

# WHAT is WONDER?

A Timeless Workbook to  
Get to Know Yourself Better

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WHAT IS WONDER?

*A Timeless Workbook to Get to Know Yourself Better*

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ΓΝΩΘΙ ΣΑΥΤΟΝ

*—Inscription, Temple of Apollo at Delphi*

Dedicated to the  
Unnoticed Treasures of Life

# WELCOME

Knowing yourself more fully can lead to better leadership, relationships, and decision-making. You can also pursue it for its own sake.

However, we don't often get the chance to turn our attention inward, to notice aspects of ourselves that go unnoticed in a world full of demands, information overload, and distractions.

So why wait? Feel free to seize the opportunity, and immerse yourself in this workbook full of timeless questions with room for reflection.

With awareness, playfulness, and courage, the following questions can help you explore your inner life further to get to know yourself better.

Bonam Fortunam!

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How well do you know yourself?

How have you developed your self-knowledge over time?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How well do you want to know yourself?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What adventures do you still hope to experience in life?

What makes them so appealing?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When was the last time you surprised yourself?

What made it so surprising?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Who are the closest people in your life?

What needs do they most fulfill for you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is the sweetest dream you've ever had?

What could have been its meaning?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is most important to you in life?

How have your views on this developed over time?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is something you do differently  
from others around you?

What has this brought you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Where do you get your ideas from?

Where else would you like to get your ideas from?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What makes you feel at home?

Where have you felt this?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Growing up, who did you always want to become?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are your goals in the short term?

Where did these goals come from?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which book has had the most impact on you?

In what ways?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What does nature mean to you?

How have your views on this developed over time?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Who do you admire?

What would you like to learn from them?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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If you could write a song today, what would it be about?

What would be the first lines of the song?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When have you felt most lucky in life?

What was its impact on you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When was the last time you felt  
nostalgic about something?

What were you missing most?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Is there anything you regret doing?

Is there anything you regret not doing?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are the most important events  
for you in the coming year?

What feelings do they bring up for you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How do you currently deal with conflict?

How has this changed over time?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which sports do you enjoy the most?

What about it do you enjoy so much?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which secrets would you want to keep with you forever?

Which secrets would you want to share over time?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which movie could you watch over and over again?

What makes it so appealing?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is missing in your life these days?

How are you dealing with this?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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In which areas do you feel supported in life?

Are there other areas you would like  
to experience support?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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If you could give yourself a gift, what would it be?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which skills are you good at?

Which of these give you energy?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which skills are you not so good at (yet)?

Which of these, however, still give you energy?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is worth fighting for in life?

Why is that so precious to you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Looking back at the past few months,  
what are you most grateful for?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is your first childhood memory?

How has this influenced your life so far?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is the quote you would like to be remembered by?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What makes you laugh?

What could this say about you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is worth celebrating in your life?

What could a next celebration look like?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What do you hope to get out of this workbook?

How is that going so far?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What re-energizes you?

How are these things a part of your life?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What de-energizes you?

What about these things is most de-energizing?

What do you regret regretting?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is your favorite time of year?

How come?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Where are you too hard on yourself?

Where are you too soft on yourself?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is something that used to scare you but no longer does?

What role did you play in this?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What changes would you like to make in your life?

How come?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What kind of environment brings out the best in you?

What makes it so?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What do you have faith in?

What role does this faith play in your life?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What knowledge would you like to acquire?

What makes this so interesting to you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How are you feeling today?

How come?

---

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What question would you most like to be asked?

How would you answer that question?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What principles have guided your life?

What have they brought you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How do you feel about the passage of time in your life?

What could you learn from these feelings?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How good are you at saying no  
to the things you don't want?

How do you feel about this?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What does family mean to you?

In what ways has this changed over time?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What has been on your mind most these days?

How come?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would your ideal week look like?

What about this would be fulfilling to you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is something you wish  
you could do one more time?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are the biggest distractions in your life?

What are they distracting you from?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which childhood dreams have you already fulfilled?

How does that make you feel?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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In what ways could these days,  
in the future, become the “good old days”?

What more comes to mind?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which recent dreams can you still remember?

What meaning could they have?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When was the last time you made a significant mistake?

How did you deal with this?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Looking back on your life, which moments  
evoke a sense of self-compassion?

What would you tell your younger self in  
those moments if you had the chance?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What do you like to do for fun?

Which of these do you enjoy the most?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What have you not seen that you  
still hope to see one day?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would it take for you to feel  
successful in the future?

Where does this definition of success come from?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which patterns do you notice most in your relationships?

Where do these patterns come from?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What risks are worth taking in life?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What could be something you are running away from?

Since when?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which parts of your life might you be putting on hold?

How come?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is your first response under pressure?

What is your second response?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What do you think others appreciate about you?

What do you appreciate about yourself?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What kind of items do you like  
to have in your surroundings?

What do they bring you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What does friendship mean to you?

How is this different compared to the past?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which place would you still like to visit one day?

What makes this place so appealing?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How do the different aspects of  
your life relate to each other?

How would you like the different aspects  
of your life to relate to each other?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which values are so essential to you  
that it hurts when they're breached?

How do you typically respond when they're breached?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What needs have you not yet fulfilled?

What got in the way?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Who had the most positive impact on you growing up?

What part of that are you most grateful for?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are things you consider to be most within your control these days?

What are things you consider to be least within your control these days?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What makes you feel awe?

How has this developed over the years?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What art would you like to learn?

What could this bring you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Who do you miss?

What do you miss most about them?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which childhood story captured  
your imagination the most?

What effect might this have had on you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Where do you feel the safest?

How come?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is your favorite music?

What makes this music so special to you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Who brings out the best in you?

How does this person do that?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When times are hard,  
what gives you the courage to go on?

How has this developed over the years?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What do you have in abundance?

What would you like to have in abundance?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are you most looking forward to in the coming year?

What makes this so appealing?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which real-life or fictional person would you like to meet?

What would you like to ask them?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What do you feel most responsible for in your personal life?

What do you feel most responsible for in the world?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would you like to give to others?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which risks are you trying to avoid?

What worries you most about these?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How has kindness played a role in your life?

What effect has this had on you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which opportunities would you like to notice better?

What would excite you most about these?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would you do if you had a year off?

What would these activities bring you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What does money mean to you right now?

How would you like this meaning to change over time?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What makes your heart sing?

How come?

---

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is something you've been curious about lately?

What makes this so interesting to you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would you do differently if  
you knew no one would judge you?

How would you judge yourself in that scenario?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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If your life were to be made into a movie,  
what would it be called?

What makes this title so fitting?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would you start if you knew you couldn't fail?

What would this bring you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What message would you like  
to give to future generations?

How has your thinking on this topic  
developed over the years?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which skills would you like to become  
exceptionally good at?

What makes mastering these skills so appealing to you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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If you could do it all over again,  
what would you do more of?

What got in your way?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would you teach if you had  
the chance to have your own class?

What makes this subject so interesting to you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which year would you travel to  
in the past if you had a time machine?

What would you hope to experience then?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are you holding on to that  
no longer really serves you?

What is making it difficult for you to let go?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is something you have no doubts about?

How does this truth affect the decisions in your life?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which patterns have you noticed  
in your thinking over the years?

How do these help or hinder you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are the thoughts and feelings  
this workbook is bringing up for you so far?

What more comes to mind?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Have you ever changed an  
undesirable situation you were in?

If so, how did you do that?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When do you feel most impatient?

What do you do in those situations?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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If you could relive one day, which day would it be?

Can you describe the most special moments of that day?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How can someone make you feel loved?

How do you show your love to others?

WHAT IS WONDER?

---

What are your favorite words?

What makes them so special for you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What does it take for you to trust someone?

How have your views on this changed over time?

What are words you've never dared to speak?

How come?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How would you ideally start your mornings?

What would that bring you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which clothes best express who you are?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Knowing what you know now, what is one thing  
you would have done differently in the past?

Knowing what you thought then,  
what were you hoping for?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is the best compliment you've ever received?

What makes it so memorable for you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

---

What are you deeply proud of?

What makes it so special for you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which of your strengths can you rely on?

How have these helped you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Who's there for you these days?

Who are you there for?

---

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When do you feel most carefree?

What makes it so?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are your most unfulfilled wishes so far?

What are your most fulfilled wishes so far?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How might you be getting in your own way at times?

How has this changed over time?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What kind of person do you want to be  
in the next chapter of your life?

What kind of person do you not want to be  
in the next chapter of your life?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What do you do when things get too difficult to deal with?

When do they get too difficult?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which activities make you forget about time?

What might these activities have in common?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Are there any new boundaries in your life worth setting?

What would these boundaries protect?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would you like to do right now?

If not now, when?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Is there something that  
people often ask you for advice on?

How did you develop this expertise?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How do you want to be remembered?

Why is that important to you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is something about you that has never changed?

How do you feel about this?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which wounds can still hurt at times?

How do you deal with this?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Where is your attention most of the time:  
the past, present, or future?

Where would you like your attention to be?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What kind of person do you enjoy spending time with?

What makes it so enjoyable?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When do you feel most misunderstood?

When do you feel most understood?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are your favorite indoor activities?

What are your favorite outdoor activities?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What do you think your future self  
would like to tell you today?

What would you like to tell your future self today?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is going well for you?

What role did you play in this?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When was the last time you felt inspired?

What were the sources of this inspiration?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When did you feel most satisfied in your life?

What made that so?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When was the last time you felt courageous?

What might you have learned from this?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would you consider the background music in this chapter of your life?

What other music would you like to play in the background?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is something you have  
that money could never buy?

How did this become part of your life?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which childhood memory do you cherish the most?

What feelings does that bring up for you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What does work mean to you?

In what ways has this changed over time?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would you like to dream tonight?

Why?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is one thing you wish to do  
that you have never done before?

How would this experience make you feel?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How do you define beauty?

What role does this play in your life?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Which traditions and rituals do you value?

What feelings do they bring up for you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How aware are you in general of your own emotions?

In what ways do you express these emotions?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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If you could spend time in the future,  
how far ahead would you go, for how long?

What would you hope to experience then?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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Have you given up on anything?

What feelings does that bring up for you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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How are you taking care of yourself?

Which needs are you meeting this way?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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To what extent do you sense an internal  
resistance to a goal you've set for yourself?

What could be the root of this resistance?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are you waiting for?

How long are you willing to wait?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are things you can't get enough of?

How much of these things do you already have?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When do your actions and words differ from each other?

What could this say about your real preferences?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is something you need to accept  
but haven't fully done so yet?

What is holding you back?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What does it take for you to  
change your mind about something?

How is this helping or hindering you?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is your perspective on life?

How has this changed over time?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What makes a good society in your view?

What role would you like to play in such a society?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What promise to yourself do you still need to fulfill?

What has gotten in the way?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would you never do?

What will this protect you from?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What is the most difficult decision you've ever made?

How did you eventually make this decision?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What are the most important lessons  
you've learned in your life?

How did you learn them?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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When was the last time you tried something new?

What brought you to do so?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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What would you consider a good life?

What more comes to mind?

WHAT IS WONDER?

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*Add your own question...*

WHAT IS WONDER?

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*Reflections, Memories & Ideas*

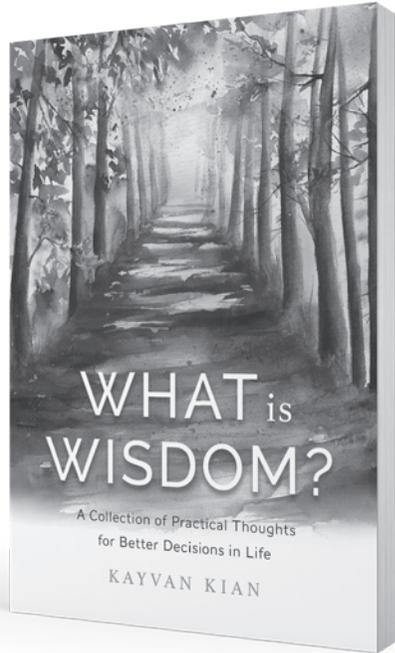
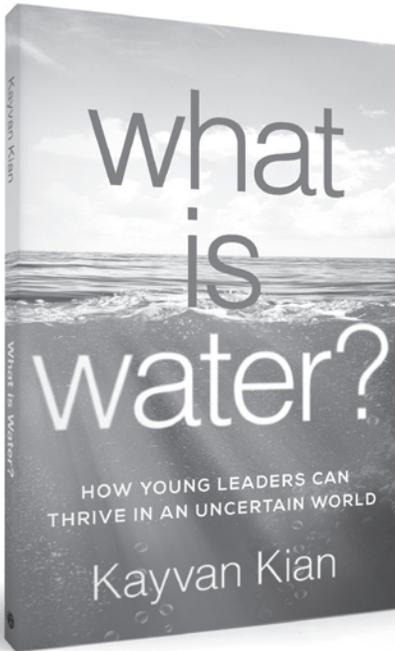
# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kayvan Kian is an entrepreneur, teacher, and senior advisor to McKinsey & Company in Amsterdam. His work has helped thousands of leaders and teams thrive during difficult times.

As the founder of the Young Leaders Forum, Kayvan has given guest lectures at Harvard Business School, HEC, Sciences Po, and more. His previous books *What Is Water?* and *What Is Wisdom?* became instant bestsellers, and he publishes articles on leadership and decision-making. He holds an MBA from INSEAD in France and a degree in both Economics and Law from the Erasmus University in the Netherlands.

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More by Kayvan Kian



Listen!

Did you hear it?

## How well do you know yourself? How well do you want to know yourself? Why?

**K**nowing yourself more fully can lead to better leadership, relationships, and decision-making. You can also pursue it for its own sake. However, we don't often get the chance to turn our attention inward, to notice aspects of ourselves that go unnoticed in a world full of demands, information overload, and distractions.

So why wait? Feel free to seize the opportunity, and immerse yourself in this workbook full of timeless questions with room for reflection. With awareness, playfulness, and courage, *What Is Wonder?* can help you explore your inner life further to get to know yourself better.



**KAYVAN KIAN** is an entrepreneur, teacher, and senior advisor to McKinsey & Company in Amsterdam. His work has helped thousands of leaders and teams thrive during difficult times. As the founder of the Young Leaders Forum, Kayvan has given guest lectures at Harvard Business School, HEC, Sciences Po, and more.

His previous books *What Is Water?* and *What Is Wisdom?* became instant bestsellers, and he publishes articles on leadership and decision-making. He holds an MBA from INSEAD in France and a degree in both Economics and Law from the Erasmus University in the Netherlands.

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