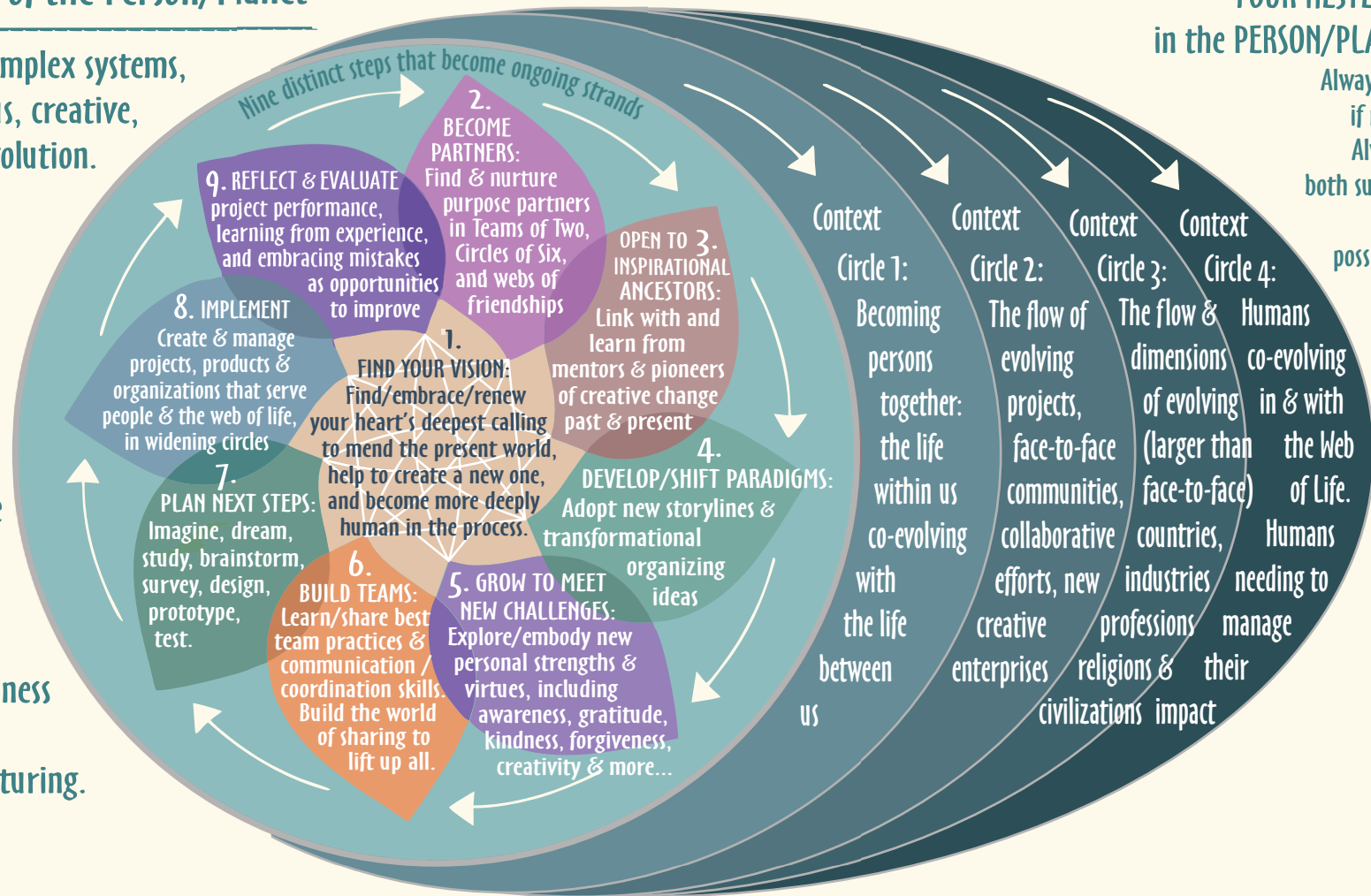


Spiral Journey of the Person/Planet

A fractal flow, complex systems, vision of conscious, creative, sustainable co-evolution.

THE CREATIVE VISION:

We become persons in and through all that we create & nurture in the world around us, and through the wisdom and kindness we bring to that creating and nurturing.



FOUR NESTED CONTEXTS in the PERSON/PLANET MODEL

Always present, even if not recognized. Always present in both success & failure. (One of many possible mappings.)

The PERSON/PLANET model (of self and world co-evolving) is an exploration / understanding / invitation focused on how to become more fully human, creative and effective persons and teams in a challenging, chaotic and often violent world.

The Person/Planet vision draws its inspiration from ecology, systems theory, and from many teachers, including Joanna Macy, Mahatma Gandhi, Rachel Carson, Martin Luther King, Jr, Erich Jantsch,

and Buckminster Fuller, to mention only a few. From these we receive what systems analyst Dennis Rivers describes as the Blessings of the Radiant Ancestors: inspiration, permission, encouragement via alternate ways of seeing, knowing, loving and creating.

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– For more info please visit: PersonPlanet.net

THE SPIRAL JOURNEY OF THE PERSON/PLANET

NINE IMPROVISATIONAL STEPS and STRANDS IN A CREATIVE SPIRAL,
REPEATED AT FOUR LARGER AND LARGER SCALES (NESTED CONTEXTS)

This model is one pragmatic way of understanding and managing the interwoven human processes of self-organization, creative co-evolution, resilience in the face of catastrophes, partnership and team building, goal reaching, and community/ecological participation. (These are practical arts, growing out of lived experience and shared learnings, rather than sciences based on controlled experiments or mathematics. Even so, we are happy to learn whatever science might be able to teach us about the above topics.)

Whenever the focus is on one of the nine activities listed below, that item is experienced as the conscious current STEP, while the eight others are experienced as background supportive and informative STRANDS. From a systems point of view, all nine are always co-evolving, and people's needs vary, therefore the order shown is approximate, a reasonable estimate of the usual flow. We see every development of one as an improvisation on the other eight.

Step/Strand 1. Define, Clarify, Review/Revise: Vision, Goals, Purposes, Intentions

Step/Strand 2. Find and nurture purpose partners in Teams-of-Two, Circles of Six, and wider networks of cooperation

Step/Strand 3. Link to and learn from exemplars, mentors and pioneers of creative change, past & present

Step/Strand 4. Explore and develop new paradigms: New perspective, “big picture” models of what we can create and how we can create it, new storylines that frame our actions

Step/Strand 5. Personal evolution: Deepen the 20 fundamental strengths of being a person, as described on Page 3, or the parallel understandings of personal strengths of your own culture

Step/Strand 6. Learn & share best team practices & communication skills -- build the Creative Commons of win-win cooperation

Step/Strand 7. Plan next steps: Imagine, dream, study, brainstorm, prototype, survey, test.

Step/Strand 8. Create / manage / expand projects, products and organizations, while mindfully attending to the following seven dimensions of success (*The 7-fold Bottom Line*):

- (1) win-win: building mutual benefit relationships in widening circles, including wider ranges of
- (2) participants, workers, producers, and
- (3) clients/customers, product recipients, and
- (4) surrounding communities, and
- (5) the Web of Life, including all future generations, and
- (6) our craft, art or profession, and
- (7) becoming kinder, wiser and more skillful persons along the way.

Step/Strand 9. Integrate lessons learned. Reflect on & re-evaluate assumptions, strategies, successes and failures. Practice acceptance and forgiveness in order to transform disappointment into wisdom. Revisit the *7-Fold Bottom Line* to identify new possibilities. Begin the process again.

More Steps and Strands: Evolution itself evolves! Add you own learnings to this list. What is life teaching you about the dynamics of creative cooperation as you face new challenges?

SPIRAL JOURNEY OF THE PERSON/PLANET – FOUR NESTED CONTEXT CIRCLES

Context Circle #1: Becoming Persons: Twenty Emerging Strengths

Here are twenty long-developing and interwoven strengths and virtues of people in relationship to other people and the Web of Life. (inspired largely by the thinking of Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow) These “survive together & thrive” strengths emerge over the course of a lifetime and radiate outward to influence widening circles of creative effort. In an interconnected and technologically powerful world, the lack of these virtues can create widening circles of deadness and even calamity. Gandhi’s “greenhouse” model proposes that we actively embody in ourselves the qualities that we want the world to embody.

1. Awareness, self-observation and being mindfully present to people, nature & present moment
2. Wisdom, recognizing underlying patterns and storylines, mindful of recurring patterns of infinite interwovenness and mutual co-creation / co-evolution
3. Emotional aliveness and richness, emotional acceptance, emotional authenticity
4. Compassion and kindness, for self, others and all creatures
5. Nurturing affection, enduring active commitment to the well being of all
6. Truthfulness: truth-facing, truth-understanding, truth-telling, truth-witnessing & truth-living
7. Forgiveness, of other, of self, & of a world full of both beauty and cruelty
8. Gratitude, for all creatures great and small, for all experiences, for all peoples on Earth
9. Learning to live in a quiet mind, silent communion, deep listening, mediation
10. Cooperative, empathic communication skills, including listening, clarity and turn-taking, practiced with the goals of bringing out the best in every person & being truer to oneself.
11. Creativity: expressing aliveness, conversing with life and cosmos thru music, art, craft
12. Curiosity, open to new ways of seeing, making and being; asking open-ended questions
13. Courage that grows from love, and the courage element in many other virtues
14. Justice, fairness and proportionality, tempered with compassion and balancing of needs
15. Taking responsibility for my actions & thought patterns, growing out of a deepening sense of how cause and effect work at many levels in human life, my life and all life
16. Healing presence, mending and reconciling thru non-judgmental empathy
17. Faithfulness, continuity of effort, making and keeping promises, binding time with love, living in 7-generations time, for the benefit of Life-Yet-To-Come
18. Beauty, opening to..., living in..., gratitude for..., creating more...
19. Creative rest, lying fallow, patience, caterpillar in the chrysalis, quiet inward ripening
20. Improvisational evolution: Other unique strengths and virtues emerging in response to new challenges. Recursive: Continuing the evolution of evolution itself.

Context Circle #2: The Shape of Co-Evolving (face-to-face) Projects

Families, tribes, towns, gardens, farms, markets, schools, co-ops, workshops, the creative work of artists & musicians, stores, factories, professions, shared interest groups, companies, innovation research centers

Context Circle #3: The Dimensions of Co-Evolving Countries & Civilizations (beyond face-to-face)

Countries, industries, alliances, professions, religions, institutions, war vs. peace, universities, hospitals, museums, global knowledge networks

Context Circle #4: Humans Co-Evolving in and with the Web of Life

Co-evolution of all species, global oceanic currents, climate cycles and human-caused disturbances, chemical balances and pollution problems.

Like a canoe, Earth needs our help, as we humans are now the largest group of passengers.

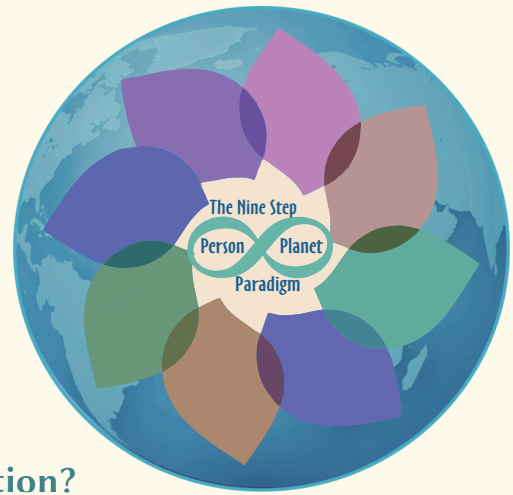
SPIRAL JOURNEY OF THE PERSON/PLANET

A geometric model of creative human action...

One possible path toward becoming a more creative and productive person in a troubled world.

WHY THIS? BACKGROUND & CONTEXT:

What sort of person would I need to become, what sort of skills and awareness would I need to develop, in order to help make the kind of world that I myself want to live in? What would I need to learn? How would I need to change my plan of action?



In every age, the crises of the world around us soon become the crises of the world within us.

The unprecedented outward challenges of our time now include such interlinked processes as radical climate disruption, extreme racial and economic injustice, perpetual war, nuclear weapons / waste / accidents, and accelerating global species extinction. These outward challenges are also deep inward challenges to our sense of identity, integrity, sanity, and community: Will we collude with the oppressive / destructive forces at work on Planet Earth? Will we withdraw from life as a way of coping? Or will we find / invent creative and life-affirming ways of becoming strong enough to resist, rebuild, and participate in the many needed transformations?

As global mentors such as Einstein, Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and (more recently) Joanna Macy, Jane Goodall and Wangari Matthai have each expressed in different ways, our extreme circumstances challenge us to respond in powerful ways:

- >> *they challenge us to think much more carefully and imagine much more creatively,*
- >> *they challenge us to develop and practice much deeper personal skills, strengths and virtues,*
- >> *they challenge us to connect with much deeper spiritual resources,*
- >> *they challenge us to build much stronger and more supportive friendships, projects and communities and, combining all of the above,*
- >> *they challenge us to participate more deeply, consciously and productively in the mending of our world.*

All of these challenges arrive in an atmosphere of ongoing emergencies, making mental focus difficult. So my view is that, like playing the guitar or becoming a doctor, and unlike growing hair or fingernails, the five powerful responses listed above will almost certainly require our conscious attention and effort, rather than “just happening.” The Person/Planet flowchart mandalas are some possible maps of that attention and effort. And just as the best-made shoe will only fit some feet, I imagine (and also regret) that these flowcharts and this 8-fold agenda of development may not be equally useful to all readers. But even so, this model might still serve a wider circle, if it inspires people to search for their own path of person/planet unfolding and healing. By placing all of the Person/Planet flowchart mandalas and texts in the Creative Commons, we invite you to draw from them and rearrange them in whatever ways may help you respond to the great challenges of our time. (Open Source: Learn from everyone, share with everyone.)

By Dennis Rivers and community, The Person/Planet Project – PersonPlanet.net