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# Human Flourishing, Spiritual Awakening and Cultural Renewal

## Personal and Communal Challenges

*Edited by*

**Catalina Elena Dobre**

**Rafael García Pavón**

**Francisco Díaz Estrada**

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# Introduction

Catalina Elena Dobre, Rafael García Pavón,  
and Francisco Díaz Estrada

**Abstract** Human flourishing is not about new recipes that we have to follow to live a meaningful life. Human flourishing involves awareness, choice, freedom, and moral, spiritual, and cultural dimensions. From ancient times till today, philosophers have taught us that the meaning of life is a spiritual journey that one must undertake, which requires freedom and creativity. In other words, human flourishing is about how we embrace our destiny and our human condition, and how we create our present and prepare for the near future.

**Keywords** Human flourishing • Spirituality • Culture • Meaningful life  
• Present • Future

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If a few decades ago the future seemed far away, today we live in what Saint Augustine called “the present of the future”. Due to the velocity of technology, the future is already here, invading our lives, taking us by surprise, and provoking us. Our present is transformed into a permanent challenge: on the one hand, there are scientific advances that we have not even dreamed of; on the other hand, the danger of absolute technologization is already a reality. Posthumanism, transhumanism, artificial intelligence, and other trends offer an image of the human being that is not so optimistic for the future society because it divides it into tendencies that mark an abysmal difference. In the last decades, research and big companies have focused on the development of a superintelligence or an artificial general intelligence (AGI), completely forgetting about human flourishing, which is a moral and spiritual task and implies a rethinking of the meaning of being a human person. If we do not recover our humanity and spirituality, we are vulnerable to being convinced by the big AGI corporations to be dominated or replaced by AGI.

However, despite scientific or social progress, we are in moral and spiritual decline. Nietzsche and Kierkegaard feared that with the death of the possibility of belief in God, Western civilization has been sliding toward nihilism. The results have been catastrophic: war, economic crisis that generates violence and poverty, and moral and spiritual disintegration of the person in a post-pandemic society. These changes have an impact, and we are not yet prepared to face them. To stop this decline, we should rethink what we need to do to face the new challenges. We believe that certain categories of understanding ourselves and our relationship to society have been paved over, and so this book attempts to bring those categories back to life.

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