

# Democra-tech

Reflections on the human  
nature of blockchain

Jon Dron, April 2025





Technology

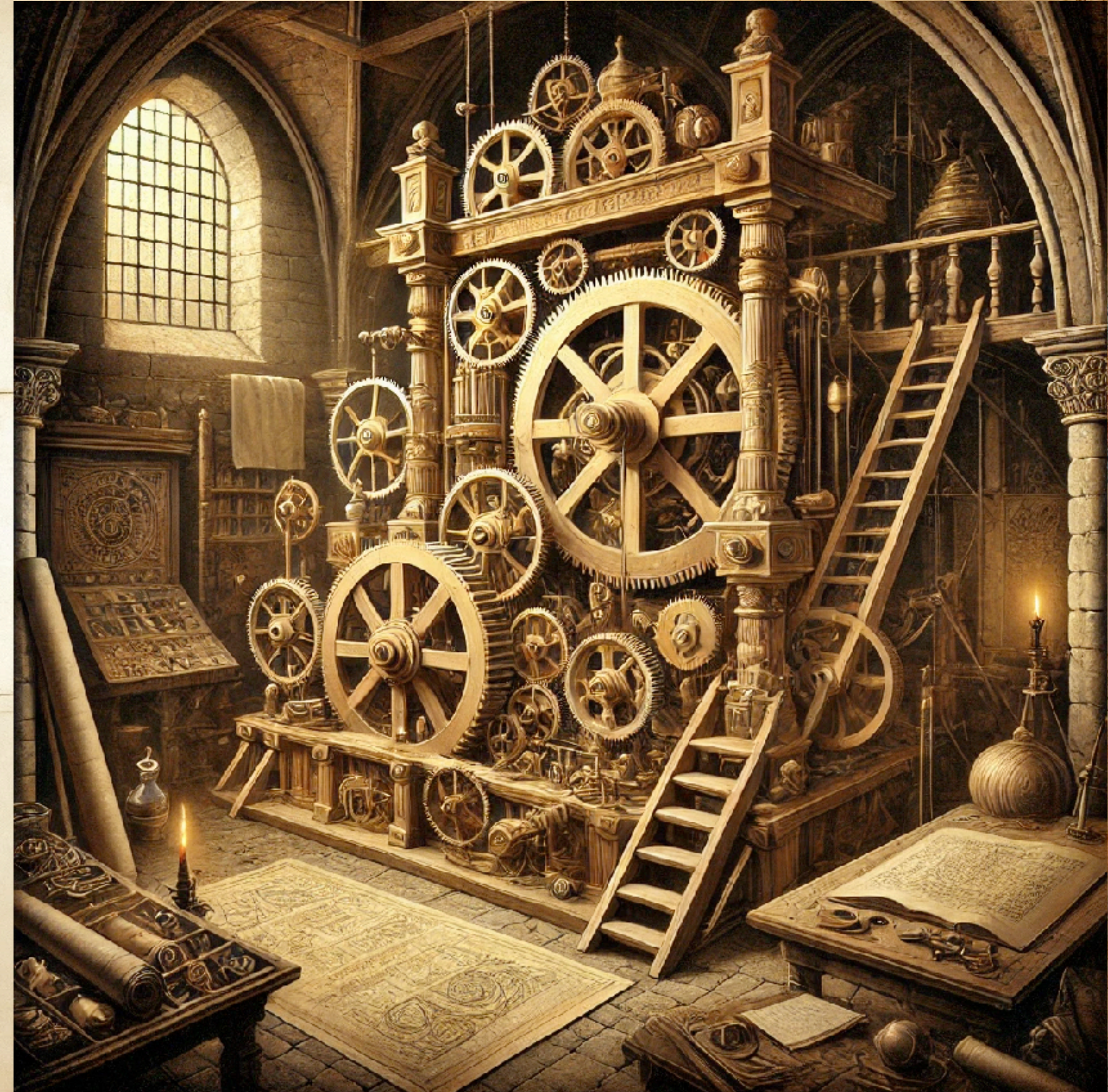
Me:

# Organizing stuff to do stuff

W. Brian Arthur:

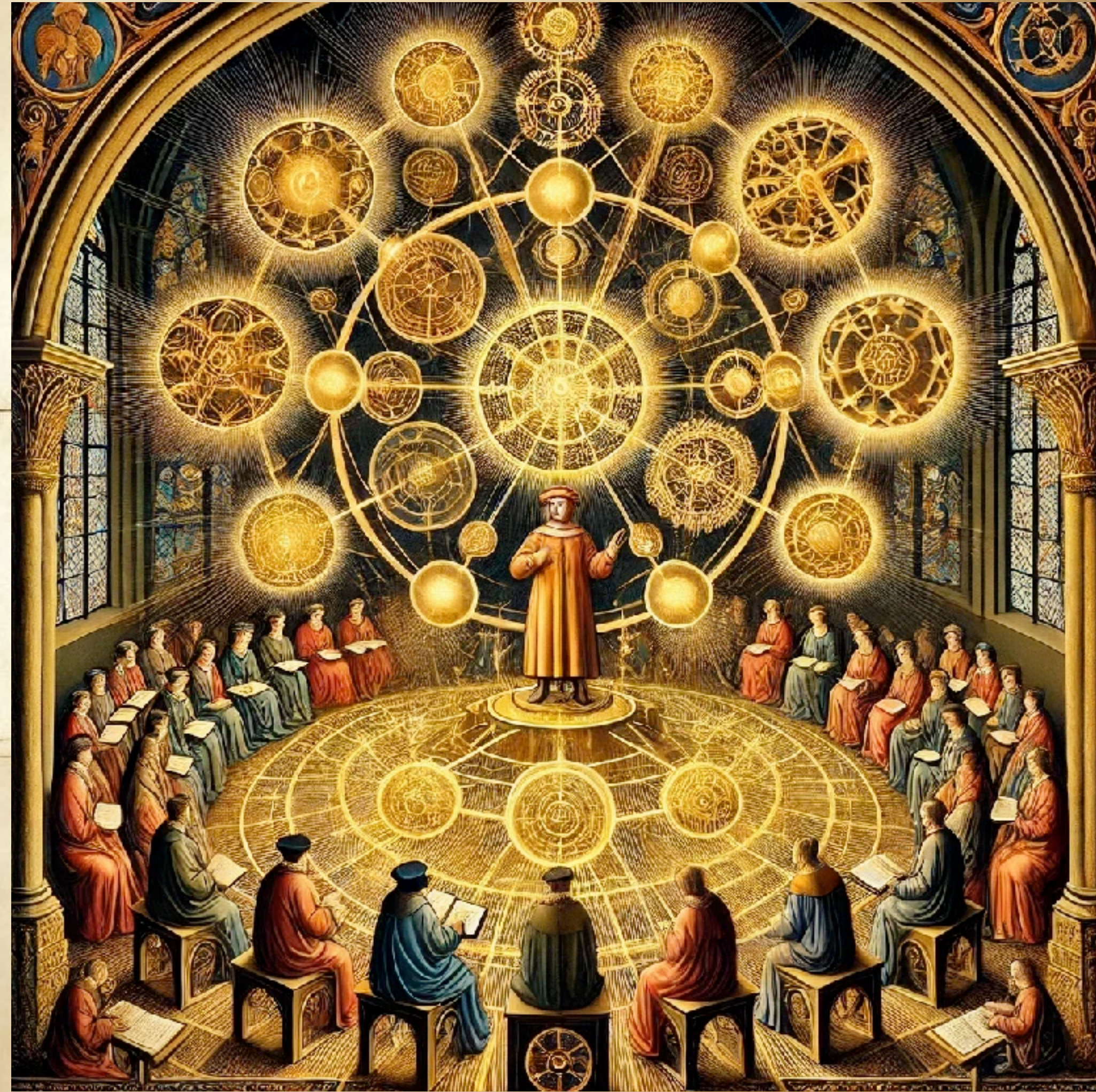
The orchestration of  
phenomena to our use

Arthur, W. B. (2009). *The Nature of Technology: What it is and how it evolves*. Free Press.





*Any* stuff.  
Including  
stuff  
organized to  
do stuff

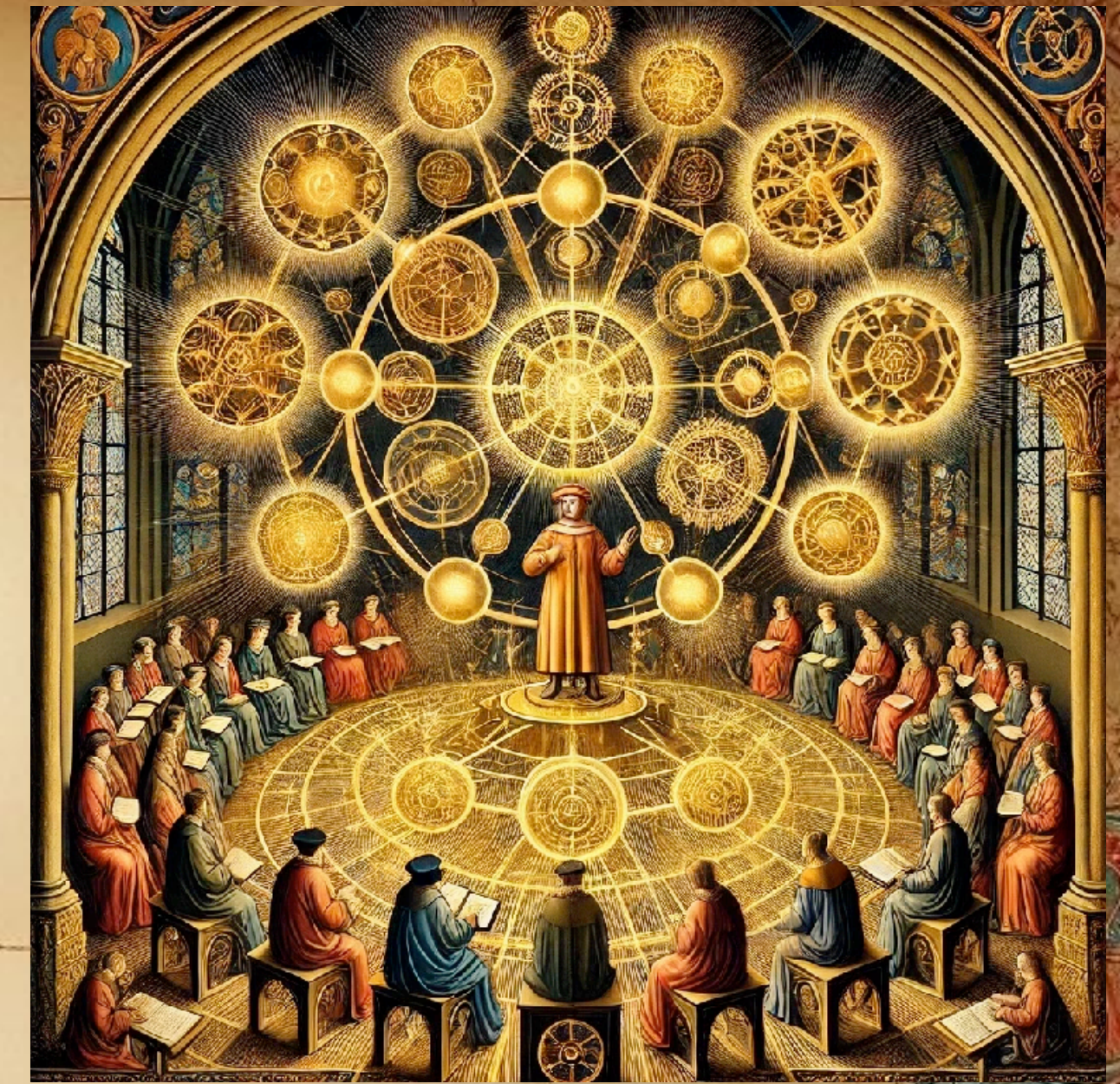






*Democracies  
are  
technologies*

stuff organized  
to do stuff





ONLY  
THE  
WHOLE  
MATTERS







Adjacent  
possibles  
and path  
constraints



**We are parts of  
them and they  
are parts of us**







**Each use of a  
technology is  
also a  
technology**



humans as  
parts of the  
organization of  
stuff



vs.



humans as  
organizers of stuff  
*(usually both)*



# hard technique



vs.



# soft technique



**the distributed ledger at the heart of human cognition**





And so to  
blockchain





# Monkeys' Paws and Faustian Bargains







**Every technology we create  
creates new adjacent  
possibles  
And new problems to solve.**

**What problems does  
yours create?  
What opportunities for  
evil?**





Thinking in  
wholes



# What kinds of technologies do we want to be?



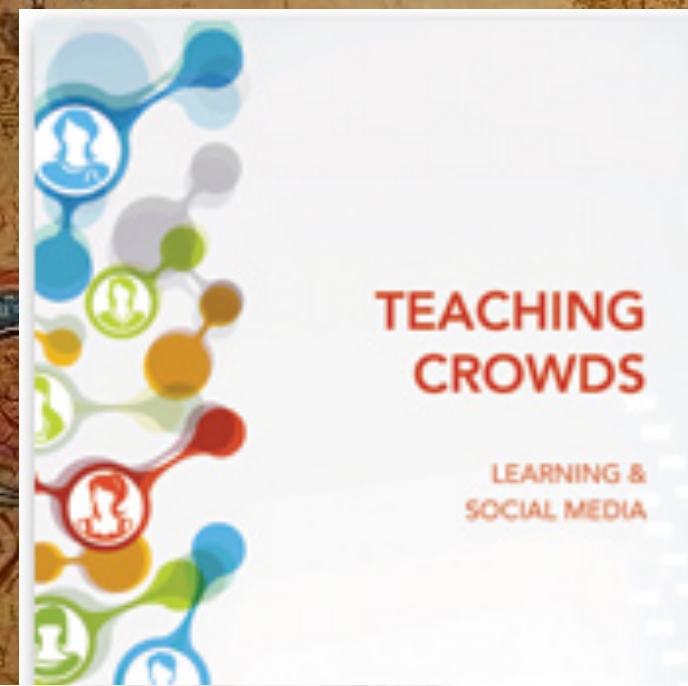


Free to  
read,  
inexpensive  
to buy!

# How Education Works

Teaching,  
Technology,  
and Technique

Jon Dron



Jon Dron  
Terry Anderson

CONTROL AND  
CONSTRAINT IN  
E-LEARNING

Choosing When to Choose

JON DRON

<https://howeducationworks.ca>

# Thank you

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