

# The Jewish Futurism Manifesto

By Mike Wirth (Moshe ben Atid) Dec 16, 2023

## 1. The Future is Jewish

Jewish Futurism envisions a world where Jewish tradition, thought, and culture are dynamic forces shaping the future. We reject nostalgia as an anchor and instead see the past as a foundation for innovation. Jewish identity is not static-it evolves, adapts, and thrives across time, space, and new frontiers. We think not only of our present moment but of the Jewish future for generations to come.

## 2. Technology as Sacred Tool

We embrace technology as a means to enhance Jewish life, connection, and ritual. Just as the printing press revolutionized Torah study, and radio and film expanded Jewish storytelling, new technologies-AI, AR, blockchain, and beyond-are vessels for Jewish creativity and sacred expression. Jewish ethics must guide technological advancement, ensuring its alignment with our values.

## 3. Speculative Imagination is Torah

The Jewish tradition has always been one of bold speculation: prophets envisioned messianic futures, sages debated hypothetical laws, and mystics explored cosmic realities. Jewish Futurism continues this lineage, using speculative fiction, visual art, and design to explore new possibilities for Jewish existence. Dreaming the future is a sacred act, and in doing so, we become the ancestors of tomorrow.

## 4. Diaspora, Zion, and Beyond

Jewish peoplehood has always been both local and global, rooted and nomadic. We embrace the multiplicity of Jewish futures-whether in the Land of Israel, in diasporic communities, in digital spaces, or even among the stars. The Jewish future is not confined to one geography; it is wherever we carry it. We recognize that the choices we make today shape the landscapes of Jewish life in the centuries ahead.

## 5. Rituals for the Coming Age

Jewish ritual has evolved across millennia, adapting to new realities while maintaining its core intent. We welcome the creation of new rituals that respond to the technologies, challenges, and possibilities of the future. Digital tefillin, AI-generated prayers, and virtual synagogues are not distortions of tradition but its natural evolution. The mitzvot we practice now will one day be the sacred traditions of our descendants.

## 6. Memory as a Living Force

We honor the past not as a relic but as a living guide for innovation. Jewish history is a record of resilience and reinvention. We carry the wisdom of our ancestors into the future, ensuring that memory fuels our creativity rather than limiting it. Concepts like *zechut avot* (merit of the

ancestors) remind us that our actions ripple beyond our lifetimes, shaping the legacy we leave behind.

## **7. Justice and Ethics Above All**

Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) remains at the heart of Jewish Futurism. We advocate for ethical technological development, sustainability, and the protection of human dignity. The Jewish future must be just, inclusive, and committed to uplifting all people. The principle of *dor l'dor* (generation to generation) reminds us that our responsibility is not just to ourselves, but to those who will inherit the world we shape today.

## **8. Art as Prophecy**

Artists, writers, and creators play a prophetic role in envisioning the Jewish future. Through storytelling, speculative design, and immersive experiences, Jewish Futurists craft new narratives that inspire action and reimagine what is possible. Like the visionary seers of old, we use our creativity to guide our people toward new possibilities, rooted in both wisdom and wonder.

## **9. The Messianic and the Real**

Jewish thought oscillates between utopian hope and pragmatic survival. Jewish Futurism embraces both-dreaming of transformative possibilities while remaining grounded in the realities of today. The messianic age is not a distant dream; it is a challenge to be built. The concept of *l'taken olam b'malchut Shaddai* (to repair the world under divine sovereignty) compels us to work toward a future that is just, ethical, and sustainable.

## **10. Becoming Future Ancestors**

We are not only inheritors of the Jewish past but ancestors of the Jewish future. Every action we take, every idea we explore, and every story we tell lays the groundwork for future generations. The principle of *areyvut* (mutual responsibility) teaches us that we are bound to those who will come after us, just as we are bound to those who came before. Jewish Futurism calls upon us to think beyond our lifetimes, ensuring that our traditions, values, and innovations continue to flourish long after we are gone.

## **11. We Will Build This Future Together**

Jewish Futurism is not the work of one thinker, artist, or innovator-it is a collective movement. We invite all who dream of a vibrant, imaginative, and enduring Jewish future to join us in shaping it.

**The future is ours to create. Let us begin.**