Kaloidea: Where Ideas are Born

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Where do ideas come from? It is a query that has confounded humanity's brightest minds for millennia. Are they born in the smoke and sizzle of our synapses? Are they written by the world around us, just waiting for discovery? Or are they somehow rooted in our DNA, just waiting to generate at a pre-ordained moment in our evolution?

Throughout the ages, philosophers, scientists, artists, and storytellers have searched tirelessly for the source of ideas and conjectured why the human species is so uniquely gifted in realizing them. Still, even when progress is made in this pursuit, the trammels of our imperfect world impede full enlightenment.

In a reality of "no," many of humankind's greatest ideas have stalled on the drawing board. Avarice, bureaucracy, and xenophobia have derailed missions to better the world and consigned their legacies to immemorium. But what really happens to these dreams deferred?

Over the centuries, a dedicated collective of brilliant innovators have harbored the best of history's discarded ideas, hiding them from the prying eyes of greedy industry and fearful government. But to freely explore these ideas, this coterie of thinkers needed a hideaway from the naysayers… a place where they could let loose their unbridled ingenuity.

Thousands of years ago, shortly after mankind's first stumbling attempts at civilization, a lone innovator set out to find such a place. Her name was Mehtera. Outcast by her people for "radical," "toxic" thinking, Mehtera roamed vast desolation in search of somewhere her ideas would be accepted.

Her odyssey took her high into the summits of a formidable mountain range, hidden somewhere between the rising sun and Hesperian seas. By sheer ingenuity, she was able to

survive this perilous ascent. Amid the mountain's precipitous peaks, she happened upon a barren valley. But where most would have seen death, Mehtera saw opportunity.

Using the snow and unique mountain clay, Mehtera found a way to forge a sturdy type of glass. Over several years, she fashioned hundreds of glass panels and fused them together in the world's first geodesic glass dome. By building several strategically located convex recesses into the dome, she harnessed the power of the sun to heat the inside. A ring of apertures around the top of the dome provided ventilation, and a network of streams channeled mountainside runoff into filtered cistern beneath the dome.

Before long, Mehtera had grown the fallow valley into a lushly foliaged cradle of possibilities. She then descended the mountain, marking the path to her secluded home with cryptic clues that only the cleverest of humans could decipher.

Word spread to other thoughtful dissidents across civilization, attracting some of humanity's great early thinkers. As the practice of philosophy became accepted among ancient societies, the valley became a retreat for the world's wisest minds to discuss and test their most radical ideas. In fact, it was the brilliant Socrates who would give this secluded shrine to the human mind a name. A lost account of the great Gadfly refers to Mehtera's mountain garden as Kaloidea – Land of Beautiful Thought. Kaloidea's name was encoded on maps circulated only among the most elite circles of erudition.

Soon, early Kaloideans' exploration of ideas outgrew long-winded garden discourses. The age of philosophy had set the stage for a new caliber of thinker whose hands were as adroit as his mind – the inventor.

Compiling the sum of human architectural knowledge, the Kaloideans erected a great World Laboratory in the heart of the valley. Ornate Corinthian columns supported a stepped Shang Dynasty roof that narrowed into stunning Khmer prang. Internal ceilings were buttressed by

Scandinavian staves that lead the eye to a massive Mesopotamian ceiling mosaic that memorialized Mehtera's foundational glory. Inside the World Laboratory, the great inventors of the day toiled tirelessly in its many state-of-the-art workrooms, outfitted with such arcane wonders as a stone-block centrifuge and a subterranean canal network.

As time elapsed, the secret of Kaloidiea and its World Laboratory remained a secret known only by humanity's brightest. But when the European Renaissance dawned, a wave of new geniuses filled the vestibules of the World Laboratory with prototypes of their greatest imaginings. Both the well-educated and the self-taught came together to forge the products of study and instinct into a better future. However, one inventor's ideas were too great to be contained in one laboratory…

When Leonardo Da Vinci arrived in Kalodiea, he brought fantastic visions of flying machines, autonomous mechanical vehicles, and hydraulic bridges. While the dubious masses of the day derided these wild ideas as impossible, the people of Kaloidea were galvanized by their potential. Da Vinci set up his own tented testing ground in a quiet corner of the domed valley's gardens, where he rendered his mechanical wonders a reality. These inventions inspired the minds of even more great tinkerers, tacitly propelling the world into a new mechanical age.

Kaloidea's growing ideas soon demanded a more potent source of power than the analog machinery of Da Vinci's day. And so, steam power was born. A young writer named Jules Verne, mastermind of some of fiction's greatest technologies, found Kaloidea the ideal place to make his steampunk fantasies a reality. With a crew of some of the age's most brilliant technologists, Verne established his own steam-powered lab on the mountain caves on the domed valleys outskirts. Here, he developed everything from primitive hologram projectors to a steam-powered space ship, still waiting to take its inaugural flight.

By the time steam power had leaked out of Kaloidea to spur the rest of the world into the Industrial Revolution, members the clandestine scientific community were already refining

cutting-edge electrical technologies; but it wasn't until the arrival of Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla that the domed laboratory became truly electrified. Away from the need of corporate financing, the two rival inventors put their differences aside to develop civilization's first all-electric neighborhood, where technologies like self-driving Model As and automaton home servants inspired the next chapter of human progress.

As the twentieth century dawned, Kaloideans' interest soon turned to the new innovations in computer technology. This society of innovators saw the great potential these mechanized brains had to revolutionize the world, so they united their talents to create a living model of a computerized city. Steely towers operated entirely by computerized systems soon stretched through the city's dome. Elevated, AI-enhanced walkways connect restaurants, stores, and households that are run completely by computer systems. This digital district continues to serve as a blueprint of the future.

Today, Kaloidea remains a citadel of exploration into human ideas, waiting to be discovered by the ingenious few who can brave the treacherous mountains and decipher Mehtera's inscrutable signposts. Those who succeed are invited by this community of ideators to immerse in the innovations of yesterday and shape the intellectual frontiers of tomorrow. Visitors will thrill as they pilot Da Vinci's Great Ornithopter over Vitruvian Garden, spelunk through the marvels Verne's Steam Cave, speed electric tin lizzies through Kilowatt Park, pad the high-tech walkways of the Digital District, and invent the future inside the World Laboratory. Wherever your journey through this domed domicile of progress takes you, its infinite wonders will delight the senses, challenge the mind, and inspire great creation.

Welcome to the place where ideas are born. Welcome to Kaloidea.