

# Three great advances in human cognitive/psychological evolution

## 2. Greater temporal perspective: Envisioning a different future

Humans have developed the ability to envision the future, beyond that of any other species. This has allowed the development of agriculture (with the ability in spring to envision a harvest in autumn), construction (with the ability to envision turning stone, mud, or wood into a building, or a city), and human relations (with the ability to envision the productivity of individuals working together, and to envision the advantages of living in constructive peace rather than in destructive conflict).

*A journey of a thousand miles starts with a first step.*

Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching* (Ch. 64, line 12 (~500 B.C.))

*We have it in our power to begin the world over again.*

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (1776)

*We cannot predict the future, but we can invent it.*

Dandridge M. Cole (b. 1921- d. 1965)

*What one needs to do at every moment of one's life is to put an end to the old world and to begin a new world.*

Nikolai Berdyaev, *The Beginning and the End* (1947)

*I have a dream.*

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1963)