

**“Our new Life-aligned culture is emerging! Here’s some of the evidence.”**

**IONS TALK, July 20, 2024**

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### **Section 5:**

### **What Now? What’s Next?**

As I see it, we are NOT in an “era of change”. We are at, and in, the CHANGE OF AN ERA, deep into the process of transformation. We are in the chrysalis. Our internal as well as external structures and systems are breaking up, breaking down, and breaking open, which is allowing new life to appear.

This can translate in people’s minds and experience as “uncertainty.” Storyteller and mythologist Martin Shaw invites us to do the hard work of [opening to mystery](#):

“The correct response to uncertainty is mythmaking. . . . The creation of stories [is]. . . not to cure or even resolve uncertainty but to deepen into it. There’s no solving uncertainty. Mythmaking is an imaginative labor, not a frantic attempt to shift the mood to steadier ground. There isn’t any. . .

“WHAT IF WE reframed “living with uncertainty” to “navigating mystery”? Navigating mystery humbles us, reminds us with every step that we don’t know everything, are not, in fact, the masters of all. . .

“But to navigate mystery is not the same thing as living with uncertainty. It doesn’t contain the hallmarks of manic overconfidence or gnawing anxiety. It’s the blue feather in the magpie’s tale. Hard to glimpse without attention. There’s no franchise or hashtag attached.”

Navigating mystery goes hand in hand with emergence, and “*Emergence is the closest thing to magic that is actually a scientific term.*” This [article](#) explains, “Emergence is a process of attractive forces . . . phenomena drawn to different aspects of itself . . . giving rise to relationship . . . non-random patterns of connection . . . then to ‘synergy’ . . . a whole that is qualitatively different and often greater from the sum of its parts . . . and then emergence, which is about how that ‘greater’ manifests. The key to finding our way towards a viable and desirable future lies in improving the quality of relationships of all kinds . . . the nature and meaning of emergence is about . . . the possibility of a different intentional stance towards the world, grounded in receptivity, intuition and subtlety rather than ideology, reason and force.”

In this process, externals are not “the thing”. We can’t grab on to an external thing (e.g. technology) to “save” us. Our external reality reflects our consciousness and our inner transformation which, as these examples are intended to show, is increasingly expressing Life-aligned right relationships, humility, respect, and reverence for Life Itself with an awareness that we are part of nature, not apart from or superior to it.

A breakdown is always an opportunity for a breakthrough. However, there is no guarantee that there will be a breakthrough, just as there is no guarantee that the imaginal cells in a caterpillar will become a butterfly. Therefore, connections, cross-pollination, and conscious cooperation between and among the imaginal cells are critical for creating a new and different life, both in the caterpillar/butterfly and in our human lives and experience.

So as I see it, what’s next is to continue, deepen, and strengthen our inner consciousness work, to increasingly connect with other “imaginal cells”, and to creatively use the breakdowns as nourishment, like the caterpillar soup is for the emerging butterfly.

In **Protect the Flame: Circles of Radical Presence in Times of Collapse**, **Otto Scharmer** writes:

“ . . . Instead of only relying on external mechanisms, we need to *interiorize* the collective impact, we need to coordinate and act from a *shared awareness* of the whole. I call this Collective Action from Shared Awareness (CASA). A first step into that direction of consciousness-based systems change was taken with the launch of the **Inner Development Goals** (IDGs) earlier this year in Stockholm as a complement to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to build transformative capacities to bridge the knowing-doing gap. . . .

“ . . . Are we sinking, or are we going to rise? In my view, the answer depends on whether or not we try to, and succeed in, creating new types of societal learning infrastructures for transformation — infrastructures that connect to and activate this human capacity for individual and collective transformation. . .

“ . . . When systems collapse, what are we left with? We are left with each other. We are left with our relationships. With how we relate to Mother Nature, how we relate to each other, and how we relate to our emerging Selves. These are our three sources of protecting, tending, and cultivating the flame. . .

“ . . . If that is true, then the single most important leverage point for progressing on our collective journey of transformation is the creation of *enabling infrastructures* that support leaders, citizens, and communities in transforming their relationship from extractive to regenerative by shifting the underlying consciousness from ego-system to eco-system awareness, that is, from a silo- to a systems view. . .

“ . . . We all want to act but often it’s unclear how. Maybe the one thing we can do is to prototype this enabling infrastructure for sensing and actualizing the emerging future through forming small **circles of radical presence** — as a holding space for supporting

each other in protecting the flame of our — and our planet's — highest future potential at this juncture of existential risk. It's these fields of deepened connection — of radical shared presence — that can support the healing and can function as the soil and seed for a new civilization to emerge. . . ."

The [Inner Development Goals: Transformational Skills for Sustainable Development](#) and the [From Inner Growth to Outer Change: IDG Summit 2024](#)

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." (Marcel Proust) May these perspectives help us have "new eyes."

And as [Iain McGilchrist](#) says, "The kind of attention we pay to the world changes the world we pay attention to".

A final note: These challenging times are *not just a speed bump*. It's becoming a whole new road, and we build the road as we travel.

The path that brought us here goes no further.

Cultural butterflies, anyone?