SAHIL TAYAL / SAHILVERSE

The Knowledge Graph — Field Guide

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Stop Asking Which Skills Will Matter in 2036. You're Asking the Wrong Question.

Stop Asking Which Skills Will Matter in 2036. You're Asking the Wrong Question. On Artificial intelligence, the changing value of technical expertise, and why the future of education should be about developing human beings rather than predicting labour markets. Cuated By Sahil Tayal | Future of Education | October 22, 2026 | 1722 Every few years, society discovers a new skill that supposedly guarantees a secure future. Parents encourage their children to acquire it, educational institutions build programmes around it, employers introduce new hiring requirements, and an entire industry emerges to prepare young people for a world that has not yet arrived. For a while, the advice appears sensible. Sometimes it is. Learning valuable skills has always been an important part of economic participation, and the ability to anticipate changing…

Who Decides What Is Normal?

Who Decides What Is Normal? Who Decides What Is Normal? On Collective Madness, Money, Knowledge, and the Strange Things We Agree to Believe A reflection on the power of consensus, the limits of certainty, and why independent thinking requires more than disagreeing with the crowd. Curated by Sahil Tayal | October 22, 2026 A finance professional once told me something that has stayed with me longer than many of the theories I encountered during my education: "Money is also a madness." At first, the statement sounded like a clever observation about human greed. Over time, however, I began to see it as an invitation to examine something much larger. Money is not imaginary in its consequences. It pays for food, provides shelter, finances education, enables medical treatment, and creates opportunities that would otherwise remain…

If AI Can Do My Thinking, Who Am I?

If AI Can Do My Thinking, Who Am I? If AI Can Do My Thinking, Who Am I? On artificial intelligence, the automation of creativity, the strange future of intellectual immortality, and the mystery of the one who experiences it all. Curated By Sahil Tayal | October 22, 2026 | 1611 I have recently been building an increasingly elaborate digital universe. What began as a personal website has evolved into an interconnected collection of essays, philosophical experiments, interactive experiences, research interests, and occasionally rather absurd ideas that somehow end up becoming functioning websites. One moment I am thinking about organisational behaviour, the next I am designing a digital chamber dedicated to madness, and somewhere between the two, an artificial intelligence is explaining DNS records to me while another is generating an…

What Is Taboo? And Why Do Humans Keep Inventing Things We Aren't Supposed to Talk About?

What Is Taboo? And Why Do Humans Keep Inventing Things We Aren’t Supposed to Talk About? What Is Taboo? And Why Do Humans Keep Inventing Things We Aren’t Supposed to Talk About? An inquiry into culture, forbidden subjects, uncomfortable humour, independent thinking, and the invisible rules of living together. By Sahil Tayal | October 21, 2026 | 0244 People have occasionally told me that my humour touches upon taboo subjects. I have generally understood what they were trying to communicate: that I sometimes joke about things other people would rather leave alone. But I recently realised something rather amusing about the situation. Although I had heard the word taboo countless times, I had never properly investigated what it meant. Apparently, I had been approaching the boundaries of a concept whose definition I had not bothered to…

Am I Successful? Who Taught Me What Success Means?

Am I Successful? Who Taught Me What Success Means? Am I Successful? Who Taught Me What Success Means? On ambition, money, cultural conditioning, hustle culture, and the strange persistence of a question that achievements don’t always answer. By Sahil Tayal | October 21, 2026 There is a question that returns to me with remarkable regularity: Am I successful? It is not that I have never achieved anything. I have received a formal education, worked in established organisations, explored research, participated in business, written extensively, experimented with creative pursuits, and more recently discovered the extraordinary pleasure of building things with software and artificial intelligence. I can point to accomplishments that would have seemed meaningful to an earlier version of myself. Some of them still do. Yet the question…

The School Has a Ranking. Life Doesn’t Come With One.

The School Has a Ranking. Life Doesn’t Come With One. The School Has a Ranking. Life Doesn’t Come With One. On grades, childhood identity, shifting reference groups, and what happens when students trained for structured success enter an open-ended adult world. By Sahil Tayal | October 21, 2026 Imagine a school in Delhi with three sections of Class X, each containing fifty students. Every year, the school identifies its toppers, announces examination results, celebrates academic excellence, and sends a familiar message to children and parents alike: performance matters. The student who comes first in Section A may be celebrated by teachers, admired by classmates, and held up as an example of what hard work can achieve. The student who comes twentieth may be equally curious, thoughtful, compassionate, or creative, but those qualities…

Hip-Hop, the Psychology of Survival, and the Making of a Larger Self

Hip-Hop, the Psychology of Survival, and the Making of a Larger Self Hip-Hop, the Psychology of Survival, and the Making of a Larger Self On the Bronx, identity, masculinity, psychological adaptation, and why music born from particular circumstances can resonate with people living very different lives. By Sahil Tayal | Independent cultural commentary | October 20, 2026 A Music That Travels Beyond Its Origins There is something remarkable about a musical tradition emerging from the specific historical circumstances of New York’s Bronx in the 1970s and eventually finding its way into the headphones of a listener thousands of kilometres away in Delhi. The two individuals may share neither a neighbourhood nor an economic background, neither the same racial history nor the same experiences of institutional exclusion. Yet the music can…

“But Sahil, Back Then You Said X. Now You’re Saying Y!”

“But Sahil, Back Then You Said X. Now You’re Saying Y!” “But Sahil, Back Then You Said X. Now You’re Saying Y!” On changing our minds, the psychology of intellectual humility, the freedom to outgrow our beliefs, and why becoming a different person does not necessarily mean betraying the person we once were. By Sahil Tayal | October 2026 “But Sahil, you said something completely different in 2022.” “And in 2024, you wrote an article arguing almost the opposite.” That’s entirely possible. “And now, in 2026, you’re presenting another perspective?” Yes. And I understand why that might appear inconsistent. There is something wonderfully strange about living in a period when our opinions can be recorded, archived, searched, compared and presented back to us years after we first expressed them. A thought that might once have…

You Are the Main Character. So Is Everyone Else.

You Are the Main Character. So Is Everyone Else. You Are the Main Character. So Is Everyone Else. On agency, boundaries, empathy, self-importance, and the strange responsibility of being conscious. By Sahil Tayal | October 2026 How Important Am I Supposed to Be Inside My Own Head? I have been thinking about a question that sounds almost embarrassingly simple until one begins examining its implications: how important am I supposed to be inside my own head? Not how important I am to society, how impressive my qualifications appear, how much money I earn, how many people follow me, or whether my work will eventually amount to something significant. Those are different questions, and I have spent enough time entertaining some of them to know that they do not always produce satisfying answers. I mean something more fundamental. Given…

Thank You, Hip-Hop: On Growing Up With Rap, Finding My Voice, and Learning to Listen to Myself

Thank You, Hip-Hop: On Growing Up With Rap, Finding My Voice, and Learning to Listen to Myself Thank You, Hip-Hop: On Growing Up With Rap, Finding My Voice, and Learning to Listen to Myself An appreciation of the music that accompanied different chapters of my life, the culture that made it possible, and what psychology can — and cannot — tell us about why music matters. By Sahil Tayal | October 20, 2026 There are certain forms of art that become so closely associated with particular periods of our lives that we eventually stop thinking of them as entertainment alone. They become part of the atmosphere in which we grew up, the soundtrack to our private victories and disappointments, and sometimes a language for emotions we had not yet learned to articulate. For me, rap has been one of those forms of art. I cannot point to a single…

Human Connection Is Beautifully Complicated. Perhaps We Need Better Ways to Think About It.

Human Connection Is Beautifully Complicated. Perhaps We Need Better Ways to Think About It. Human Connection Is Beautifully Complicated. Perhaps We Need Better Ways to Think About It. On reciprocity, emotional literacy, the stories we invent about other people, and why I built The Reciprocity Lab. By Sahil Tayal | October 19, 2026 There is something rather extraordinary about human relationships. Two people can experience the same conversation, remember entirely different details, and walk away with completely different interpretations of what happened. One person remembers warmth; another remembers hesitation. One experiences a delayed reply as an ordinary consequence of a busy day, while another experiences it as evidence of declining interest. Neither person necessarily intends to mislead the other. They are simply navigating the…

The Truman Show Was Never Just About Escaping the Set. It Was About Learning to Choose.

The Truman Show Was Never Just About Escaping the Set. It Was About Learning to Choose. The Truman Show Was Never Just About Escaping the Set. It Was About Learning to Choose. What a fictional television world reveals about socialisation, autonomy, education, media literacy, and the ordinary freedom to examine the scripts we inherit. By Sahil Tayal | October 18, 2026 There is something profoundly moving about the final decision Truman Burbank makes in Peter Weir’s 1998 film The Truman Show . Having spent his entire life inside Seahaven, an elaborate television production disguised as an ordinary town, Truman gradually discovers that the environment he considered familiar was designed and controlled by others. His relationships, surroundings, and opportunities have been arranged to sustain a commercial spectacle without his informed…

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