

SUMMARY OF TWENTY ONE THESES OF THE DRAGON DREAMING APPROACH FOR OPENING OUR GAIAN HEART

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ABSTRACT: *This summarises the central concepts that lie behind Dragon Dreaming*

1. Any culture that destroys its own life support systems and calls that progress is totally insane. This is a culture built upon an imbalanced cosmological metaphor of the dominating and controlling power of **Thanatos** (Death) rather than on the cosmological metaphor of the generative and creative power of **Eros** (Love).
2. In such an insane culture, most of the people through their daily activities or compliance, most of the time, are to some degree participating in, and in some way helping to perpetuate that insanity. To be truly sane in such a culture is in some way to appear to be “abnormal”. Cultivating this “abnormality” is to recover sanity.
3. At the most fundamental level, the source of this insanity lies in our socialization and acculturation into an epistemological and ontological fault in our thinking about “what is real?”, “what is the nature of the world?” and “who am I?” Persisting in behaviours founded upon a faulty view of reality perpetuates the destruction of life and will lead to the destruction of the culture which holds these views.
4. Built upon the linguistic separation of subject and object, there is a tendency of our culture to think reality is comprised of “things”. Any “thing” based view of reality automatically leads to an instrumental manipulative view of reality, which is based at its root upon a controlling dominator view of power-over, ultimately rooted in the zero-sum competitive game of the warring power to kill (Thanatos) others, whilst avoiding being killed.
5. “Reality” is rather comprised of responsive and co-evolving cooperative win-win, positive sum games of processes of flow, in which what we see as “things” are merely temporary nodes, apparently “frozen” in our consciousness in a temporary transition between what they were and what they will eventually become. These flows, of energy, of matter, of information and of chaotic entropy, give direction to the flow of time and the appearance of the space in which we live.
6. Power in the alternative reality, stems from the power of the flow itself to create (Eros or Love). We too are just temporary nodes in this flowing that was born with the beginning of time and space and which will cease only at the end of time and space. Meditating upon the reality of these flows help liberate us from the thanatos (the end of complex life on Earth).
7. The Cosmos as a whole, up until now, represents a single transitional macrocosmic process of flow of time and space from the Alpha of No-“thing” (The infinite Nothing) to the ultimate Omega of a Conscious Everything. The answer to “Who I am?” is – “that I am a small part of the way (the fulcrum) through which the Cosmos itself is becoming

aware of itself, and through that awareness, is liberating its full creative potential (Eros).”

8. We are thus currently caught at the **Great Turning**, a transition growing beyond the old *Global Industrial Growth Civilisations* (IGC) of Thanatos (built now upon the power to destroy) and into a new *Planetary Life Sustaining Society* of Eros (built upon the power to create). The Great Turning is going to take the square of all of us (everyone on earth, i.e. it is *meta*-democratic) multiplied by all of us (requiring us to achieve our full potential as human *becomings*).
9. We have been living at the point of inflection between the IGC and the LSS since the two World Wars, particularly since the late 1960s, and are currently caught in a continuing culturally dangerous “*fibrillation zone*” where the characteristics of both IGC and LSS are simultaneously present. This is an “*inflection point*” transition stage between the explosive and destructive chain reaction of the IGC and sustainability enhancing parts of a LSS transition cycle.
10. But the attempt to hang on to (and avoid the suicidal death) of the old IGC, is creating a global systemic contradiction (a contraction incapable of being resolved within the current system), and is preventing the birth of the new culture, which keeps us fibrillating, so propelling us inexorably towards an unmitigated overshoot and collapse “disaster” mega-death scenario, in which all civilizations end and we are caught in a dark age twilight.
11. In this fibrillation zone we have a “*double power*” situation where –
 - the old domination hierarchies have all of the power and legitimacy, but have no capacity to resolve problems. They have become part of the problem not part of the solution.
 - The new emergent heterarchies, holarchies, or “panarchies” have no legitimacy or authority, but they do have the power to resolve our problems.
12. This double power is maintained by our own cognitive dissonance, the gap between how we think (our *theory*) and how we behave (our *practice*). This in turn is based upon the faulty belief in the perpetual separation of our Self (the *individual*) from the Other (the *environment* or world). Eros is the re-connecting union of divine Self (I) with the divine Other (Thou) (mutual beloved with lover), in both thought and act. Thanatos is their disconnecting separation.

13. Transitioning beyond these faulty ways of thought and action, of the self and the other, is the central task of our times. The best way of making this transition is to personally undertake to engage upon a Gaia Project.
14. A Gaia Project is a project that is built upon the following Gaia objectives. It is a project built upon –
- **Personal growth:** we are more (and less) than who we think we are. Our self-image is our greatest limit, as it establishes a pattern of self-prejudice that is addictive and difficult to escape from.
 - **Strengthening the community.** Most seem not to understand that an authentic community is determined by the quality of the changes and exchanges that link us in a local and intimate fashion.
 - **Work in Service to the Earth.** Thanatos culture takes but has difficulty in giving. A Gaia project gives more than it takes, re-establishing balance to encourage the flourishing sustainability of all life.
15. The aim of all Gaia Projects are to encourage the deep interconnectedness of play with work (i.e. *plork?*) that lies at the heart of the Universe in a sustainable and sustaining fashion for all, both the human and the more-than-human worlds in which we participate. It is based upon the ultimate hero's quest
- **Dreaming** - transition through held intention from the Source (Ein) Emanation (Atzilut) to the Manifest Understanding (Beriah) (i.e the Yod – or Alpha stage)
 - **Planning** - transition from the Manifest Understanding (Beriah) of the interconnectedness of all phenomena to the Formation (Yetzirah), the (Heh -or “r” stage)
 - **Doing** – the compassionate transition from the Formation (Yetzirah) to the Material Action (Assiah) we undertake in the world, and the (Vav - or “K” stage)
 - **Celebrating** – the joyful transition from Material Action (Assiah) back to the original Source (Ayin). (Heh - or “Omega” stage)
16. We cannot prevent the collapse of the IGC. Currently the IGC is busy extracting the last of its powers in making money through suicidal destruction of itself, and so increasingly risks undermining the complexity of life of the planet that sustains us all. We cannot

prevent the coming of the Dark Age that will inevitably follow this collapse of the IGC. But through this play of working together in Gaia Projects we can light the beacons now that will make the Dark Ages that are coming fast much shorter and less bleak and destructive.

17. To increase our chances of survival, and help minimize the death and destruction of the Dark Ages there are seven things we can start upon now.

- **1stly: Build inclusive caring and sharing communities** as if our lives depend upon it. They do. In a Dark Age, those living in such communities are more likely to survive. Those isolated and alone perish.
- **2ndly: Practice radical simplicity.** Avoid dependence upon complex IGC systems that risk destroying living complexities. Increasing such complexity reduces the quality of our lives and robs us of time. They will collapse hard and fast.
- **3rdly: Cultivate and maximize creativity** – increase our social, political, economic, technological, ecological, scientific, artistic, cultural and spiritual creativity.
- **4thly: Cultivate non-violent wisdom.** In collapse IGC perpetuates warring militant ignorance and fundamentalisms of all kinds. Violence increases within and between families, communities, regions and nations, and this can only be minimised through non-violence.
- **5thly: Preserve knowledge** – In a Dark Age wisdom disappears and becomes knowledge, which becomes mere understanding, that gets swamped by information, then data and then disappears as noise. Superstitions arise. Dark ages forget what knowledge is lost and then forget that they have forgotten.
- **6thly: Resacralise the Earth.** Matter (the physical) and spirit (the spiritual) are not separate. We need to adopt inclusive Earth-centred spiritual daily practices within all faith traditions, that help maintain mindfulness, promote interconnectedness and heal all separations.
- **7thly: Build monetary systems that support the other six.** Our economic systems are built upon competition, not cooperation, and require never-ending growth, to survive. They have become cancerous and need to be replaced by systems that promote, not destroy, life.

Even in the absence of a Dark Age, these 7 tasks are positive. We cannot lose.

18. Many people are already engaged upon different kinds of Gaia Projects without even being aware that this is what they are doing. Three kinds of Gaia work occurs in Gaia Projects:

- **Work of the hand:** Halting the pace of destruction by the IGS. This is the NVDA work, the lobbying, submission writing, non-compliant protests, that is exhausting, essential, necessary but not sufficient. It will save lives (both human and more-than-human), but it cannot by itself produce the Great Turning
- **Work of the head:** Building the new institutions of the LSS. This is the conceptual, social, economic, financial and technological creation and construction of the elements of the LSS. It is necessary, but not sufficient as the LGS has an enormous ability to co-opt almost every-“thing” in its own perpetuation.
- **Work of the heart:** Achieving the shift in consciousness and behavior necessary to support and maintain the transition to a LSS of the future. This is the necessary complement to the work of the hand and the work of the head.

19. To support the playful work of Gaia Projects, what is often missing is the conscious existence of a local, empty-centred “Project Support Network”, which undertakes no projects of their own other than supporting other Gaia Projects in helping them become outrageously successful in contributing to the transition to the LSS. The establishment of these empty-centred nested non-hierarchical networks comprises the essential nature of the Gaia Foundation.

20. The **Dragon Dreaming** approach has at its core

- The internalization of these explanatory frameworks as a basis to action of creating outrageously successful projects, and
- The creation of locally based Project Support Networks that gather resources, for
 - i. Personal growth, bringing people together in
 - ii. Strengthening community, and that
 - iii. Work in Service to the Earth

21. To achieve this Great Turning transition, it is necessary to gain the ability to live more fully in the **“fourth time”** – not just in the here and now, although the ability to be mindful in the present is essential, not locked in the past, and not forever dreaming of the future, but in that dreaming and doing process that is *everywhen*, holding present, past and future together so that we can draw simultaneously upon the strength, love and endurance of our ancestors and with the needs of our future descendents offering guidance and inspiration, in treading safely the paths that we have started upon through this ex-plor-ation (the process coming out of our collective mutual “playful working”).