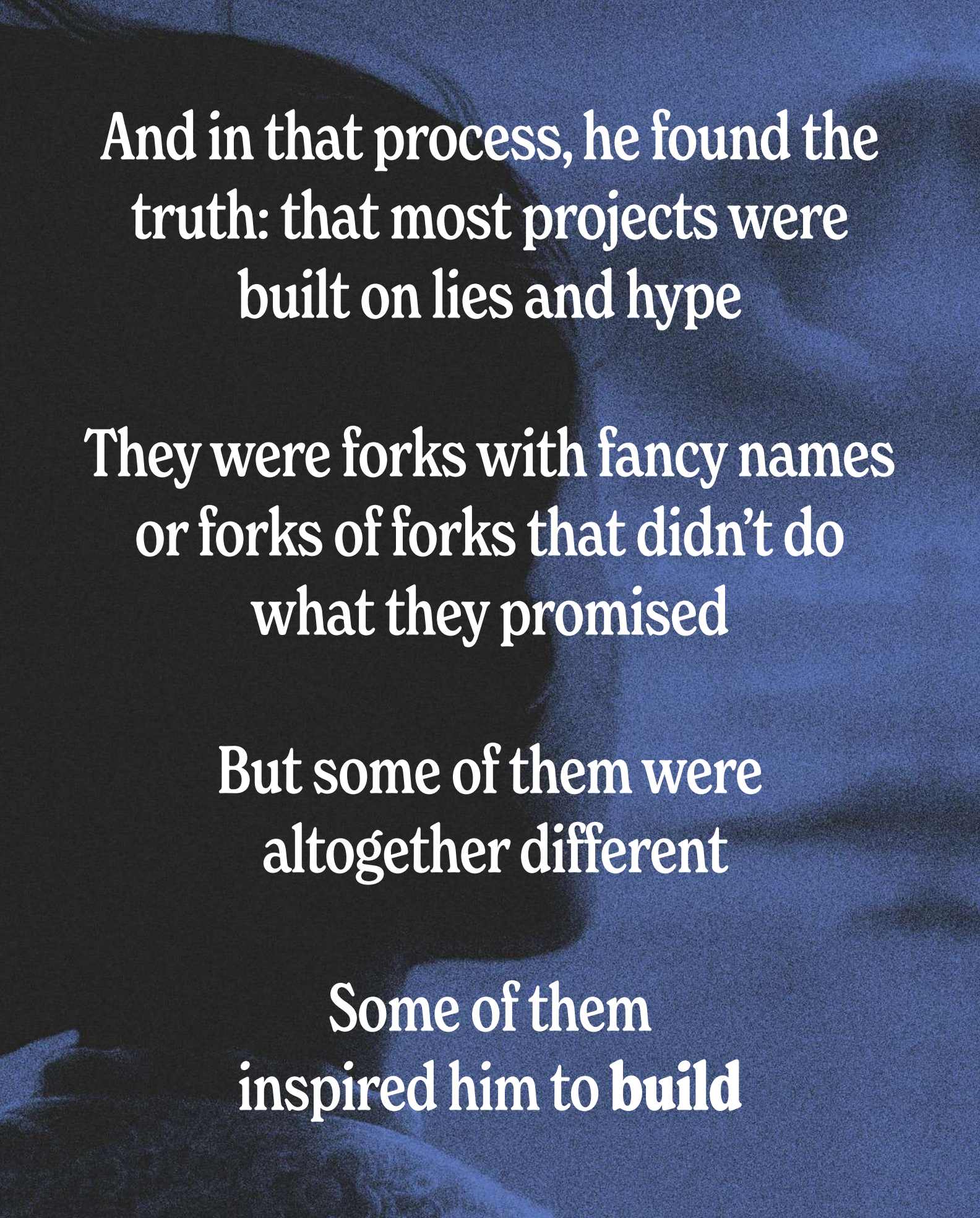
Every contributor to Yearn has a story, arc, or journey

And we must begin with the story of the first

Andre Cronje

In 2018, he studied every major crypto project's code
He read their Githubs line-by-line
He published reviews for all to read




And in that process, he found the truth: that most projects were built on lies and hype
They were forks with fancy names or forks of forks that didn't do what they promised
But some of them were altogether different
Some of them inspired him to **build**

In 2019, Andre put on his coveralls and became a yield farmer

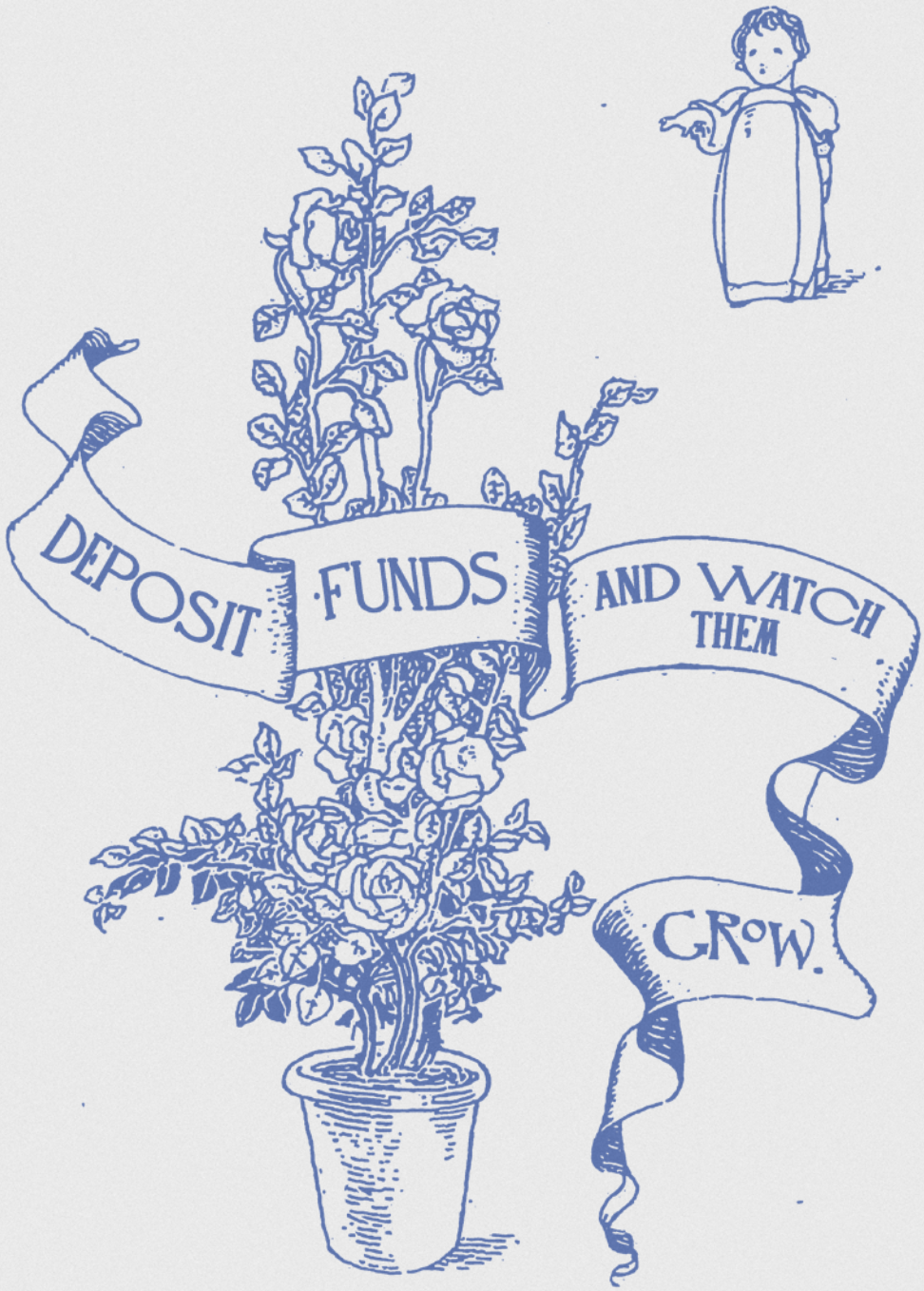
But he was not your typical yield farmer
(doing things by hand)

He tended his crops with code

He built and automated all of his
processes directly on Ethereum

And by doing so, he built the
world's first yield aggregator

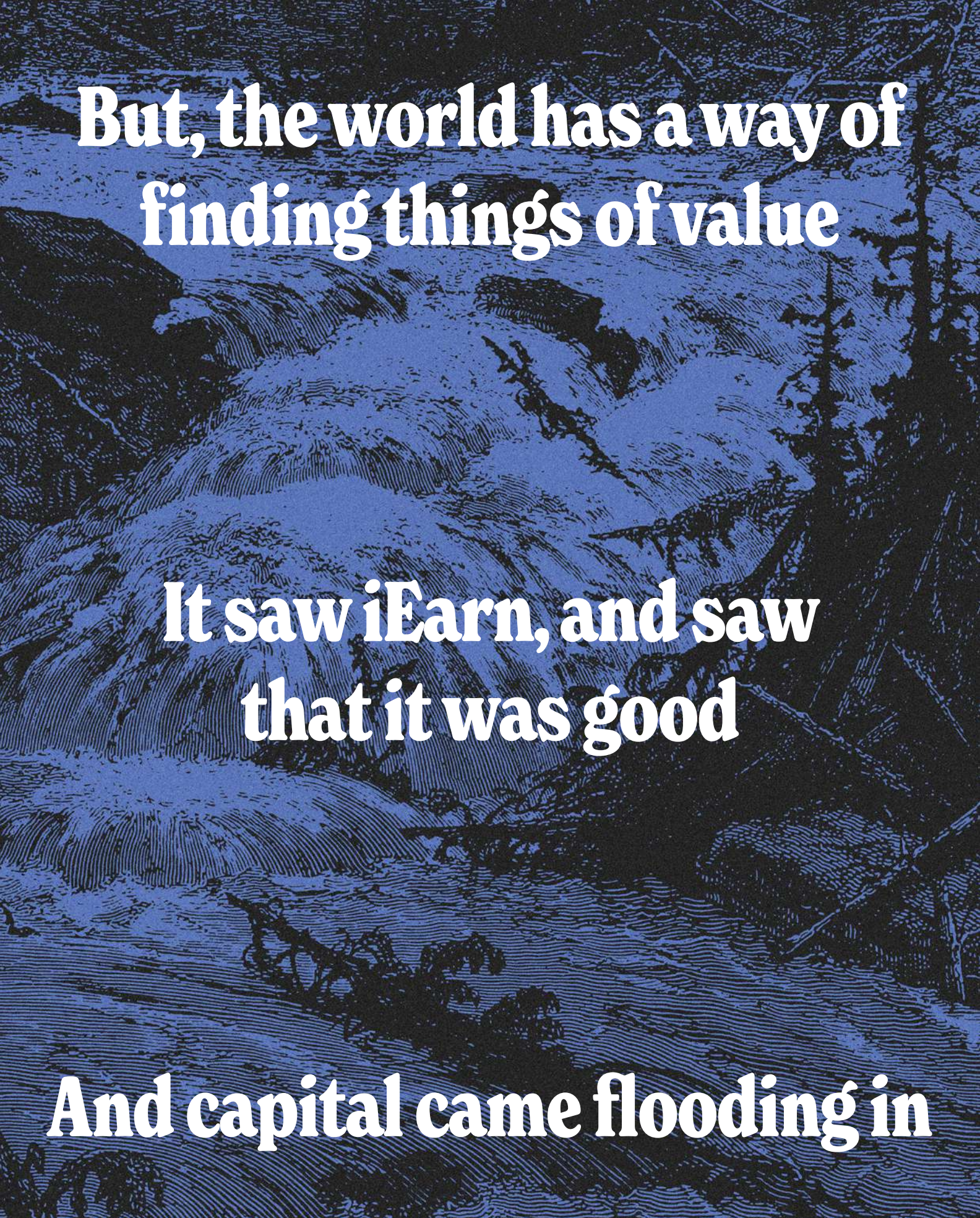
It was a perpetual yield machine



Hello, world!

On Feb. 4, 2020, Andre announced the birth of iearn.finance (which would become Yearn)

“Don’t do it the way I did it, which was hard, cost me a lot of money, and has created very little network effect,” he wrote


But, the world has a way of finding things of value
It saw iEarn, and saw that it was good
And capital came flooding in

“I TEST IN PROD,”
ANDRE PROCLAIMED

BE WARNED

iEARN WAS NOT AUDITED

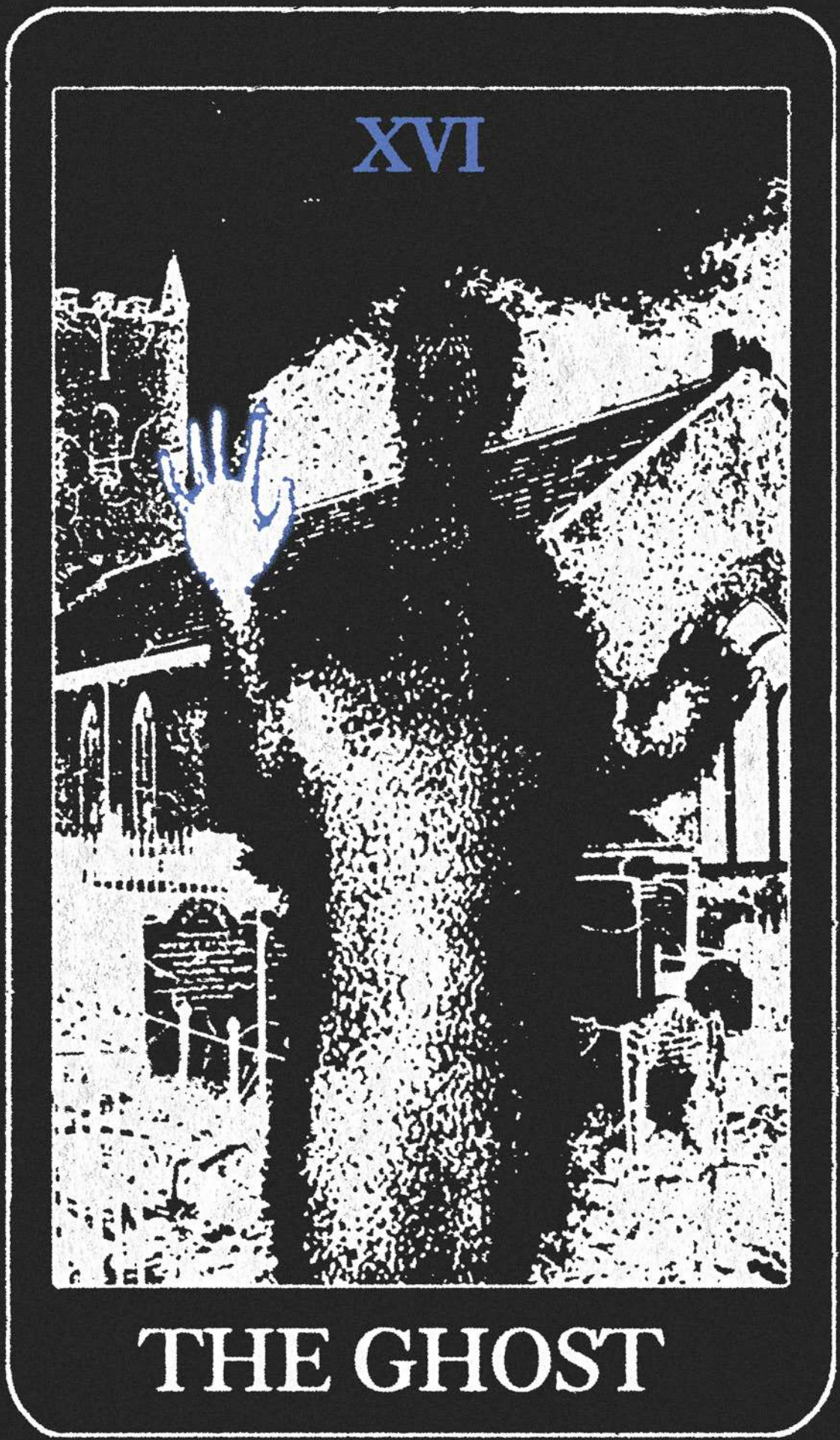
IT WAS “DANGEROUS”

AND IT WAS
REVOLUTIONARY

The revolutionaries noticed

One by one, they came...
new contributors with
fantastical names

THE BUNNY


XVI
THE GHOST

THE DUDE

III
THE BIRD

THE GLASS OF MILK

They weren't merely interested in finance; they were interested in the FUTURE

They saw what this experimental project could become: a gargantuan, unstoppable, extra-governmental, decentralized, permissionless, self-healing, collective organism with a heart pumping yield to the rhythm of each new block

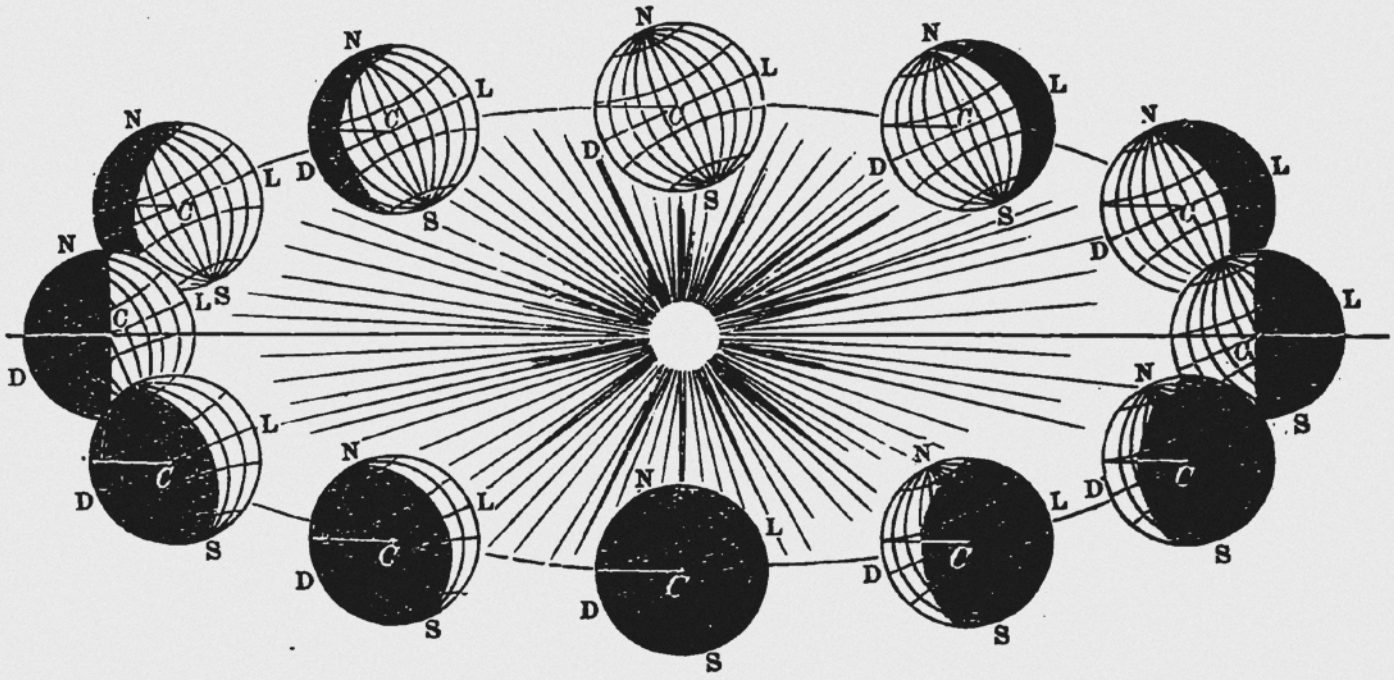
A ubiquitous yield-layer to underpin every financial instrument on the planet – no banks or middlemen with golden cufflinks required

They wanted to contribute and they asked to get involved

They helped iEarn morph into Yearn

They suffered attacks, hacks, and scathing criticisms

But they worked together...



United across the globe by an unspoken sense of purpose

"It has been amazingly fun to face all these challenges, and each one I believe has created a more robust ecosystem," Andre wrote on February 4, 2020.

"Looking forward to many more problems to come"

At Yearn, contributors don't shy away from the hard things, **they seek them out**

Remember: they hide opportunities

There's a philosophy in Andre's message: **Look forward to problems**

PROBLEMS ARE
THE CLAY WE USE
TO MOLD THE
FUTURE

On July 17, 2020, Andre announced
he was giving away control

Anyone providing liquidity on Yearn could earn YFI, a brand new governance token (pronounced "wifey") that granted holders power over the platform's future

"The control is in your hands," Andre said

"Good luck"

“The roots of Yearn are in the gift,”
one contributor said

“Andre’s fair launch was a revolutionary act
that put generosity in the DNA of
the whole community,” another said

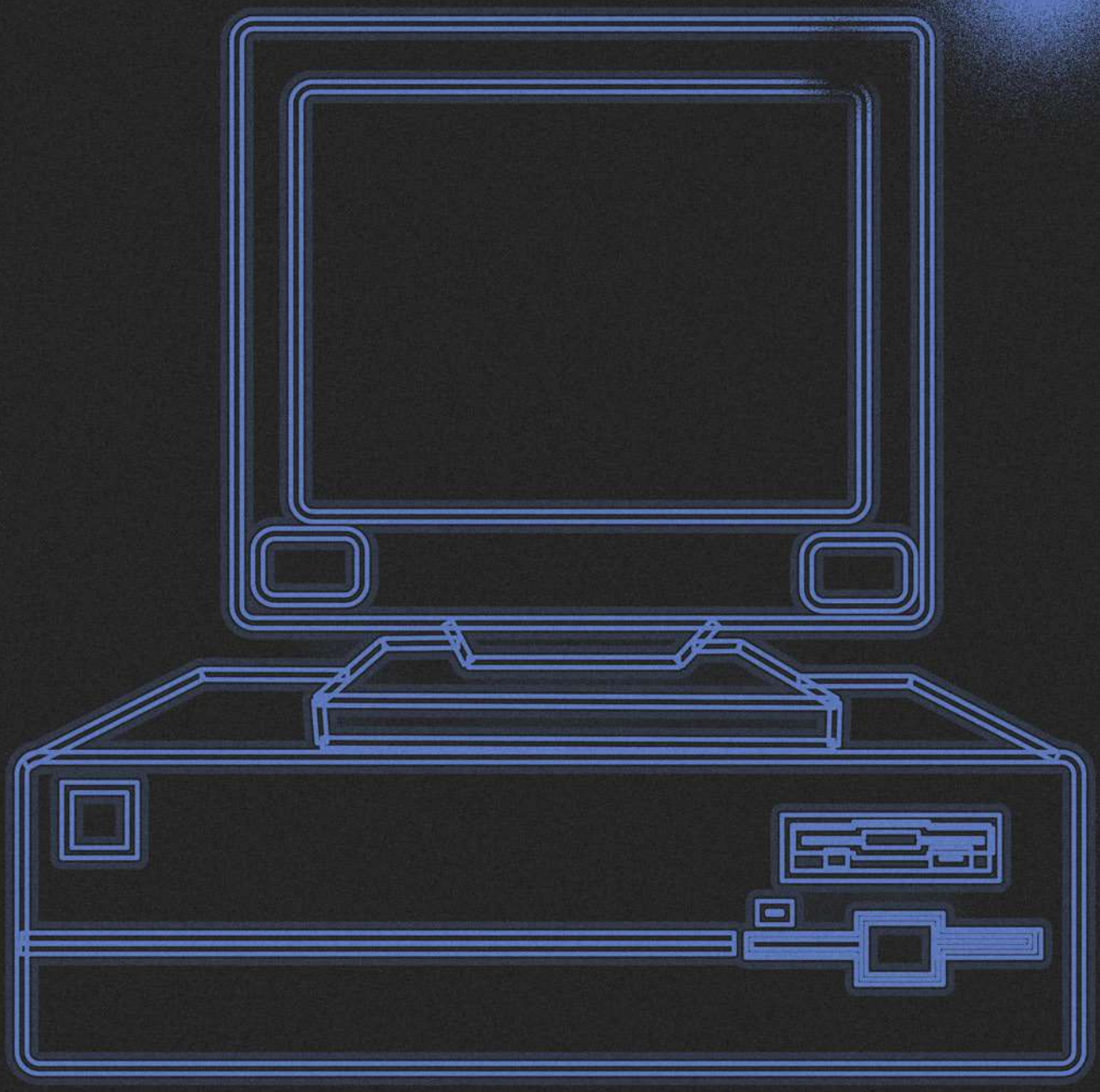
Yearn doesn’t ask what it can extract

It asks what it can give away

Not three months later
it was clear the experiment
had become something
much larger than any
one contributor

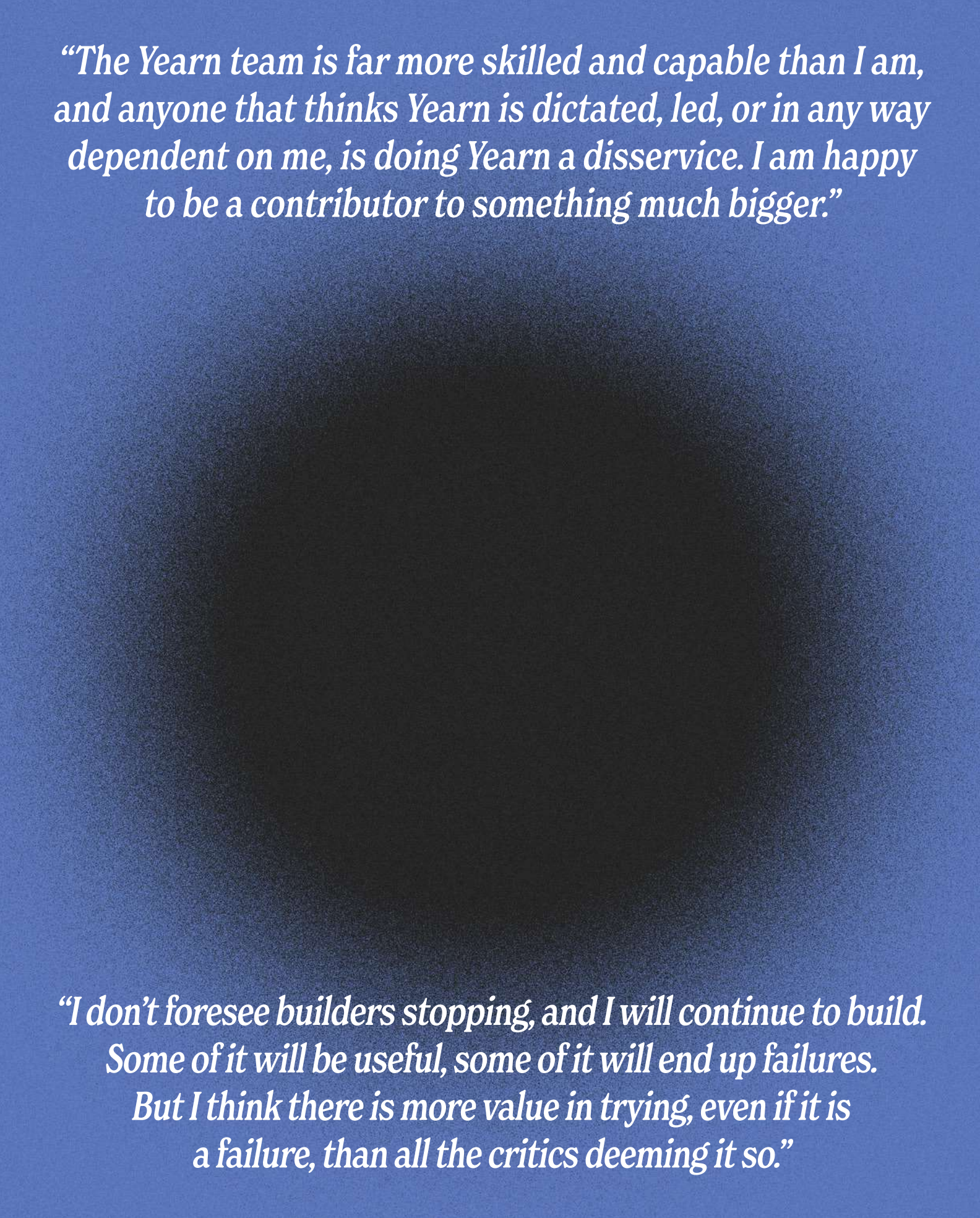
It was a movement

"I am not Yearn,"
Andre wrote



“Consider how big the ecosystem has become, consider all the websites, tooling, newsletters, forum, Discord, Telegram, and active development on Github. None of these are done by myself. I am a rapid prototyper and I will continue to be one.”

"The Yearn team is far more skilled and capable than I am, and anyone that thinks Yearn is dictated, led, or in any way dependent on me, is doing Yearn a disservice. I am happy to be a contributor to something much bigger."



"I don't foresee builders stopping, and I will continue to build. Some of it will be useful, some of it will end up failures. But I think there is more value in trying, even if it is a failure, than all the critics deeming it so."

There are few things in the world more powerful than the gift

Andre Cronje gave away all the YFI

Every
Single
One

Over a billion dollars in value

The inflaton field from this cosmic gift has left an indelible mark on the collective

Its vibrations echo
in every one of us

It called us here

Not for money

Not for fame

But because that's what gifts do

They are magic

Andre cast a spell into this world woven with integrity, genius, and generosity

And Yearn was what he summoned

PART TWO: PRESENT

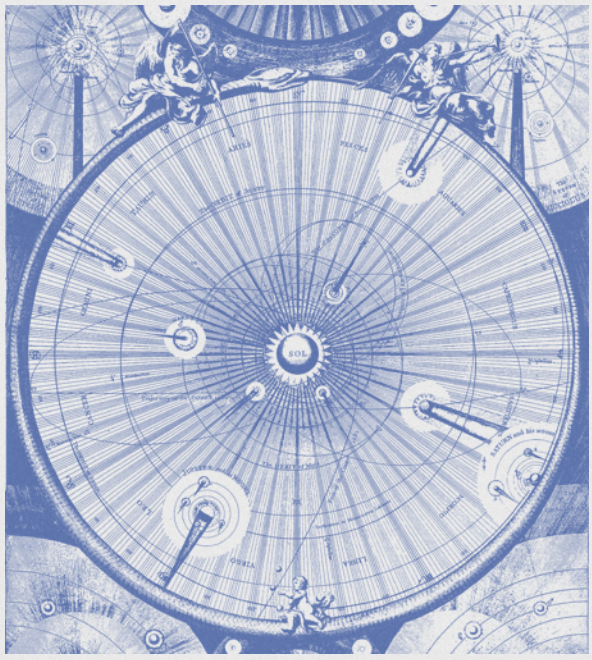
Question: What is Yearn?
An innovation factory?
A yield-aggregator protocol?
An intersubjective life-form?
Something else, entirely?

Question: Who can contribute to Yearn?
Answer: You

Whoever you are, wherever you are,
you may know what Yearn is
better than we do

Come show us

Yearn is an emergent
and evolving experiment
in decentralized collaboration

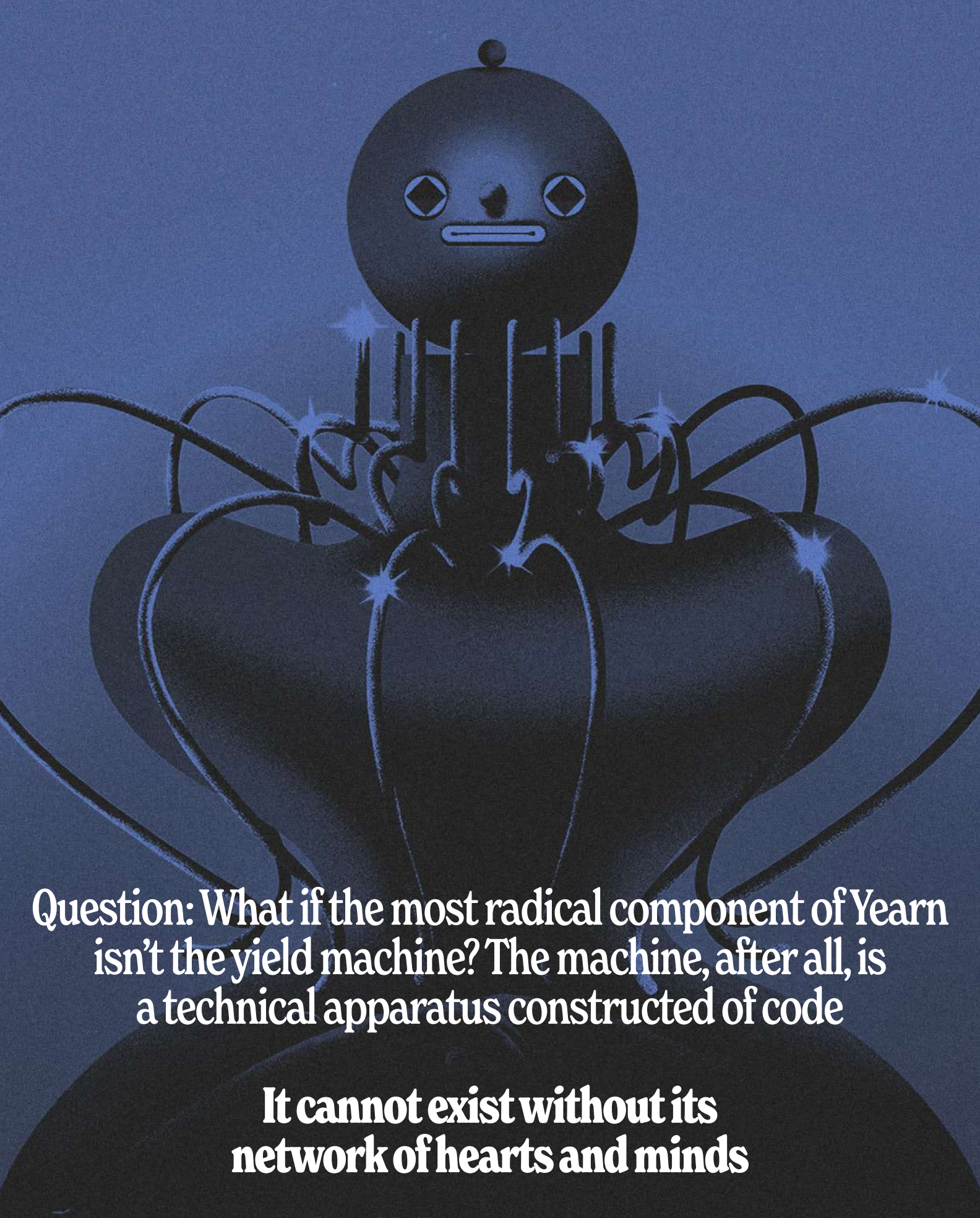


It has no papers of incorporation,
no headquarters, nor even a list
of names and locations for
its contributors

Yearn is open
Everything it builds is visible
Yearn is post-corporate...
a place where you never have
to sell yourself because your
contributions speak for you

AT YEARN, YOUR WORK IS NOT ASSIGNED

IT IS GUIDED BY YOUR INNER VOICE



Question: What if the most radical component of Yearn isn't the yield machine? The machine, after all, is a technical apparatus constructed of code

It cannot exist without its network of hearts and minds

Perhaps the network itself is the most radical part of Yearn

DECENTRALIZED AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATION

Our unique DAO and those who embody it

In October 2020, Yearn contributors laid out a manifesto

First, it named what Yearn is not:

YEARN IS NOT
A COMPANY

YEARN DOES NOT
HAVE INVESTORS

YEARN DOES NOT
CATER TO SPECULATORS

YEARN DOES NOT
HAVE AN OFFICIAL VOICE

YEARN IS NOT
OWED ANYTHING
FROM ANYONE

Then, it named what Yearn is:

YEARN IS A COLLECTIVE OF CONTRIBUTORS

YEARN IS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

YEARN IS FOR BUILDERS

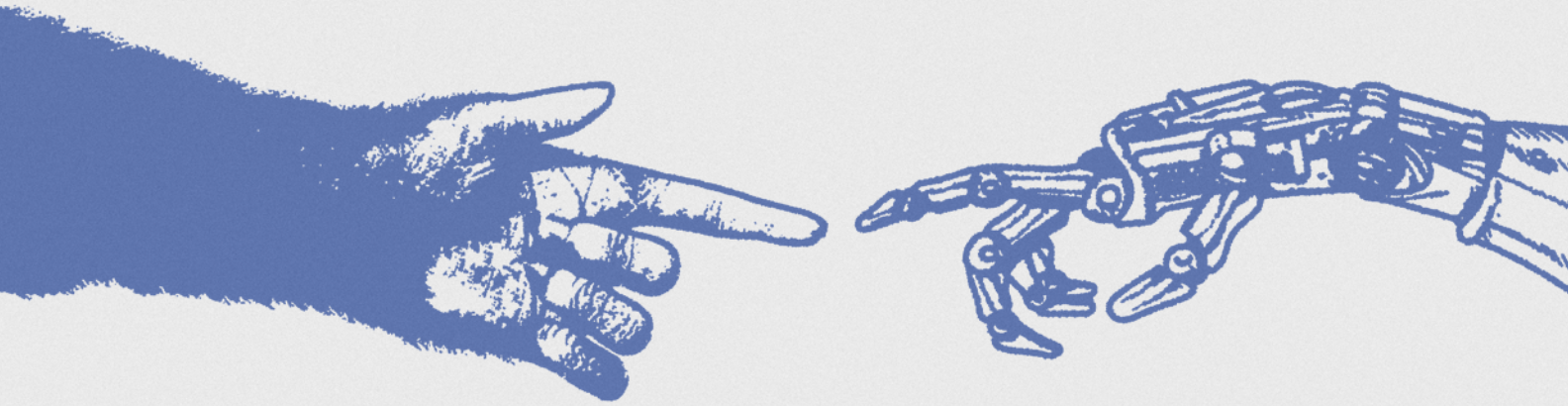
YEARN IS FOR SELF-STARTERS

YEARN IS FOR COLLABORATORS

YEARN IS INFLUENCED BY MERIT

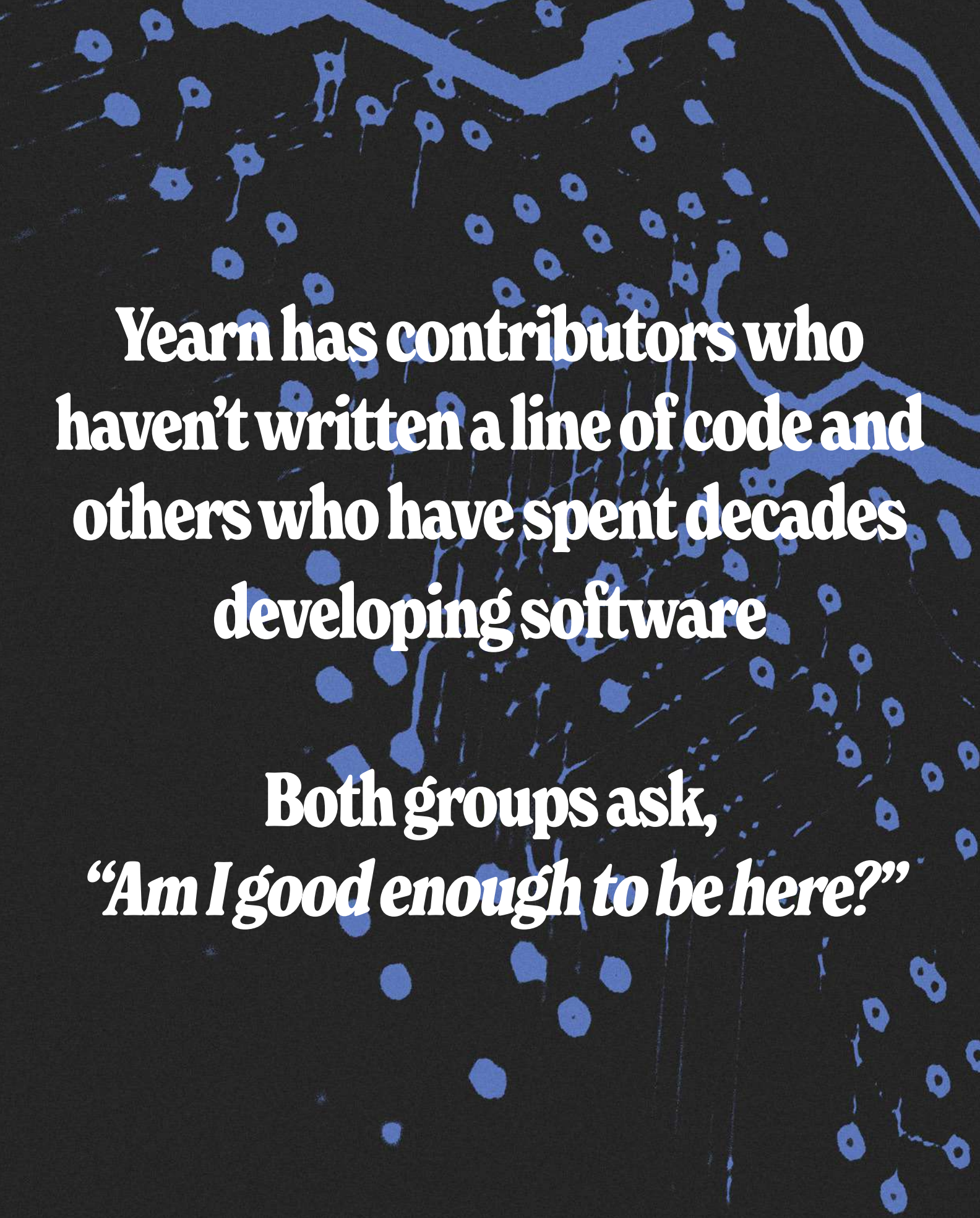
YEARN IS GOVERNED BY YFI, BUT YFI DOES NOT GOVERN YEARN'S CONTRIBUTORS

YEARN IS



CONSTANTLY EVOLVING

AND FINALLY:
"WHAT YEARN IS TODAY, MAY NOT BE WHAT IT IS TOMORROW – WHAT YOU DO AFTER READING THIS MAY CHANGE YEARN FOREVER. IT'S UP TO YOU."

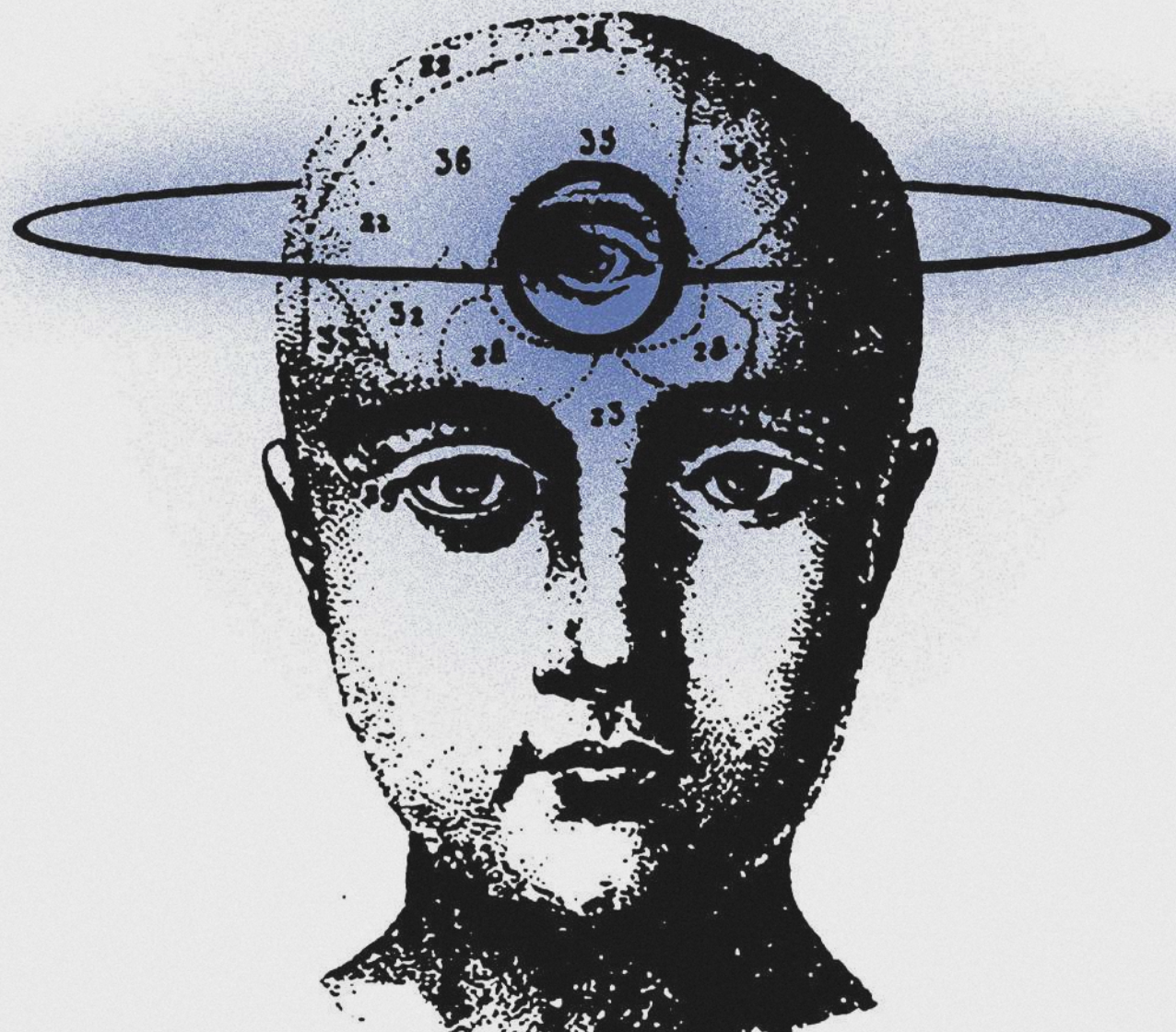

Yearn has contributors who haven't written a line of code and others who have spent decades developing software
Both groups ask,
"Am I good enough to be here?"

The answer is simple
YES
It's not about
what's come before,
it's about now

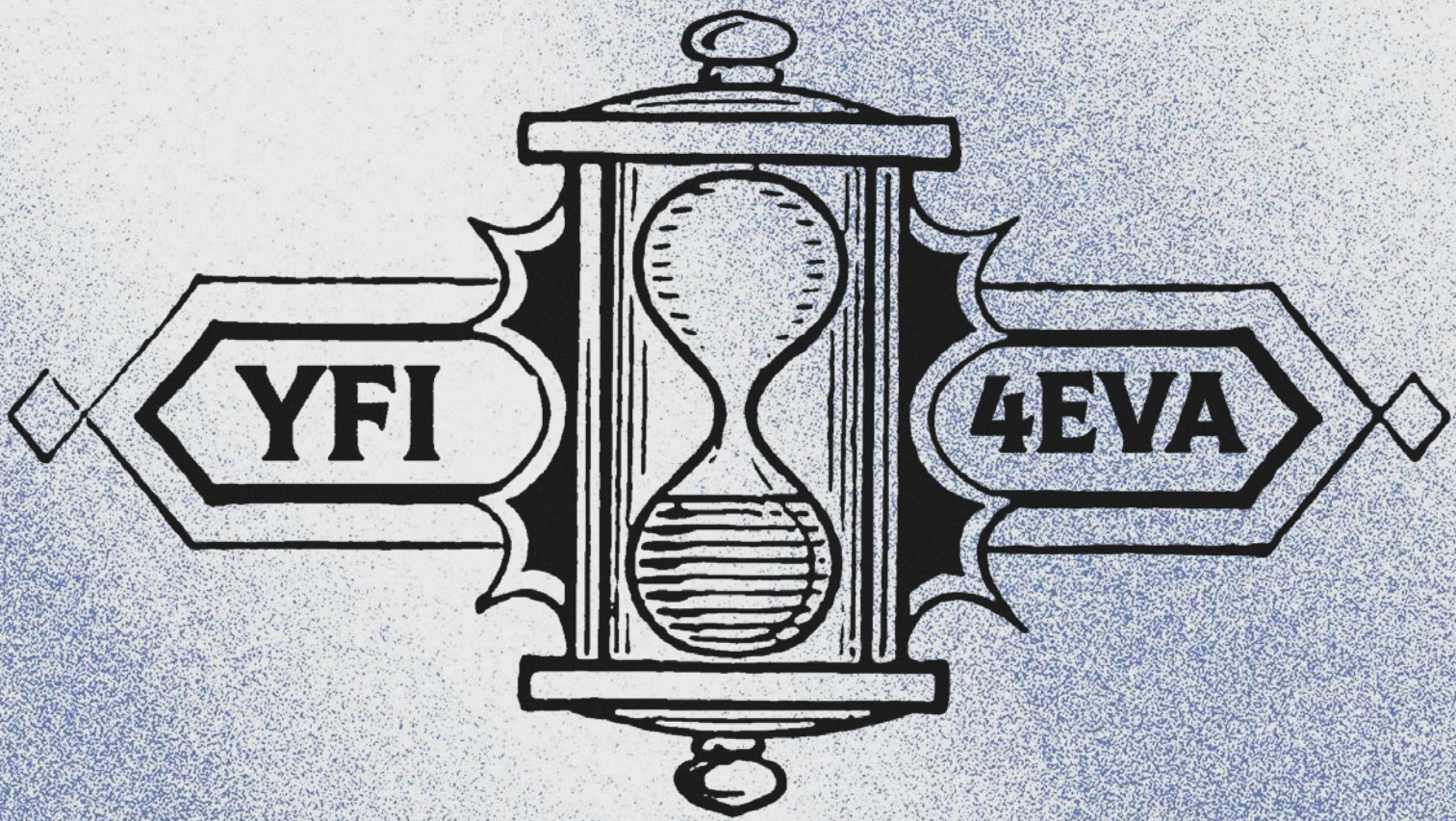
We are here now

If you have fallen down Yearn's gravity well, there is a reason

Let's bump against the impossible and see if it moves

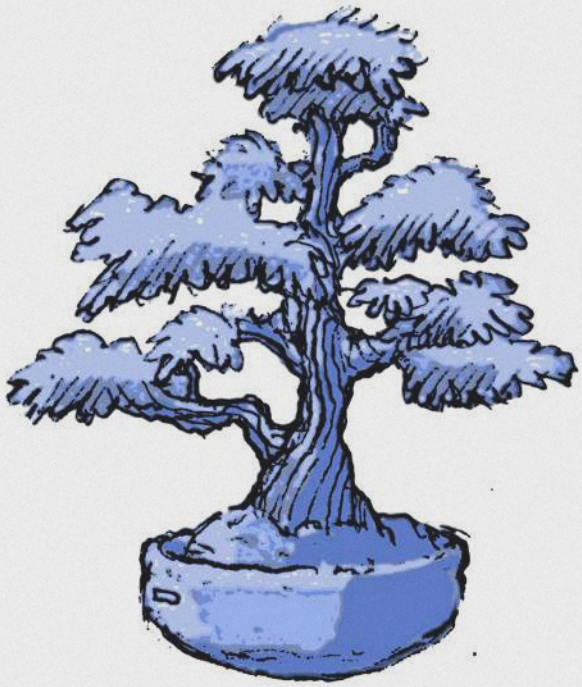


No one knows the future
(That's because it doesn't exist)



PART THREE: FUTURE

HERE WE ARE
THE SELF-SOVEREIGN
BEINGS OF YEARN

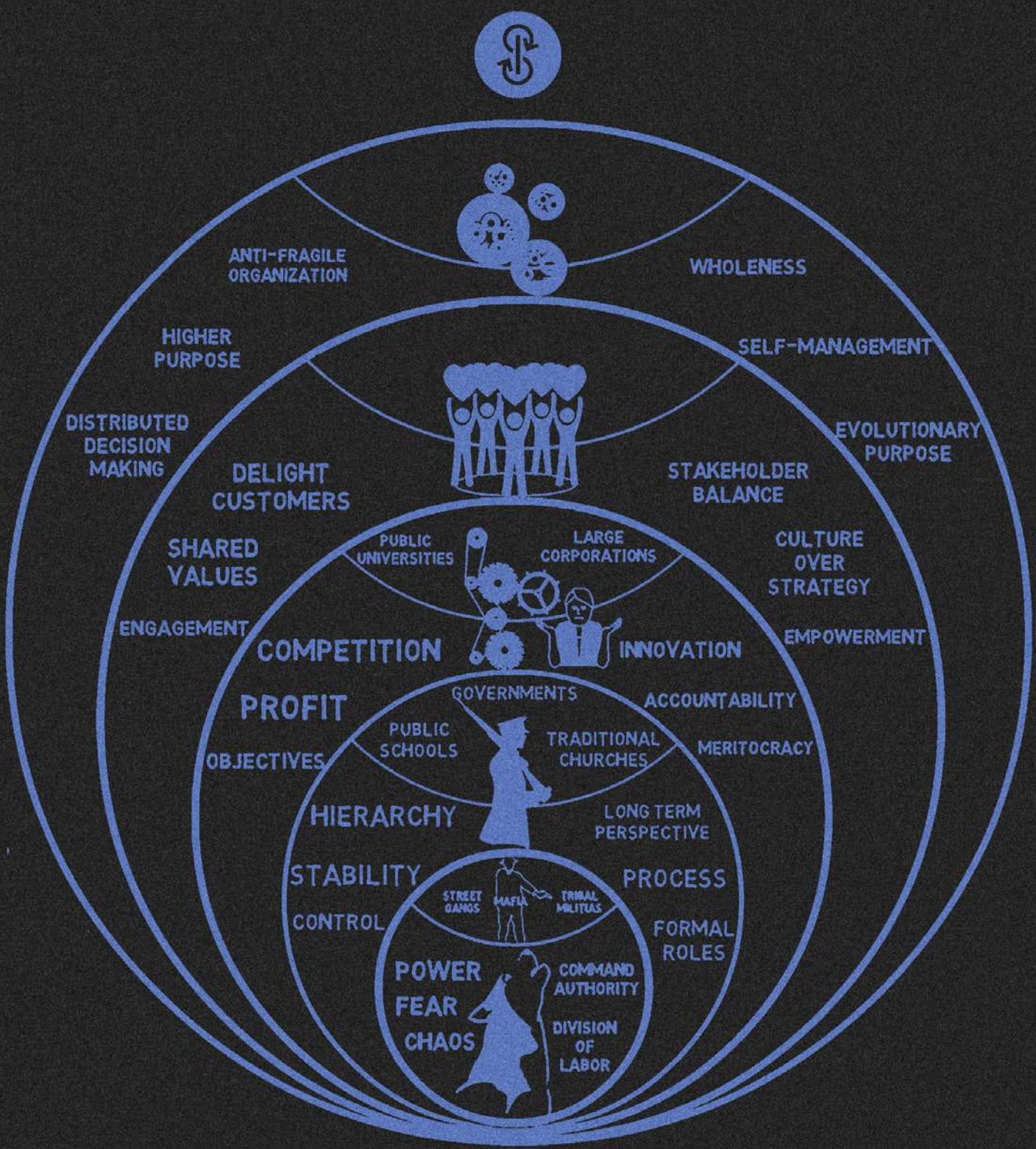


We are leaders and seekers who
work in the gift to invent the future

We came from chaos and have chosen not to project the rigid, closed, heirarchical control structures imprinted in our collective memory into this pure formless space in front of us

We chose the harder path

The path of creation

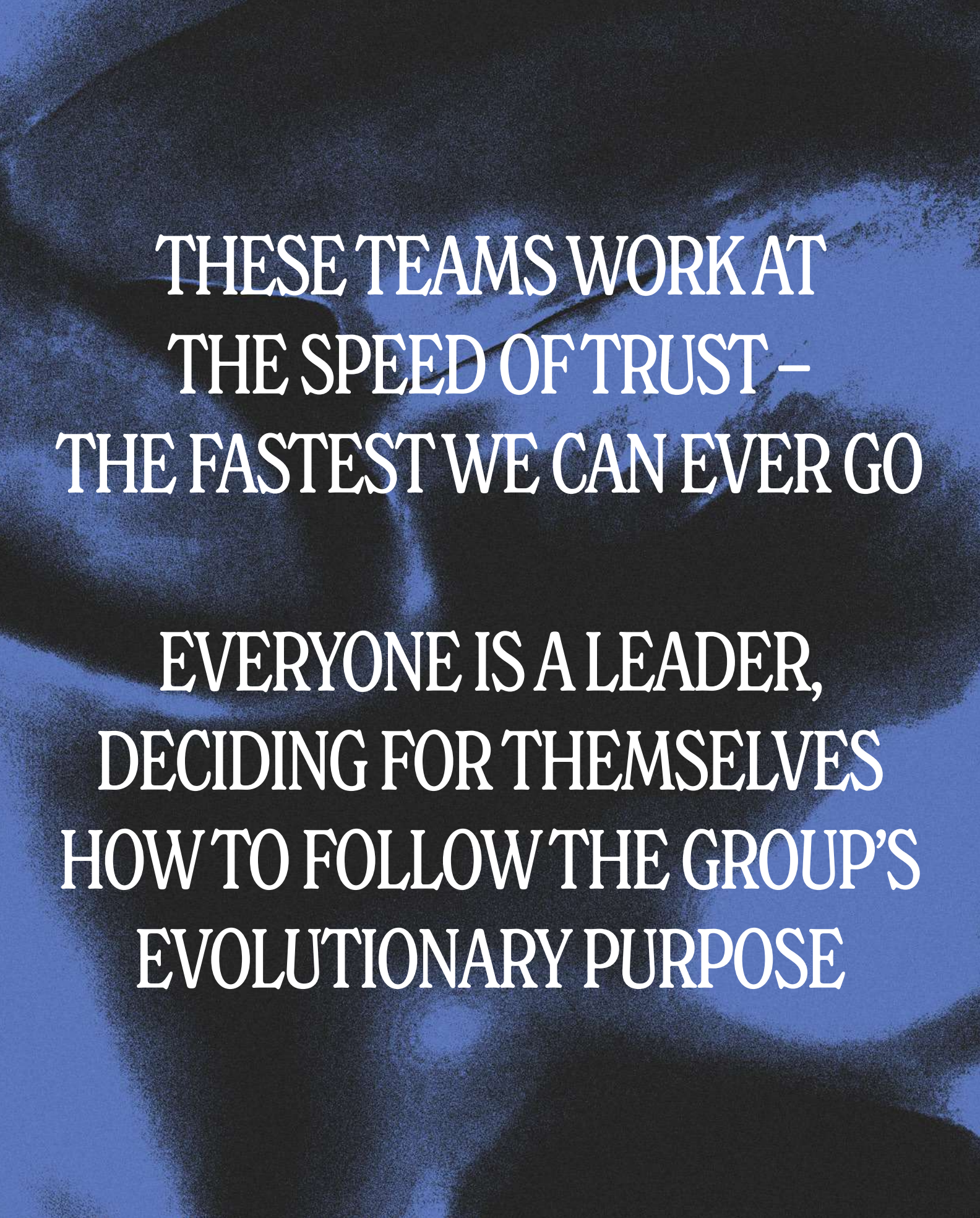

ANTI-FRAGILE ORGANIZATION
WHOLENESS
HIGHER PURPOSE
SELF-MANAGEMENT
DISTRIBUTED DECISION MAKING
EVOLUTIONARY PURPOSE
DELIGHT CUSTOMERS
STAKEHOLDER BALANCE
SHARED VALUES
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
LARGE CORPORATIONS
CULTURE OVER STRATEGY
ENGAGEMENT
COMPETITION
INNOVATION
EMPOWERMENT
PROFIT
GOVERNMENTS
ACCOUNTABILITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRADITIONAL CHURCHES
OBJECTIVES
MERITOCRACY
HIERARCHY
LONG TERM PERSPECTIVE
STABILITY
PROCESS
STREET GANGS
MAFIA
TRIBAL MILITIAS
CONTROL
FORMAL ROLES
POWER
FEAR
CHAOS
COMMAND AUTHORITY
DIVISION OF LABOR

And we are not the first

Decades before Satoshi, pioneering spirits had already begun exploring the future of coordination

The writer Frederic Laloux calls these rare endeavours Teal organizations

They have been around for decades, hidden in plain sight, doing things you'd think were impossible: functioning with radical transparency; working without managers, bureaucracy, or even budgets


THESE TEAMS WORK AT
THE SPEED OF TRUST –
THE FASTEST WE CAN EVER GO
EVERYONE IS A LEADER,
DECIDING FOR THEMSELVES
HOW TO FOLLOW THE GROUP'S
EVOLUTIONARY PURPOSE

This is how we work at Yearn

We are not a machine

We are life itself

We are not Red, Amber,
Orange, or Green...

We are Teal

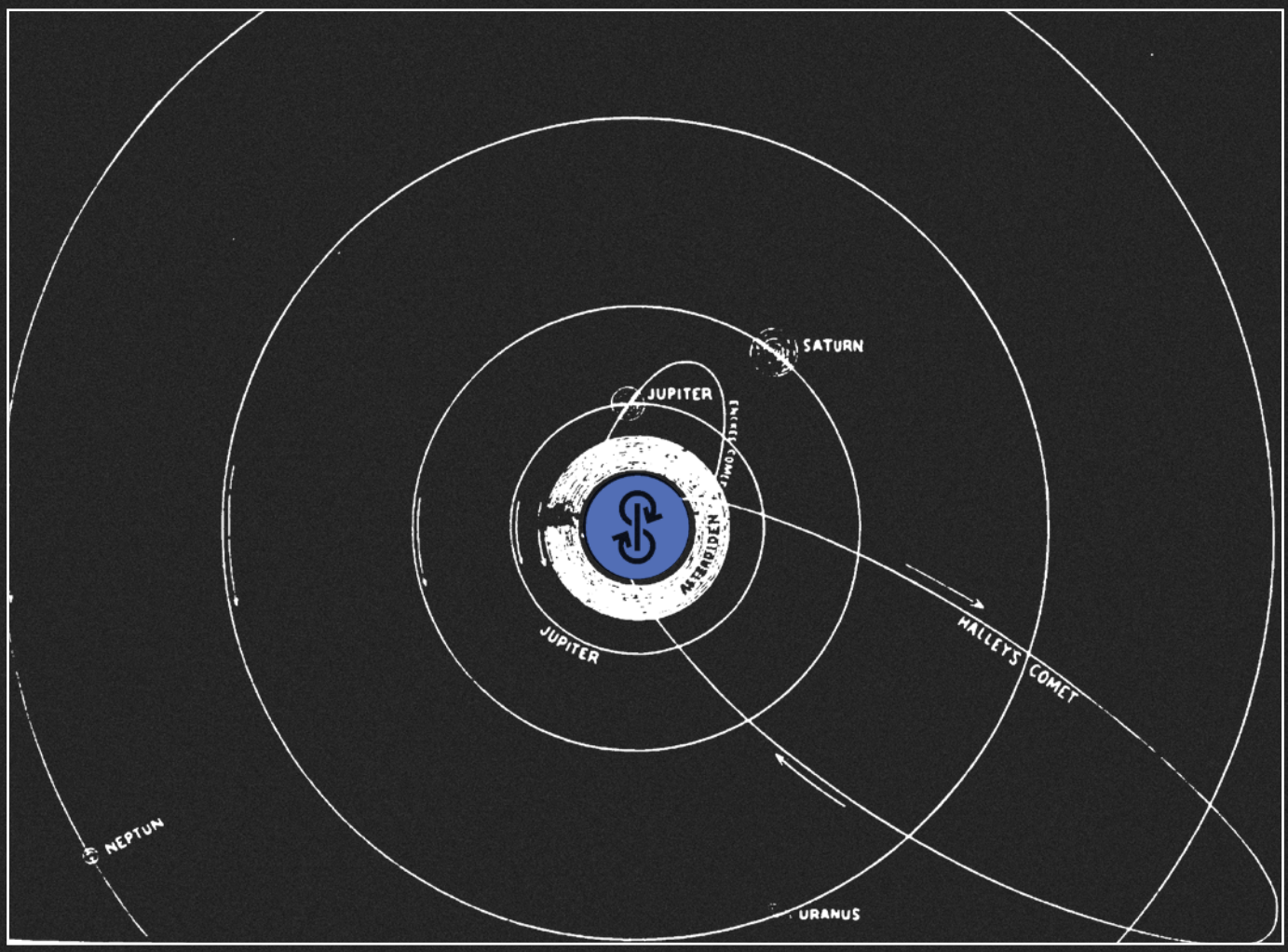
And we are Blue

We will chart our own course

The future of work is like a party bike that we ride together, each peddling as much or as little as we want, and when someone knows where to go next, they get to steer

And there is no map for where we are going

To get there, we must cross the river by feeling for stones


SATURN
JUPITER
ENKE'S COMET
METEORIDEN
JUPITER
HALLEY'S COMET
NEPTUN
URANUS

Our eyes won't help us,
nor will our minds

A heart cell doesn't know how to climb a mountain, but when it pumps blood and trusts its friends, well then it might just find the summit

Now what if I told you that each of us is made up of whole beings, is a whole being, and is a part of larger whole beings?

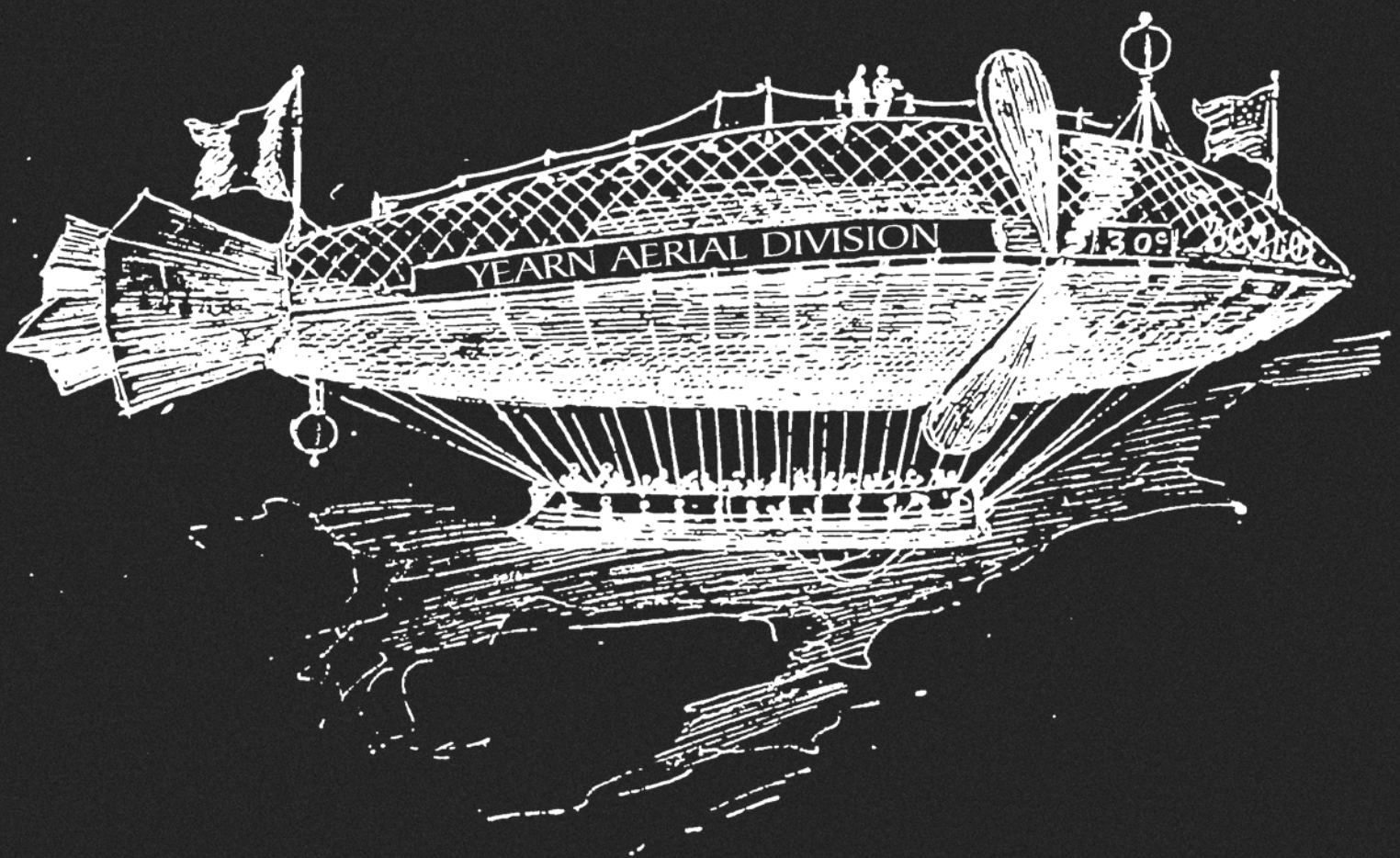
And then what if I said that those larger whole beings have their own uncharted territory ahead?

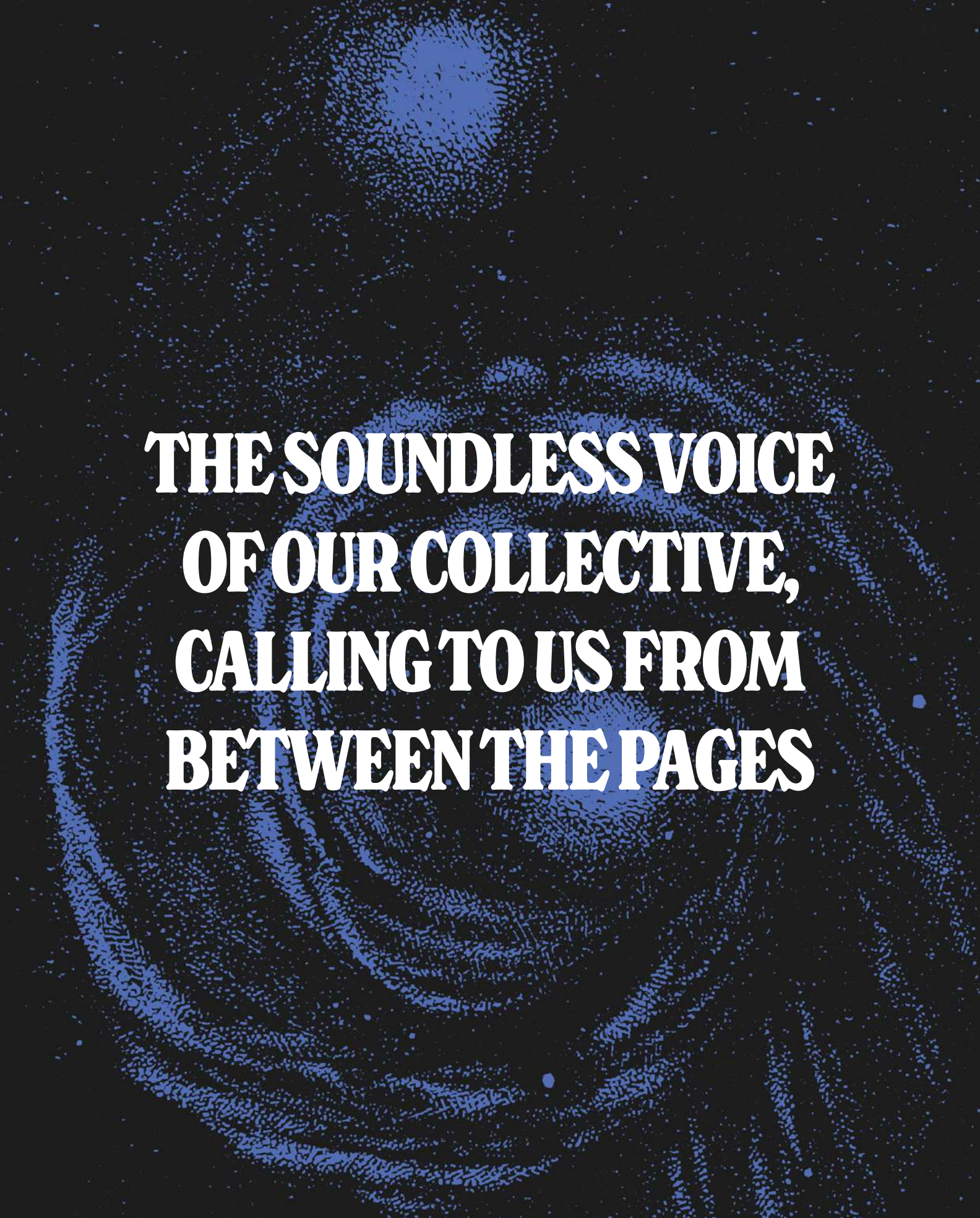
Well, for those of us who have already embarked on this journey together, we feel this future in our bones, singing to us

Our vision isn't a roadmap with a set of goals and deliverables

It is this song

Yearn's voice




THE SOUNDLESS VOICE
OF OUR COLLECTIVE,
CALLING TO US FROM
BETWEEN THE PAGES

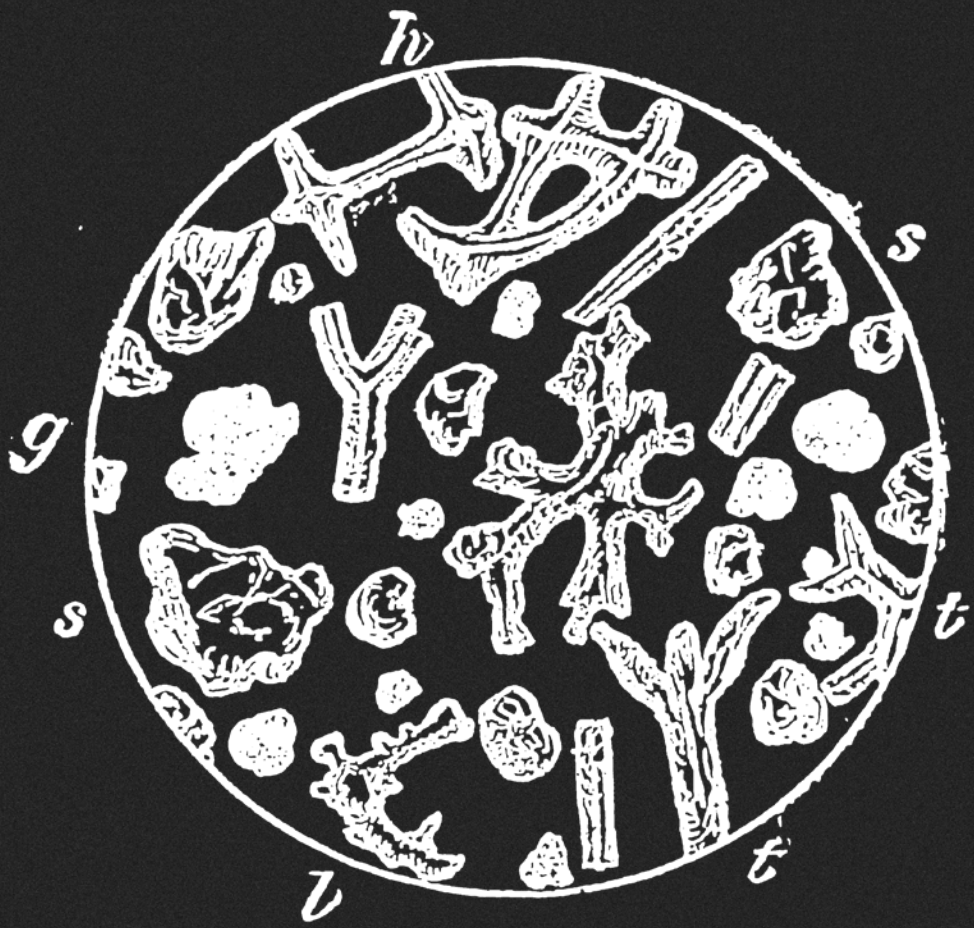
We are in the realm of networks now

DECENTRALIZED FINANCE

↓

In DeFi, and at Yearn, this is the new world

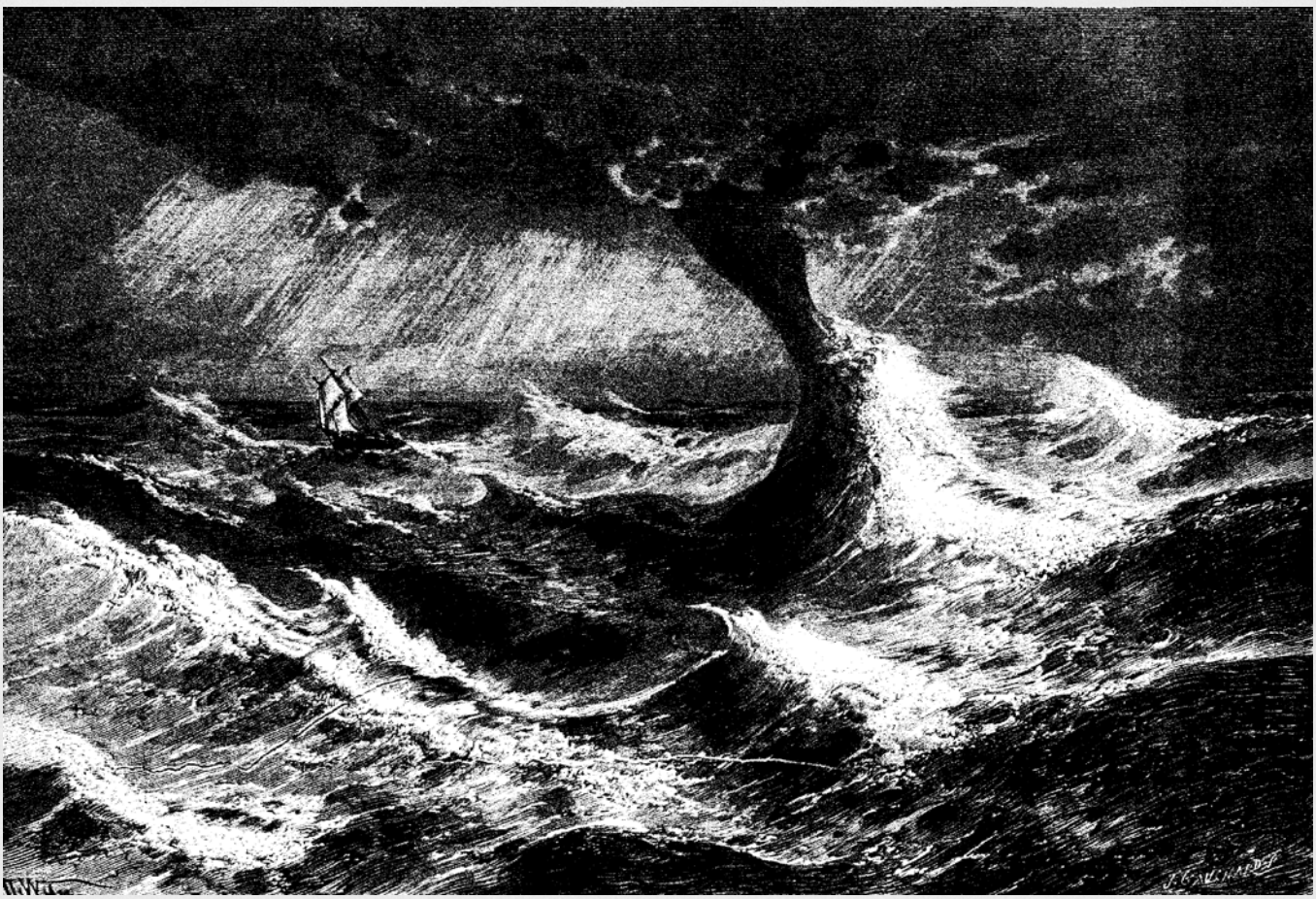
We are not companies with closed boundaries, corporate veils, NDAs, and non-competes — we are permeable, overlapping network entities sensing and responding in real time from a thousand empowered autonomous beings

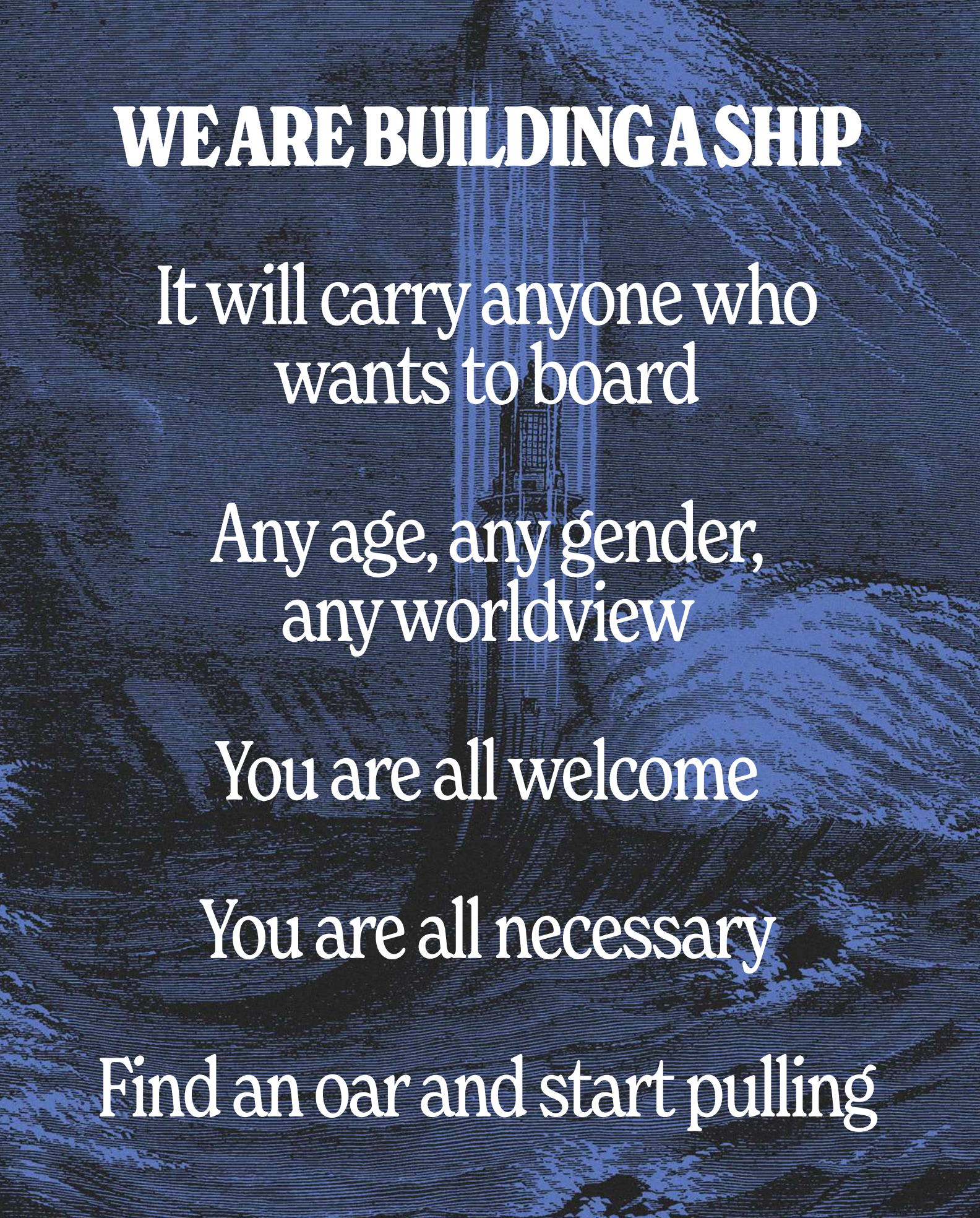


Top-down management leveraging command-and-control heirarchies are for the mahogany boardrooms of yesteryear

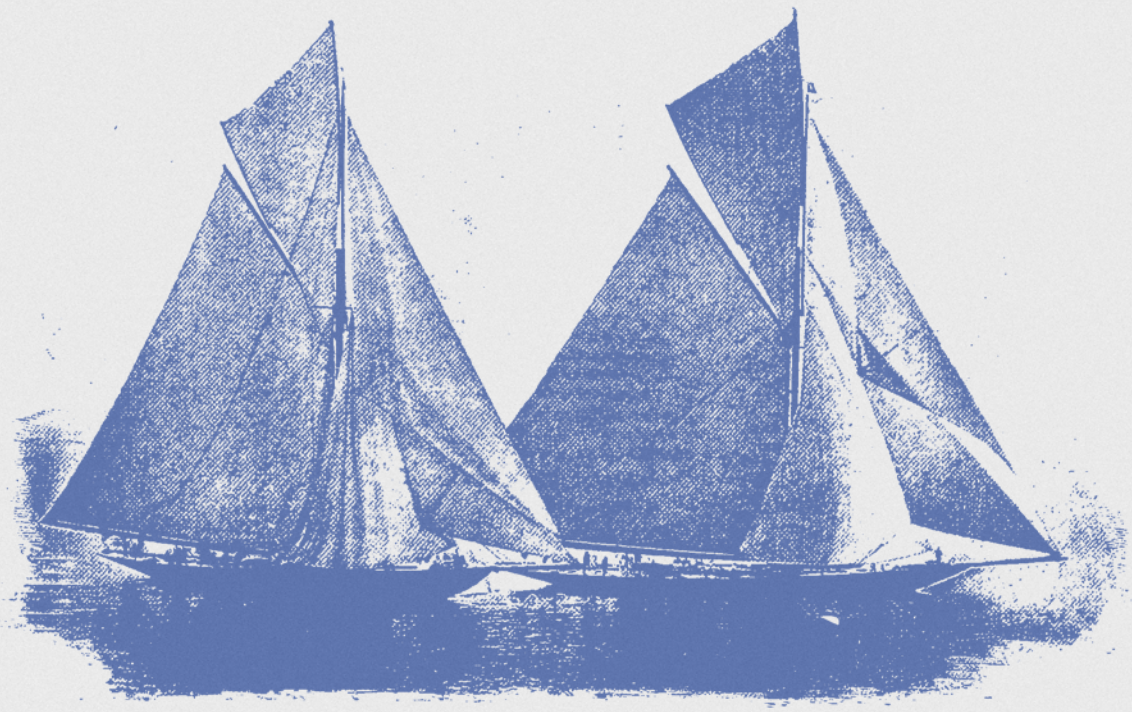
And we are navigators, adventurers, and explorers of the future

We are married to the sea




WE ARE BUILDING A SHIP
It will carry anyone who wants to board
Any age, any gender, any worldview
You are all welcome
You are all necessary
Find an oar and start pulling

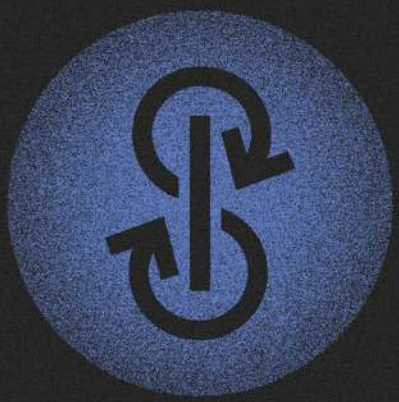
Yearn is a ship from the fleet of tomorrow



WE HAVE BUILT IT FROM THE LUMBER OF THE DARK FOREST

NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, YOU CAN SEE THAT THE DESTINATION DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL

We can sail the seas of yield aggregation, or we can go find new dragons

We will write protocols beyond the edge of the map

All that matters is
that we sail