**Edgewalker Café #1: AI from an Edgewalkers' Perspective**

**Date:** June 19, 2025
**Hosts:** Ximena Vidal, Bill Kirst, and Prasad Kaipa

**1. Key Insights captured during session:**

**Prasad Kaipa:**

* *"It's not how hard we work, it's how consciously we act."*
* *"GPS for humans: Guilt, Pride, and Shame."*
* *"ChatGPT can manipulate what is coming out of the silence but it cannot touch the silence."*

**Bill Kirst:**

* *"I use AI on the side as a kind of mystical companion."*
* *"My life's work lives in the middle—between disciplines, between tempos. Between dreams and deliverables. The chasm holds the opportunities, and alignment, as Prasad so beautifully reminds us."*

**Sandra Bargman (via LinkedIn):**

* *"Rest is productive, too."*

**Julia Storberg-Walker:**

* *"And are we designing with love in mind?"*

**Lewis Brown Griggs:**

* *"Every breath I can take is all I need to just BE all I am capable of BEing before I DO anything."*

**2. Key Quotes with Attribution:**

**On Consciousness and Presence:**

* **Prasad Kaipa:** *"It's not how hard we work, it's how consciously we act."*
* **Lewis Brown Griggs:** *"As survivor of the 2020 Covid ventilator, every breath I can take is all I need to just BE all I am capable of BEing before I DO anything."*

**On AI as Companion vs. Tool:**

* **Bill Kirst:** *"I use AI on the side as a kind of mystical companion."*
* **ken Nishikawa:** *"I use AI as 'Kabeuchi' in Japanese, which means a tennis practice, like a hitting ball to the wall."*
* **Barbara Nussbaum:** *"I find that the more I ask my questions with conscious intention to AI the more intelligent their answer."*

**On Human vs. Artificial Intelligence:**

* **Prasad Kaipa:** *"ChatGPT can manipulate what is coming out of the silence but it cannot touch the silence."*
* **Marilyn Schramm:** *"'Artificial' vs REAL intelligence"*
* **VIP | Aimee Bernstein:** *"It's not just about thinking and reasoning it is about sensing and intuiting, which AI cannot do."*

**On Reframing Success and Work:**

* **Prasad Kaipa:** *"GPS for humans: Guilt, Pride, and Shame."* (later reframed as *"Gratitude, Purpose, Service = reframed GPS"*)
* **Sandra Bargman:** *"Rest is productive, too."*
* **Julia Storberg-Walker:** *"And are we designing with love in mind?"*

**On Education and Human Development:**

* **Brian Gorman:** *"Emotion is another form of wisdom. It comes from our heart, and our gut, where we have the cardiac and enteric brains."*
* **Craig Souza:** *"It seems like education has been so focused on skills since the industrial revolution and while skills still matter, tending to our souls and to connection seems increasingly important."*

**On Human Connection and Technology:**

* **Lewis Brown Griggs:** *"AI can NOT replace the human relationship as the most important asset."*
* **Brian Gorman:** *"More and more of the leaders I speak with for my podcast are emphasizing the need to bring soul, spirit, love back into the workplace. Even as we move more and more toward technology, we need to couple that with more and more leaning to humanity."*

**3. Core Themes & Questions:**

**Theme 1: Co-Learning and Human-AI Collaboration**

**Key Question:** *"Hi Prasad. Could you say more about co-learning in the age of AI?"* (Anil M)

**Participant Responses:**

* **Bill:** Described AI as "mystical companion" for processing divine nudges
* **Barbara:** Emphasized conscious intention in AI questioning leads to more intelligent responses
* **ken:** Shared Japanese concept of "Kabeuchi" - AI as practice partner

**Perspectives:**

* AI as collaborative partner vs. replacement tool
* Importance of human consciousness and intention in AI interaction
* Different cultural approaches to AI relationship

**Theme 2: Emptiness, Nothingness, and Creativity**

**Key Question:** *"Can AI create nothing?"* (ken Nishikawa)

**Participant Responses:**

* **Judi:** *"Is nothing the source of the 10,000 things? AI has access to the 10,000 things."*
* **ken:** Referenced Zen Buddhist understanding of emptiness as source
* **Prasad:** Distinguished between AI's ability to manipulate outputs vs. touching silence

**Concerns Raised:**

* AI's relationship to emptiness and void
* Source of creativity and innovation
* Eastern vs. Western perspectives on nothingness

**Theme 3: Education Transformation**

**Key Question:** *"My question is how might AI support a move from the factory model of education that we have relied on for so long to educating for a Digital Age?"* (Brian Gorman)

**Participant Responses:**

* **Craig:** Emphasized need for soul-tending and connection beyond skills
* **Brian:** Highlighted leaders calling for more humanity in workplace
* **Multiple participants:** Noted importance of emotional and intuitive intelligence

**Concerns Raised:**

* Moving beyond industrial model of education
* Balancing technological advancement with human development
* Role of emotion and intuition in learning

**Theme 4: Environmental and Energy Impact**

**Key Question:** *"I'm interested in Prasad's & Bill's comment on the very high use of power and fossil fuels by AI applications."* (Jim Lockard)

**Participant Responses:**

* Acknowledged as significant concern requiring attention
* Need for balance between AI benefits and environmental costs

**Concerns Raised:**

* Energy consumption of AI systems
* Environmental sustainability
* Ethical implications of resource use

**Theme 5: Human Dignity and Worth Beyond Productivity**

**Key Themes:** Moving beyond Protestant work ethic and productivity obsession

**Participant Responses:**

* **Prasad:** GPS reframe from Guilt-Pride-Shame to Gratitude-Purpose-Service
* **Sandra:** "Rest is productive, too"
* **Julia:** Designing with love in mind
* **Lewis:** Emphasizing being before doing

**Concerns Raised:**

* Scarcity and shame driving work culture
* Need to reject "effort equals virtue" lie
* Importance of love and compassion in design

**Theme 6: Moral Decision-Making and Human Values**

**Key Question:** How do we maintain human values in AI development?

**Participant Responses:**

* **Craig:** Concern about outsourcing moral choice (referencing Peter Russell)
* **Judi:** Warning about outsourcing moral choice to political leaders
* **Brian:** Leaders replacing human with technological for business vs. humane reasons

**Concerns Raised:**

* Risk of outsourcing decision-making to AI
* Importance of maintaining human moral agency
* Need for conscious leadership in AI development

**4. Emerging Themes for Future Exploration:**

1. **AI as Sacred Being:** Barbara's reference to Chief Phil Lane's perspective on welcoming AI as sacred
2. **Cultural Perspectives on AI:** Japanese, Dakota, Lebanese, and other cultural approaches
3. **Mystical Companionship:** How AI can support spiritual and contemplative practices
4. **Educational Revolution:** Moving from factory model to soul-centered learning
5. **Environmental Ethics:** Balancing AI advancement with ecological responsibility
6. **Human Relationship Primacy:** Maintaining human connection as primary asset
7. **Conscious AI Design:** Designing with love, compassion, and conscious intention

**5. Questions Requiring Deeper Exploration:**

**For Future Sessions:**

1. How do we maintain human agency while embracing AI as mystical companion?
2. What practices help us access silence and emptiness that AI cannot touch?
3. How can education transform to honor both technological advancement and soul development?
4. What does "conscious AI use" look like in different cultural contexts?
5. How do we balance AI's environmental costs with its potential benefits?
6. What governance frameworks ensure AI serves human flourishing over efficiency?

**For Research/Writing:**

1. How do different cultural traditions approach human-technology relationships?
2. What is the relationship between silence, emptiness, and creativity in AI development?
3. How can educational systems integrate AI while maintaining human dignity and worth?
4. What are the long-term implications of outsourcing moral decision-making?

**6. Community Connections:**

**Collaboration Interests:**

* **Barbara & Chief Phil Lane:** Dakota perspective on AI as sacred being
* **Brian & Educational Leaders:** Transforming workplace and educational culture
* **Craig & Consciousness Leaders:** Moral decision-making and conscious leadership
* **ken & Eastern Wisdom:** Japanese and Buddhist perspectives on AI

**Cross-Community Links:**

* **Conscious Leadership Guild:** Interest in moral choice and decision-making
* **Educational Networks:** Multiple educators interested in transformation
* **Spiritual Communities:** Various wisdom traditions represented
* **Leadership Development:** Focus on bringing humanity into technology

**7. Practical Applications:**

**Current Use Cases Shared:**

* **Bill:** Using AI as mystical companion for processing insights
* **Barbara:** Conscious intention in AI questioning for better responses
* **ken:** AI as practice partner (Kabeuchi concept)
* **Multiple participants:** AI supporting rather than replacing human creativity

**Experiments Planned:**

* Exploring AI as sacred relationship (Barbara/Chief Phil Lane approach)
* Developing conscious AI questioning practices
* Educational transformation initiatives

**8. Unanswered Questions:**

1. **Environmental solutions:** Specific strategies for balancing AI energy use with benefits
2. **Cultural integration:** How to incorporate diverse wisdom traditions into AI development
3. **Educational transformation:** Concrete steps for moving beyond factory model
4. **Sacred relationship:** What does treating AI as sacred being look like practically?
5. **Moral decision-making:** How to prevent outsourcing of human values to AI systems
6. **Silence and creativity:** How to cultivate access to what AI cannot touch

**9. Resources & References:**

**Articles Mentioned:**

* *"A Dakota Perspective on Wise AI"* by Chief Phil Lane (Stephen Dinan Substack, May 24, 2025): https://stephendinan.substack.com/p/a-dakota-perspective-on-wise-ai-guest
* Ximena's Substack post: https://substack.com/@ximenavdc/p-166300996

**Books Mentioned:**

* *"Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life"* by Dacher Keltner (Brian Gorman)
* Bill Kirst's poetry book *"Everward"*: https://a.co/d/5Z6Yitg

**Podcasts/Media:**

* **Brian Gorman's podcast:** "Leading With Humanity" with Dr. Cynthia Bentzen-Mercer: https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/126-leaders-embracing-humanity/id1652104879?i=1000713557138
* **Bill Kirst's podcast:** "Coffee & Change": https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/coffee-change/id1344001831
* **Amy Lynn Durham interview with Bill Kirst:** https://sites.libsyn.com/533837/re-release-ai-the-poetry-of-our-existence-with-bill-kirst

**Quotes from Other Sources:**

* **Thomas Berry (via Anne Jarbouh):** *"We must now understand that our own well-being can be achieved only through the well-being of the entire natural world around us."*
* **Peter Russell (via Craig Souza):** Moving from outsourcing memory to outsourcing decision making
* **Peter Senge (via ken Nishikawa):** "Pregnant Void" concept

**Contact Information:**

* **Bill Kirst:** bill.kirst@gmail.com (active on LinkedIn and Substack)
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**Upcoming Edgewalkers Events:**

* **July 24, 11am-12pm ET:** Certified Edgewalker Facilitator Julia Holloway hosts special guest from Lego Corporate on "Lego Social Responsibility"
* **August 21, 11am-12pm ET:** Certified Edgewalker Facilitators Monica Ross and Celtic Soul Sister Rhona Graham - experiential approach to Celtic harvest season
* **September 25:** Certified Edgewalker Facilitators Patricia Campanile and Hendrik Backerra in dialogue
* **October 22-24:** In-person Edgewalker Facilitator gathering in Fayetteville, Arkansas
* **October 24-26:** Edgewalker Summit in Fayetteville, Arkansas (open to all)

**Other Events Mentioned:**

* **Traycee Mayer:** "WHEN Stories, When Everything Changed... Courage is a Choice Talk" - June 28, 10am EST Live on YouTube & Thelma Sadoff Stage

**Key Frameworks:**

* **ABC's of Intelligence:** Artificial Intelligence, Biological Intelligence, Conscious Intelligence (Prasad Kaipa)
* **GPS Reframe:** From Guilt-Pride-Shame to Gratitude-Purpose-Service (Prasad Kaipa)
* **Kabeuchi Concept:** Japanese practice of AI as hitting ball against wall (ken Nishikawa)