

COLUMN: Prehistoric Astronautica
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What's Your Final Frontier?

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For those who have read Isaac Asimov's sci-fi novels, most would agree that his Foundation series was an incredible work of vision and depth about humanity. After recently completing the whole series, it left me wondering, 'What vision do we have for the future, both for ourselves, and for the world as a whole?'

For those unfamiliar with it, Asimov's Foundation series chronicles the history of a Galactic Empire, from its height in power, to its downfall, and its eventual revival. The key to the entire series lies in the discovery by Hari Seldon, of the ability to 'predict' the future of humanity through something called 'psychohistory,' a combination of various academic disciplines from psychology, sociology, history, and mathematics. The series of novels chronicles the actions and responses of a special group called the Foundation, to bring about the revival of the Empire within the shortest period of time, from 30,000 years to a mere 1000.

The premise of the entire series is questionable within the realm of reasonable probability (that of the ability to predict the future by reducing social trends to mathematical calculations that psychohistory required), but I want to draw your attention to the basic circumstances of psychohistory. The fictional creator of psychohistory, Hari Seldon, was not a special individual. He was by the standards of his universe, short, dull, and from a tiny planet in the middle of nowhere. And yet, from this boring young man came a thesis that would change the course of humanity.

The big question I wish to pose revolves around the value you place on your own life, and where you fit in 'the grand scheme of things.' Do you think you will make an impact in your community and society in your lifetime? Are you building a legacy for yourself and the future of your family? Does anything resonate as the most important thing to accomplish in your life?

For those of us who are just beginning their journey in life, these questions may not really emerge from the more concrete, everyday type questions of picking the best courses for your next term, finding a job or career, or meeting that special someone. Nevertheless, it's an important consideration to have, especially when you're beginning your 'real life' because once you're in the middle or near the end of it, you'll already have lost many opportunities to make an impact, if not to at least your closest friends and family, to those closest to you from the community.

Life is a journey that demands you to 'boldly go,' discover, and reach your goals and dreams—to reach your final frontier. All the best on your journey.