

FOREWORD

A PROSPECT

The following original papers on various subjects are collected as an offering of a giant step forward for the science of ecology. Ecology is a science where it presently seems to be very difficult to arrive at precise answers. That is only because we're presently asking only certain kinds of questions. This collection of writings is an offering of a kind of very precise question. These questions offer an understanding of the natural instabilities in our living systems and an understanding of how our choices contribute to them.

NEEDFUL QUESTIONS

Simply stated, one opportunity for choice comes from recognizing that, as the ways of our world change scale, our previous understanding is left out of context. To renew our freedom of choice in the new context we build new understanding. As the scale of the ways (say economy) doubles (say every 20 years), the complexity may first double in 80 years, then in 40 years, then in 20, then in 10, then 5, etc. Each doubling of complexity can symbolize a new context and a mandate to tear ourselves loose from old understanding and build new understanding.

Freedom of choice is importantly an understanding of future freedoms. How many contexts out of context might our understanding be today? Who is choosing the events over the horizon?

Those questions and the recognition that the pains of our world are often of too rapidly outmoded understanding, form a mandate and the name of our need becomes clear. We need to give ourselves the breathing room needed to let our understanding catch up. We need to distract ourselves from the confusing issues whose attractions prevent us from seeing that growing confusion is our problem.

For many of our modern confusions there may be no simple 'solution' but for economy there seems to be one. It's a matter of changing the arithmetic so that our surplus, which

now necessarily feeds multiplying complexity, is relieved of that role. It's a matter of freeing free thought and enterprise from the prison of explosively ever more complicated ways.

THE GENERAL SOURCE

These writings are more generally a story of the nature of eventfulness and the natural moulding and shifting of natural foundations for behavior. While I can't tell quite what things are founded on, I can usually tell when the foundations are about to change. That stimulates distinct leading questions. The leading questions follow, generally, from considering a little known but pervasive habit of nature.

Without apparent exception, on every scale, in every situation, multiplying growth always leads to instability and then the advent of different multiplying change. At the points of instability, the future path is naturally indeterminate and a very wide range of following multiplying changes are often possible, depending on how the instability is tipped off.

The basic questions that arise are: 'What action tips off what instability, when?', and, 'To what later instability will that tip-off multiply?'. The answers aren't always clear, but the questions usually are. The range of possibilities includes very gentle or very sudden, dispersals and solidifications of the changing behavior. Dispersal and solidification are profoundly different, sometimes equally possible, results of the same instability.

CLEAR PERSPECTIVES FOR NATURAL COMPLEXITY

As multiplying change is ever-present in all natural events, it is odd that its linking with instability is little known. It seems that the instabilities which didn't fall into a pattern of rhythmically leading back to themselves, didn't stick around for us to look at. Thus our impression is of a preponderance of stable rhythm.

Another direct reason for our missing view of instability is that the chain of words character of our language of reason is only able to handle one step at a time. Thus it is incapacitated in reasoning the unified behaviors of nature which arise, precisely, from everything stepping at once. The means of clearly understanding unified behavior is therefore not through language but through personal recognition.

The perspective which resolves literally indescribable complexity into directly clear and common recognition follows from a learning process, not from a phrase. I might say it's a perspective of accepting yourself as part

of the subject viewed, or an awareness of the natural sequences of spontaneity, or attending to both the events and their contexts, or becoming truly intimate with your own experience, or many other things. The perspective that resolves complexity into clarity, however, is in none of these or any other words. It is something that you build up in your own mind, orchestrated by a love for personal freedom of understanding. There is no substitute. These writings are offered as a range of possibilities for your building of that freeing perspective.

ON QUALITY READERSHIP

As I am usually writing for the purpose of enriching personal perspectives on a range of subjects, the 'concluding' ideas of any piece are often the enriching viewpoints for the 'introducing' ideas. For this reason it is likely that reading would not be very fruitful without re-reading.

For those without a developed perspective for clarifying natural complexity (i.e. virtually everyone) it is rather common for many of these new points of view to be found 'slippery'. Many viewpoints I present may, at first, be clearly recognized then almost immediately slip clear out of awareness. This is simply because you, as yet, have little background of recognition for the views to tie into.

I might, in consideration of that, repeat myself over and over again regarding views that I find broadly meaningful to each subject I address. That, however, would make impossible reading, and besides, it would be much more to the point for me to keep repeating the views that you find broadly meaningful. I think I'd do a lousy job of that. I would perhaps suggest, and perhaps even strongly suggest, that you personally make a written note for yourself of any phrases that capture essential ideas for you, and keep that page handy to help you carry along valuable but easily lost viewpoints.

One such slippery view which seems especially difficult to maintain an awareness of is that words and statements are only the barest skeletal representatives of splendidly rich and intricate natural behaviors. No conceivable amount of care on my part could ever guide you clear of the profusion of traps that arise from failing to recognize that the subjects of the words are the ideas, observations and things observed, represented by the words, and not the flimsy notions that the words themselves are. (The 'map' is only of service as it is a guide to the 'territory'!) As far as I know I only use logic and reasoning to assist in unclouding the avenues leading to meetings with the subject and never make the linkages of reason for the sole purpose of implying one word from another. The prime reference is always nature.

The subjects I address and my way of addressing them make other demands for a refined art of readership. One of these is that I write with a dependence on my own and my reader's ability to mentally picture real life situations. Reading for picture understanding is usually fuller and richer, the slower the reading. Each phrase or paragraph has the potential to be a whole story in itself, as rich as your making. If you simply run by the words, the subject is entirely missed. If, at some point, the picture is lost (becomes jumbled), it is very much more valuable to put the book down till another time or leaf to another page, rather than spoil the clear pictures you had by linking them up with 'blind' reading. Measure your own visual attention span. Don't reach too far beyond it. Value the quality that each time a section is read, the pictures become richer and more flexible. Take special interest in the felt pictures that build from or along side the visual ones.

Another demand for fine quality readership is that I am addressing the subject of natural questions (instability is a 'What now?' situation) in a language very largely used for pinning down answers. If you feel impatience with, 'What's he leading up to?', it's probably because I'm trying to lead up to answers of your own making rather than mine. Perhaps if that feeling arises you could substitute, 'What am I leading up to?'. If your recognition is of leading yourself in circles, simply observe that, and form the thought that in nature circles inevitably spiral in to one thing or out to others. If you get caught with something appearing right or wrong, remember, all statements can be viewed as right or wrong depending on the perspective from which you view them. Ask yourself, 'From what perspective am I viewing this?', observe and let it be. There's no end point in being right or wrong, only a point in learning. The above methods of question-observation are what I view as the general means by which familiarity with perspectives is built.

SPECIAL PATHS FOR THE KNOWLEDGEABLE

The above comments apply most particularly to anyone already well versed in other subjects. Those with only little previous subject skill may find that the flow of images rolls smoothly and evenly by. Those with developed particular interests will probably have very much less freedom to simply let the images flow. This is simply because it takes much more patience and reflection to relate complex and pre-arranged imaginations to fresh perspectives. There is, of course, another side to this coin. That is that someone with a developed view who develops a grasp of a new perspective as well, gains a very special new breadth, strength, balance and freedom of understanding available no other way.

(read this foreword a couple times for solid, interlaced recognition)

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AGE: 32 HEALTH: slightly restricted

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL** : Hamilton Central School, Hamilton, N.Y.
Athletics, Drama, AP Math, Regent's Scholar
- COLLEGE** : St. Lawrence University, Canton, N.Y.
1964-68 B.S. Physics, Math, Football, Fine Art
Fall 1968 : Taught 9th grade math, Brentwood, L.I., N.Y.
1969-71 : Lived & worked in NYC, Arts, Computer, Med. Tech.
1970-71 : Evening Architecture studies at Columbia U.
- GRADUATE SCHOOL** : Univ. of Pa., School of Architecture, Phila. Pa.
1971-74 Focused on design approach of Louis Kahn, minors
in landscape arch., micro-climate & structures.
One of three invited to Stewardson Competition.
Prize for studies in theoretical structures.
Commendation for studies in micro-climate.
- DESIGNER-BUILDER** : Lived & worked in Denver Col., gen. contractor
1974-78 class B, handcrafted commercial & residence
renovation, community & small builder design
consultant, 'People's Fair' design coordinator
two years.
- SOLAR RESEARCH** : Observed, in depth, the dynamic behavior of 15
1977-79 house and outdoor climates. Wrote 8 articles
on climate dynamics. Invented several passive
energy flow gadgets, presented papers on discrete
dynamics to Aug 78 AS of ISES conf. and to
Jan 79 Passive #3 conf. Consultation to SERI
on symbolic building climate language, self-
balancing thermal networks & joint science and
architecture research methodologies.
- LIFE-PATTERN
PHYSICS RESEARCH** : Spinning off from discoveries in self-ordering
1978-79 climate systems, wrote 4 papers on generalized
self-ordering phenomena and applications to
generalized physical assumptions.

PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. Establish a home base and continuing contact with an appt. tech. research group with sophisticated tools.
2. Develop & use simplified climate study and design tools
3. Use developed methods in interaction with local a.t. networks to spread their use and gather study data.
4. Develop & support a feedback network method for active researcher's projects and methods in a.t.
5. Establish a study site for experimental design & construction to assist in the development of diverse design freedom for designers and builders.

Natural Philosophy and Commentary

I've been very fortunate. I've found generous openings of ~~jewel~~ like beauty where there were supposed to be no openings at all.

I seem to have always carried a very deep personal feeling for the most ordinary of things. Many of the examples of understanding set for me either showed little feeling for things at all or considered only extraordinary things, and I was dissatisfied. Both kinds of examples set for me and my friends too often lead toward brittle and fracturing certainty rather than flexible confidence. This repeated fracturing of the brittleness in me again and again exposed the flexible core of my simple love for the ordinary, my delight with the looseness and freedoms of the world, the way things slide and take hold, the uncertainties of things becoming a grasp, spontaneity.

In the flexible little world I found, uncertainties are the freedoms, the loose ends which tie in, the delicate fingers of discovery which seek out and catch hold, that yield a path. The path yielded is as simple as a drip of water, a smile or a gust of wind. It's the sounds that speak of the uncertain silences. I hope that both these words well crafted and the ones not, serve to remind you of your own and your world's freedoms.

The easier reading pieces in this section are probably the first sections of 'Patterns of Events', 'Two Farmers', 'Taking Hold', 'Net Working', and 'Knack'.