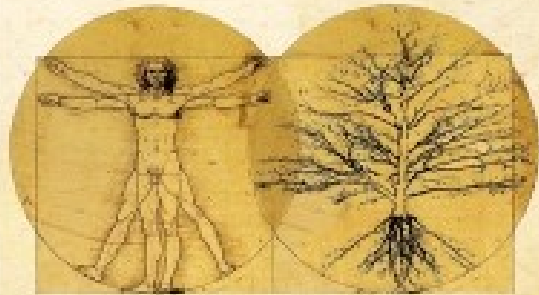


# Foundations *for* Sustainability

## Foundations *for* Sustainability

*A Coherent Framework of Life–Environment Relations*



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# Chapter 9: Sustainability: A goal for all

## Your reaction

- 1) Have we made the case that our current view of discrete life imposes an 'us' versus 'them', and 'object' versus 'subject' fragmentation that makes it easier to not see the dependency we have on the environment and therefore degrade it?
- 2) Is simply knowing this enough to change our behavior?

# Recap

- Life as the primary basis for value
- six founding principles of holistic Life science
- seven Life lessons and methods developed from past work
- described several existing allied works and innovative leaders who are already implementing technology and applications
- the systemic environmental degradation we now experience has been caused largely by the dominant mechanistic root metaphor at the heart of science



- It is not a new discovery that a functioning dialectic—where two sides continually oppose each other—can be stable particularly when there is balance in ascendancy of the two sides.
- The environmental crisis is one manifestation of the asymmetric imbalance toward Transcenders and away from Sustainers, and toward reductionism away from holism.
- Our book aims to reposition and stimulate the role of Sustainers and holism, but not to eliminate the opposites.

# Inter-being

- looking into a flower, you can see that the flower is made of many elements that we can call non-flower elements
  - Embodied
  - Embedded
  - Enfolded



life–environment =

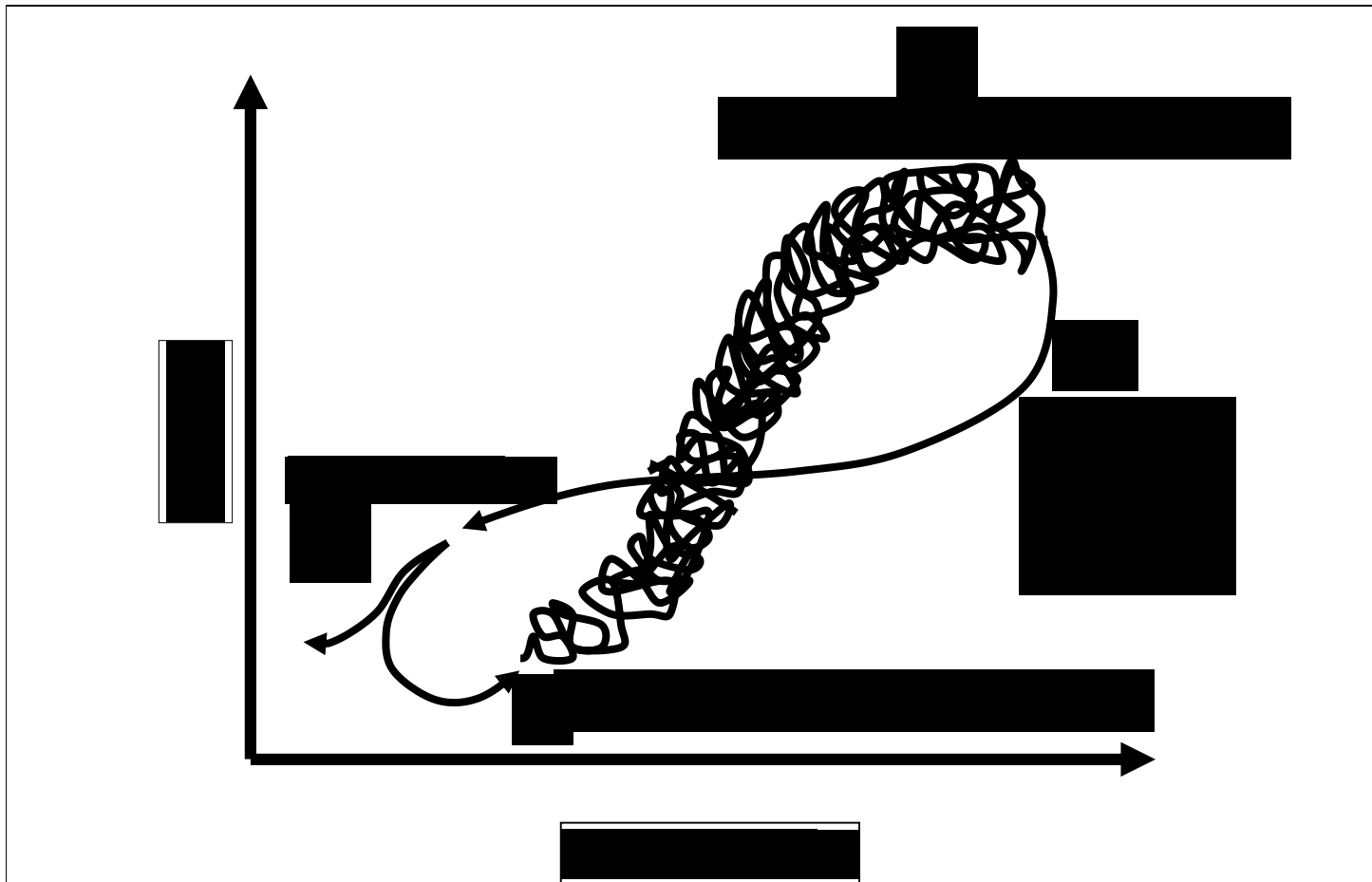
{environment {ecosystems {organisms {environment} } } }

# Importance of place

- Protection and investment in place
- Finding the balance of what the environment offers: sustaining (and enhancing) those flows
- Geography of Nowhere

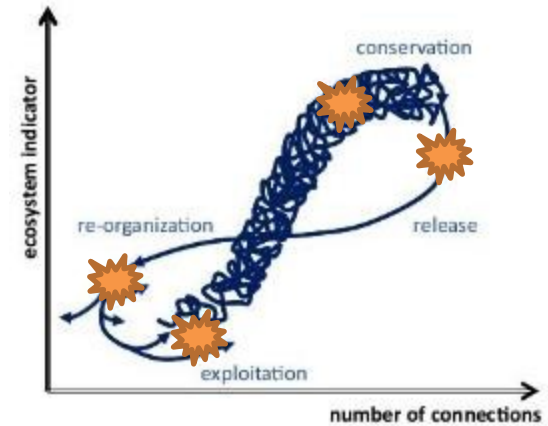


# Adaptive cycle – growth, conservation, disruption, reorganization



# Key features of success (entry points)

- Capacity to grow ( $r$ )
  - \* Activation energy
- Capacity to develop ( $K$ )
  - \* Self organized to store information and capital
- Capacity to survive ( $\Omega$ )
  - \* Improve to maintain vital functions
- Capacity to renew ( $\alpha$ )
  - \* Learn and forgive to reorient





# Pathologies in succession

	Entry	Exit
<b>r-stage</b>	Poverty trap – no activation energy, no scaling	Overshooting („forever young“), relentless resource acquisition
<b>K-stage</b>	Lack of internal complexity (right buffers, redundancies, connections)	Perpetuation of status quo through cannibalism  Rigidity trap (loss of connection to the outside)
<b>Ω-stage</b>	Subsidize rigid systems	Inability to improvise
<b>α-stage</b>	Self-victimization mentality	Lack of direction (no scale, no new orientor)

# Applied to business management



- No organism is separate from its surroundings.

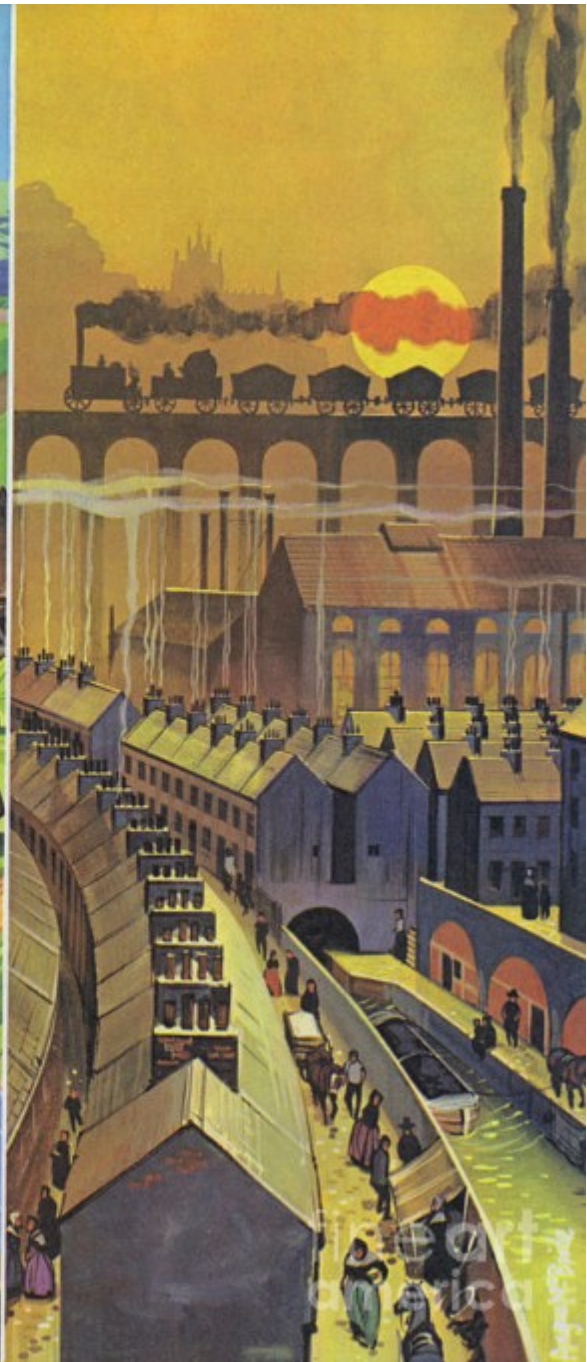
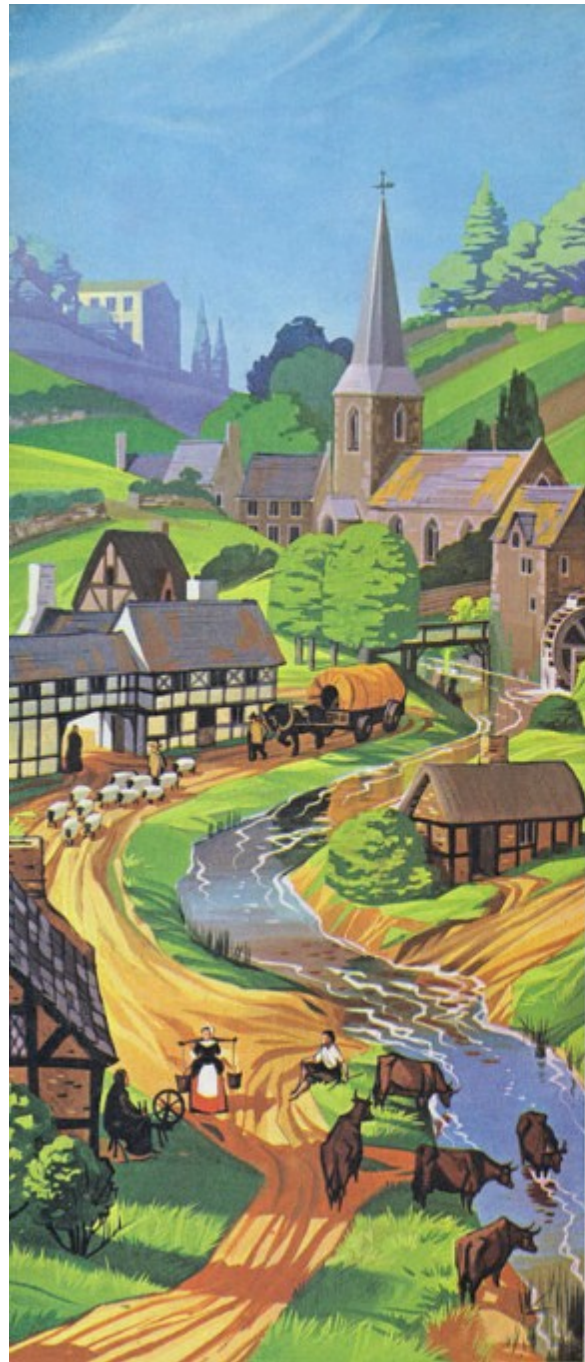


- Hyperset formulation

life–environment =

{environment {ecosystems {organisms {environment} } } }

“If the landscape has changed since the time your map was made, then by following it you may end up somewhere you did not intend to go.”



# Change the course

- being prepared and adaptive to changes that inevitably come
- there is a right time to grow, but it is not always



“What if we don’t change at all ...  
and something magical just happens?”



There is no way to sustainability;  
sustainability is the way

**Sustainability is not  
a DESTINATION  
It is a WAY of LIFE**

# Discussion questions

- Counter argument – place matters, ours, not yours, role of nativism and tribalism in Sustainability
- Can you see the overlapping systems balanced across scales?



# Discussion questions

- What does sustainability mean to you?
- How is that different after reading the book?
- What things could you do differently now?
- What could the book do differently?