

CO-CREATIVE SCIENCE

A REVOLUTION IN SCIENCE

FOR TODAY'S HEALTH &

ENVIRONMENT



UPDATED

25TH ANNIVERSARY

EDITION

MACHAELLE WRIGHT

SECOND EDITION

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CONTENTS

1. Changing How We Perceive Nature . . . 1
2. What Is Nature Intelligence? . . . 27
3. Co-Creative Science and
 the Co-Creative Scientist . . . 45
 Two Scientific Methods . . . 47
 A Scientist's Working Partnership
 with Nature . . . 48
 What the Scientist Brings To a
 Successful Partnership . . . 51
4. The Making of a Co-Creative Scientist . . . 55
 The Citizen Scientist . . . 57
 The Co-Creative Classroom . . . 58
5. Starting an I/E Classroom . . . 67
 Setting Up Your Classroom . . . 67
 The Classroom Setup for Professional
 Scientists . . . 70
 The Carve-Out Classroom . . . 71
 The Benefits of a Classroom in Soil . . . 72
 "Hearing" Nature . . . 73
 Establishing Your DDP . . . 74
 Activating Your Classroom and
 Partnership . . . 77
6. Now What? . . . 79
 Start Your Class Here . . . 79

Perelandra Biodiversity Process . . .	83
Biodiversity Process Steps . . .	86
Frequently Asked Questions . . .	88

Appendix

PKTT: Perelandra's Kinesiology Technique . . .	93
How PKTT Works . . .	94
The PKTT Pep Talk . . .	95
PKTT Testing Steps . . .	96
The PKTT Calibration Process . . .	103
An Alternative PKTT Method . . .	104
PKTT Tips . . .	105
Troubleshooting PKTT . . .	108
Final Comments on PKTT . . .	110
About Perelandra and the Author . . .	113
Contact Information . . .	114
Pronouns . . .	117



*When Magellan's expedition first landed at Tierra del Fuego, the Fuegians, who for centuries had been isolated with their canoe culture, were unable to see the ships anchored in the bay. The big ships were so far beyond their experience that, despite their bulk, the horizon continued unbroken: The ships were invisible. This was learned on later expeditions to the area when the Fuegians described how, according to one account, the shaman had first brought to the villagers' attention that the strangers had arrived in something which, although preposterous beyond belief, could actually be seen if one looked carefully. We ask how they could not see the ships, they were so obvious, so real, yet others would ask how we cannot see things just as obvious.**

* John W. Mattingly. Foreword. In B. Lynes, *The Cancer Cure that Worked. Fifty Years of Suppression*. Marcus Books. Canada. 1987

Changing How We Perceive Nature



IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND co-creative science and what makes it unique, we need to have a deeper and more comprehensive understanding about nature. This is because what makes co-creative science different from all other science is that it involves working in an equal, conscious and direct partnership with nature.


Let me explain. Science is the study of reality and how it works. In contemporary science (the term used for the science that is practiced today and with which we are all familiar), scientists attempt to discover how reality works through testing and observation. They then draw conclusions based on what they have observed and understood from those observations. With co-creative science, scientists understand that nature flows through all reality, seen and unseen, and there is an inherent intelligence within nature's dynamic that holds pertinent information and insight. This information can add to our human body of knowledge about reality.

These scientists build communication bridges that allow them to access that intelligence, and then ask nature directly to provide needed information so that they may “hear from the horse’s mouth” (so to speak) what those scientists need to understand about a specific area of reality.

In co-creative science, nature becomes a fully operational, functioning, equal partner with the scientist. Together they create a team, with each member of the team providing their part of the information that is needed for solving a problem or reaching a goal.

The key to developing a more comprehensive understanding of nature has to do with how we define nature itself. Usually, when we think of nature, we think of rocks, rivers, mountains, clouds, birds, bears, fish, trees, flowers...

After having worked as a co-creative scientist for almost fifty years, I have learned that nature is much more than this. Early on I figured out that when nature and I used the word “nature,” I assumed one thing and nature knew something else. So I asked nature to define itself. (Just pretend the words “I asked nature to define itself” are the most normal words a person can say, and read on. This gets explained later.) To my surprise, nature “said” they would need to first define “form.”

 **FORM:** *We consider reality to be in the form state when there is **order** (the many individual elements that together make up a larger reality with everything in its correct, appropriate and balanced place), **organization** (the scaffolding or structure containing and defining the many different elements or parts creating an organized body with*

*a particular purpose), and **life vitality** (the dynamic that initiates and creates action and provides the power giving continuance of life to all things), **combined with a state of consciousness**. . . . We do not consider form to be only that which can be perceived by the five senses. In fact, we see form from this perspective to be limited, both in its life reality and in its ability to function. We see form from the perspective of the five senses to be useful only for the most basic and fundamental level of identification. From this perspective, there is very little relationship to the full understanding and knowledge of how a unit or form system functions.*

*All energy contains order, organization and life vitality; therefore, **all energy is form**. If one were to use the term “form” to identify that which can be perceived by the five senses and the word “energy” to refer to that aspect of an animal, human, plant or object’s reality that cannot be readily perceived by the five senses, then one would be accurate in the use of these two words. However, if one were to use the word “form” to refer to that which can be perceived by the five senses and assume that form to be a complete unit of reality unto itself, and use the word “energy” to refer to a level beyond form, one would then be using these words inaccurately. From our perspective, form and energy create one unit of reality and are differentiated from one another solely by the individual’s ability to perceive them with his or her sensory system. In short, the differentiation between form and energy within any given object, plant, animal or human lies with the observer.*

The personality, character, emotional makeup, intellectual capacity, strong points and gifts of a human are all form. They are that which gives order, organization and life vitality to his or her consciousness.

Order and organization are the physical structures that create a framework containing a form unit's many parts. In short they define the walls. But we have included the dynamic of life vitality when we refer to form because one of the basic elements of form is action, and it is life vitality that initiates and creates action....

☯ Nature: *In the larger universe and beyond, on its many levels and dimensions, there are a number of groups of consciousness that, although equal in importance, are quite different in expression and function. Together, they make up the full expression of the larger, total life picture. No one piece, no one expression, can be missing or the larger life picture on all its levels and dimensions will cease to exist. One such consciousness has been universally termed "nature." Because of what we are saying about the larger picture not existing without all its parts, you may assume that nature exists as both a reality and a consciousness on all dimensions and all levels.*

*Each group of consciousness has an area of expertise. As we said, all groups are equal in importance but express and function differently from one another. These different expressions and functions are vital to the overall balance of reality. A truly symbiotic relationship exists among the groups and is based on balance—that is, universal balance. The human soul-oriented dynamic is **evolution** in scope and function. Nature is a massive, intelligent consciousness group that expresses and functions within the many areas of **involution**, that is, moving soul-oriented consciousness into any direction or level of form.*

Nature is the conscious reality that supplies order, organization and life vitality for this shift. Nature is the consciousness that is, for your working understanding, intimately linked with form. Nature is the

consciousness that comprises all form on all levels and dimensions. It is form's order, organization and life vitality. Nature is first and foremost a consciousness of equal importance with all other groups of consciousness embodying the full range of reality. It expresses and functions uniquely in that it comprises all form on all dimensions and levels and is responsible for and creates all of form's order, organization and life vitality.

Take a minute to think about this. Nature is saying that it is the order, organization and life vitality of all form and that all form contains consciousness. The first important point nature is making is that all form—that is, anything that has order, organization and life vitality—is nature. This goes well beyond the common notion that nature is trees, birds and rivers. This book is form. Its pages and ink are form. They have order and organization, and their molecules contain life vitality. Therefore, this book, its pages and ink along with the ideas and information included on the pages are all part of that consciousness and intelligence that is nature because nature supplies all order, organization and life vitality. The chair you are currently sitting in (assuming you are sitting) is nature. The walls surrounding you are nature. The windows that look out to the sky, birds and landscape are also nature. Everything in the room you are sitting in is nature.

As if that weren't enough, I'd like to expand this point by calling your attention to the Periodic Table of Elements. (Did traumatic memories from your school years just hit you? My suggestion: Download *The Elements* App by Theodore Gray

PERIODIC TABLE OF ELEMENTS

Trends

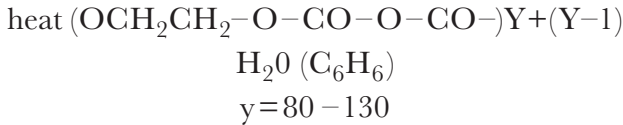
Atomic Number		Atomic Mass, u		Symbol		Name																																				
1	1.0080	1	1.0080	H	Hydrogen	2	4.00260	He	Helium																																	
3	7.0	4	9.012183	Li	Lithium	6	12.011	7	14.007	8	15.999	9	18.9984	10	20.180																											
2	6.941	9.012183	Be	Beryllium	5	10.81	B	Boron	7	14.007	C	Carbon	8	15.999	N	Nitrogen	9	18.9984	O	Oxygen	10	20.180	F	Fluorine	11	22.98976928	12	24.305	Na	Sodium	13	26.9815386	14	28.0855836	15	30.973762	16	32.007	17	35.448	18	39.948
11	22.98976928	12	24.305	Na	Sodium	13	26.9815386	Al	Aluminum	14	28.0855836	Si	Silicon	15	30.973762	P	Phosphorus	16	32.007	S	Sulfur	17	35.448	Cl	Chlorine	18	39.948	Ar	Argon													
19	39.948	20	40.08	21	44.95591	22	47.867	23	50.9415	24	51.996	25	54.93845	26	55.845	27	58.93319	28	58.693	29	63.546	30	65.38	31	69.723	32	72.63	33	74.92159	34	78.972	35	79.904	36	83.80							
4	39.948	40	40.08	41	44.95591	42	47.867	43	50.9415	44	51.996	45	54.93845	46	55.845	47	58.93319	48	58.693	49	63.546	50	65.38	51	69.723	52	72.63	53	74.92159	54	78.972	55	79.904	56	83.80							
37	85.468	38	87.62	39	88.90584	40	91.224	41	92.90637	42	95.95	43	96.90636	44	101.1	45	102.9055	46	106.42	47	107.868	48	112.41	49	114.818	50	118.71	51	121.760	52	127.6	53	136.9045	54	131.29							
5	85.468	38	87.62	39	88.90584	40	91.224	41	92.90637	42	95.95	43	96.90636	44	101.1	45	102.9055	46	106.42	47	107.868	48	112.41	49	114.818	50	118.71	51	121.760	52	127.6	53	136.9045	54	131.29							
55	132.905	56	137.33	57	138.905	58	140.116	59	140.908	60	144.24	61	144.913	62	150.4	63	151.964	64	157.25	65	158.907	66	162.500	67	164.93	68	167.26	69	168.935	70	173.05	71	174.9668									
6	132.905	56	137.33	57	138.905	58	140.116	59	140.908	60	144.24	61	144.913	62	150.4	63	151.964	64	157.25	65	158.907	66	162.500	67	164.93	68	167.26	69	168.935	70	173.05	71	174.9668									
87	223.01	88	226.025	89	227.028	90	232.038	91	233.04	92	238.0289	93	238.0289	94	244.06	95	244.06	96	247.07	97	247.07	98	251.07	99	252.0830	100	257.0	101	258.0	102	259.0	103	266.0									
7	223.01	88	226.025	89	227.028	90	232.038	91	233.04	92	238.0289	93	238.0289	94	244.06	95	244.06	96	247.07	97	247.07	98	251.07	99	252.0830	100	257.0	101	258.0	102	259.0	103	266.0									

National Center for Biotechnology Information. Periodic Table of Elements. <https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/periodic-table/>.

and watch the Table of the Elements come to life. It even includes special music by Tom Lehrer.)

Every element listed on this chart is found within nature. They are the fundamental materials of which all matter is composed. Every element on this chart—every molecule—has its own order, organization and life vitality. By combining them, we get vinyl, Naugahyde, nylon, polyester—and even plastic. The materials for these products are all found in nature and are listed on the Periodic Table. It's just that they are combined in a way that produces what we call vinyl, nylon, polyester and plastic.

For example: We would all probably agree that Dacron is not a natural fiber. It is a synthetic polyester fiber, and we don't harvest polyester fibers from a field. The following is the chemical makeup of Dacron:



Molecular weight: 15,000 to 24,000

Dacron is nothing more than carbon (C), hydrogen (H) and oxygen (O), all elements found in nature, that have been specially combined in a lab by a process called polymerization. (Polymerization is a fancy scientific term for the chemical process used to make grossly fat molecules.)

Acetylene is an unsaturated hydrocarbon. It is made up of hydrogen (H) and carbon (C). When you add to it chlorine (Cl), you get neoprene rubber. When you add nitrogen (N) to

acetylene, you get an interestingly odd combination of products: fertilizers, weed killers and melamine plastics.

Ethylene ($\text{H}_2\text{C} = \text{CH}_2$) is also made up of hydrogen and carbon. Add acetylene to it and you produce acrylic fibers. Add both acetylene and chlorine to ethylene and you produce vinyl plastics.

Propylene is $\text{H}_3\text{C} - \text{CH} = \text{CH}_2$. From it we get plastics.

From butadiene ($\text{H}_2\text{C} = \text{CH} - \text{CH} = \text{CH}_2$) we get nitrite rubber and ABS plastics.

All of this is to show you that the elements that are combined in different ways to create synthetic materials can be found on the Periodic Table of Elements, and everything listed on this chart may be found within nature.

Generally, when I bring up Dacron and plastic, a debate breaks out. Just because the elements exist and can be combined in this way, should we combine them? Isn't this manipulation of nature at its worst? And look at the mess these kinds of products have caused our environment. I absolutely agree that just because we humans can figure out how to combine certain natural elements to create a new compound does not automatically mean the elements should be combined. All we have to do is look at the contents of a landfill to figure this out. But consider this: What if the chemist in his laboratory was working as a co-creative scientist in a conscious partnership with nature. The products that would come out of this lab would be environmentally sound because nature would not consider a development that was out of

balance with its immediate local environment and the larger global environment. To operate in such an imbalanced manner would be contrary to everything that nature is and how it functions. So the chemist functioning as a co-creative scientist would be directed by nature to develop products that would address the issue at hand and be environmentally responsive. This is what co-creative science is all about.

The difficulty begins with how we perceive what constitutes nature: consider what we think when we use the terms “natural” and “unnatural.” Generally, we consider something to be natural if it is a material or element that is found growing or existing on the planet that is then modified and used by humans. For example, raw cotton is harvested from the field, spun into fiber threads that then become cloth. This eventually becomes a shirt. We consider an all-cotton shirt natural —yet you can’t go out into a field and harvest a shirt. We consider something to be unnatural when two or more natural elements, such as carbon and hydrogen, are combined by man to create a compound that bears little or no resemblance to its original elements, such as vinyl. Other examples are cement, rayon, acrylic fiber and...

A garden. A garden is not natural. It is man-made. You don’t go out in the wild and find a free-growing vegetable garden containing cabbage, beans, tomatoes, snap peas and watermelon. We invented gardens. We got tired of all that hunting and foraging and decided to centralize our food supply. So we collected seed from various plants growing in

the wild and planted the seed in one, easy-to-access location. Thus, we created something that did not previously exist.

I once read that someone said a garden is man's attempt to conquer nature. Whoever said this had a point. Plants in the wild automatically grow and thrive where conditions are conducive to their growth. When they are centralized in a garden location, they are removed from their natural supportive environment and placed in an "unnatural" environment. This creates imbalance. Traditional and organic gardeners attempt to "conquer" the situation by restoring a balance that accommodates their definition of a garden and how it is to function. Co-creative gardeners work in a conscious, equal partnership with nature, much as the co-creative scientist works with nature, to create an environmentally balanced biosphere on all levels—seen and unseen—that provides a new support system for all the plants and other life in that garden.

To sum up this first point about nature being all form: When we speak of nature, we are talking about everything around us. The world of nature is not just relegated to parks, farms, countryside, animals and wilderness. It includes apartment buildings, asphalt, shopping malls and street corners.

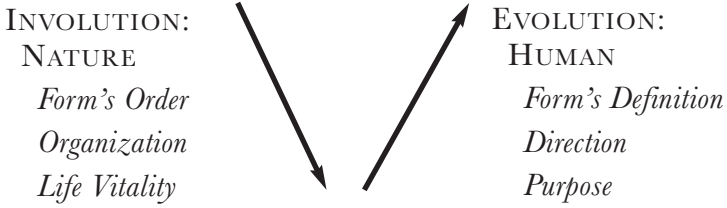
The second point nature is making in its definitions of form and nature is that in order for anything to be form, it must have consciousness combined with its order, organization and life vitality. This means that if you are holding some object in your hand and it has order, organization and life vitality, it must also have consciousness—otherwise, it would

fall somewhere outside the range of form and you would not be able to perceive it under any circumstances. Therefore:

- If it is form, it has consciousness.
- If it has consciousness, it has intelligence.
- If it has intelligence, it can communicate.
- If we can discover the common bridge between nature and us for communication, we can communicate our ideas to this thing in our hand and it can communicate its relevant information back to us.

Trust me, it has something to communicate. It knows what it is, what defines its balance, what it needs to restore and maintain that balance at any given point in time, how it fits and functions in its immediate environment and how it connects with the larger picture—both on this planet and beyond. It is because of the quality and depth of that information that the co-creative scientist seeks a working partnership with nature in every aspect of his research and development.



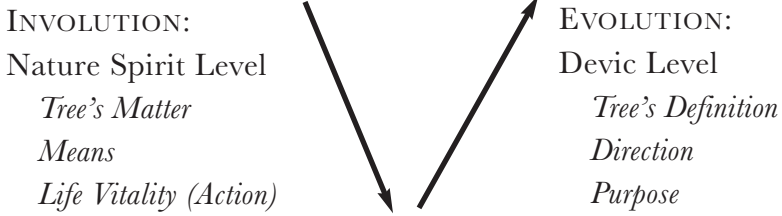


INVOLUTION/EVOLUTION BALANCE

ALL CONSCIOUSNESS (human and nature) seeks to reflect and flow fully through balanced form. It is a natural dynamic contained within all life. This brings me to something I call “involution/evolution balance” or “i/e balance” and it provides the essential key to our partnership with nature.

Because nature supplies form’s order, organization and life vitality, and because all form has combined with it consciousness, all matter has inherent in it two dynamics: an involution dynamic (the form’s matter, means and action) that is supplied by nature and an evolution dynamic (the form’s blueprint: its definition, direction and purpose). These two dynamics work in partnership, and, when left undisturbed in the wild, for example, this partnership functions in balance. That is, the involution and evolution dynamics are synchronized with one another, thus creating a state of balance.





A Tree's I/E Balance

In this first example, the evolution dynamic originates from a tree's devic level (a specific level of function within nature intelligence that is explained in chapter 2), and from this level the tree's definition, direction and purpose are established. When considering trees, rocks, meadows, rivers, oceans and sky—objects that we would commonly consider “nature”—nature not only supplies the order, organization and life vitality (the involution dynamic) but also the object's definition, direction and purpose (the evolution dynamic). The i/e balance of a tree is contained within the tree itself.

Nature's devic function supplies what we call its consciousness and gives to a tree its definition, direction and purpose. The nature spirit level (another level of function within nature intelligence that is explained in chapter 2) completes the i/e balance by supplying the matter, means and action for fulfilling the goals set by its definition, direction and purpose.

The evolution dynamic in nature intelligence functions as the architect, drawing up the blueprints. The involution dynamic “builds” the structure according to those plans and maintains that structure throughout its full life cycle according

to the architectural patterns and rhythms. This is i/e balance as it is demonstrated in trees, mountains and clouds. What we see functioning before us is a full reflection of form's definition, direction and purpose.

A Human's I/E Balance

INVOLUTION:

Devic Level

*Creates the blueprint
from the soul's data.*

Nature Spirit Level

*Implements the blueprint
by providing the needed
matter, means and action
(order, organization and
life vitality).*



EVOLUTION:

Human Soul

*Provides our life's
definition, direction
and purpose.*



The human being provides us with another example of i/e balance. Prior to conception our soul establishes the definition, direction and purpose for a specific lifetime on all of our levels: physical, emotional, mental and soul. The devic level of nature intelligence then creates the “blueprint” based on our soul’s information and the nature spirit level implements these blueprints by providing the matter, means and range of action required by our soul. The result is that our soul has the physical vehicle and the emotional and intellectual abilities to fully reflect and function according to our soul’s definition, direction and purpose.

Throughout our life cycle, the devic level will modify the makeup, patterns and rhythms according to how our soul

expands and modifies its original definition, direction and purpose. In other words, throughout our lifetime, there is a continuous communication between the human soul (evolution input) and the person's nature intelligence (involution input). A free-flowing communication between these two dynamics creates within us i/e balance at all times. This results in our soul having what is needed to continue to fully reflect and flow without constriction or interference.

Nature's definition of "consciousness" and "soul" will help explain this interaction between our soul and nature.

☯ CONSCIOUSNESS: *The concept of consciousness has been vastly misunderstood. To put it simply, consciousness is the working state of the soul. An individual's personality, character, emotional makeup, intellectual capacity, strong points and gifts are all part of that person's form. They are that which give order, organization and life vitality to consciousness.*

We refer to the "working state of the soul" because there are levels of soul existence that are different than the working state and can best be described as a simple and complete state of being.

Humans tend to think of the soul as being something that exists far away from them because they are in form. This is an illusion. The core of any life is the soul. It cannot exist apart from itself. Like the heart in the human body, it is an essential part of the life unit. A human in form is, by definition, a soul fused with nature. Personality and character are a part of the nature/form package that allows the soul to function and to express itself in form. Personality and character are not the soul; they are the order and organization of that soul.

Human consciousness physically fuses into the body system first through its electrical system and then through its central nervous system and the brain. This is another aspect of nature supplying order, organization and life vitality. Consciousness itself cannot be measured or monitored as a reality. But what can be measured and monitored is the order, organization and life vitality of consciousness. Consciousness is the working state of the soul and is not form. It is nature, not consciousness, that supplies form.

We wish to add a thought here so that there will be no confusion about the relationship between nature and the human soul. Nature does not, with its own power, superimpose its interpretation of form onto a human soul. We have said that nature and the human soul are intimately and symbiotically related. This implies a give and take. No one consciousness group operates in isolation of the whole or of all other parts of the whole. When a soul chooses to move within the vast band of form, it communicates its intent and purpose to nature. It is from this that nature derives the specifics that will be needed for the soul's blueprint so that it may function in form. It is a perfect marriage of purpose with the order, organization and life vitality that is needed for the fulfillment of that purpose. Nature, therefore, does not define purpose and impose it on a human soul. It orders, organizes and gives life vitality to purpose for expression in form.

☯ SOUL: *It is difficult to define “soul” since—at its point of central essence—the soul is beyond form. Consequently, it is beyond words. However, it is not beyond any specific life form. As we have said, an individual is not separate or distant from his or her soul. Souls, as individuated life forces, were created and fused with form at*

the moment of the Big Bang. Beyond form, souls are also beyond the notion of creation. So we refer to the moment of the Big Bang in terms of the soul, since this gives you a description of soul that will be most meaningful to you. The Big Bang was the nature designed event providing order, organization and life vitality used to differentiate soul into sparks of individuated light energy....

The Big Bang: The gigantic explosion to which the universe, as we know it, began. According to scientists, it occurred between 12 and 20 billion years ago. It brought about two major dynamics: individuation within all matter and the fusion of soul to form.

The glitch to our human i/e balance is free will. Nature's intelligence has as its operating foundation *balance*. *Free will* is the operating foundation for human intelligence. Because of our free will we need to learn to think, gain knowledge, discuss, debate, challenge, argue, ask questions, consider and make decisions. Nature doesn't do any of this. It doesn't have to. It automatically responds to form's reality. The matter, means and action it provides is for the purpose of achieving and maintaining a form's i/e balance and its soul's goals.

So our soul lays down the blueprint for our existence and nature provides the form that facilitates that blueprint. It's this simple. Except we humans have this free will dynamic that can pop up and take over at any time. Free will is an excellent part of our intelligence that can add adventure, joy, beauty, excitement, loyalty and dedication to purpose. Ideally all of this is synchronized to and a part of our i/e balance.

However, the tricky thing about free will is that it is *free* will. We can take all that thinking, knowledge, discussion, debating, arguing, questioning, consideration and decision making in any direction we want. Just as nature intelligence instinctively functions with balance, human intelligence naturally functions with free will. Even if we choose not to think or learn or make decisions and otherwise avoid, we have freely chosen this path.

And here's where our life can become especially interesting. We have the freedom to make our free will jump right into the middle of our i/e balance and use it to distort our intuitive understanding of the soul's definition, direction and purpose. What if we got a glimpse of our soul's information and, for whatever reason, decided we didn't like it. We wanted a different life. Suppose we perceive that the life based on the information as we understood it would be too tough or too tedious. So we insert our will right into the middle of the i/e balance and we try to modify our definition, direction and purpose according to our conscious preference and desire. Now nature has two competing sets of definition, direction and purpose to deal with—the dominant soul set and the new free will set. As we move through our daily lives, we override the soul information with our conscious desires and at some point we find that things are not moving too smoothly for us physically, emotionally and/or mentally. That is because we are trying to move one set of evolutionary dynamics through a body and life that was designed for another set—the soul

set. We are no longer operating within i/e balance, and as a result we experience all kinds of challenges and roadblocks.

Our i/e balance rests not only on our ability to trust our own soul, but also in our ability to consciously perceive and translate our soul's definition, direction and purpose and not use our free will to try to manipulate the blueprint. Instead we must use our free will to creatively move with our blueprint, solving the challenges as we go.

This is one of the major things we are here on Earth to learn: the marrying of our conscious selves to our soul and the full fusion of this physically, emotionally, and mentally. I am not implying that this is easy. Well, actually, if it was just left up to our soul and nature, we would experience perfect i/e balance easily. It is undisciplined free will that adds the elements of surprise, confusion and challenge. As we develop our free will, we expand our understanding to include the wisdom to know when and how to appropriately apply free will. At this point, our experience of i/e balance will be unencumbered and beyond words.

A Garden's Balance

There are many different kinds of gardens: herb gardens, rock gardens, perennial gardens, wildflower gardens, moss gardens, Zen sand gardens...and vegetable gardens. When you are working in a co-creative partnership, you cannot simply announce, "Hey, let's put in a garden!" and expect that you will hear anything back from nature other than, "What

A Garden's I/E Balance

INVOLUTION:

Devic Level

Creates the blueprint from data supplied by humans.

Nature Spirit Level

Implements the blueprint by providing the needed matter, means and action (order, organization and life vitality).



EVOLUTION:

Humans

We provide the definition, direction and purpose used by nature to establish a garden's blueprint.

kind?” The definition, direction and purpose of this garden must be supplied, and you are the only one who can do that. Nature will not do your job for you.

Remember, gardens are a human invention, and as the human in this partnership you have decisions to make. What kind of garden do you want and what are your goals for that garden? Is it to be a quiet walking garden for two adults with lots of flower beds and benches or a vegetable garden that includes a play area for your three children, ages 3, 6 and 8? Nature creates the order, organization and life vitality that will best respond to the information you supply.

Why would you want to establish a co-creative partnership in the first place? Why would you go through the trouble? Well, once you have supplied the definition, direction and purpose for your garden, nature will design and implement with you a garden that will be *in balance*. And this is why you go through all that trouble. When you have balance, as in the

human body, everything is synchronized and operates more smoothly. No more guesswork. No more trying one trick after another hoping to finally solve that insect problem and achieve success. And lastly, the quality of food that comes from such a garden contains the same level of balance that is reflected in the garden.

Once we establish a co-creative partnership, we have the finest experts in balance who know what's needed to achieve and maintain balance. One of the most difficult things we have to learn in the partnership is to stop trying to do nature's job. We are very used to making decisions, setting goals *and* deciding the best way to achieve our goals. But equal partnership does not mean that we are equally capable of doing nature's job. It means our role in the partnership is equal in importance to nature's role—but the two roles are very different and they weave together equally.


At first blush, it seems like a co-creative partnership is more work than it's worth. In actuality, it takes a tremendous burden off our shoulders. We no longer have to think of everything ourselves. For example, gardeners now have a partner who can tell them the best location for their garden, what vegetables to plant, where to plant them, what interplanting to do, when to plant, when to thin, when to water and how much.... And all of that information creates the garden's balance. This spells success.

Some assume that a co-creative partnership means that they announce the definition, direction and purpose and then

sit back, beer in hand, and watch little nature spirits run around doing all the work. After all, I am saying that nature supplies the matter, means and action. Doesn't this mean that in a garden, for example, nature manifests the right tools and then gets out there and starts turning soil? Short answer: no. It's a *working* partnership. Nature tells us what is needed to create this garden. That includes what tools are best for achieving our goal in light of the variables, working conditions and our abilities. An eighty-year-old may feel inspired to ask the neighbor's teenage son for help while a thirty-year-old may be using a rototiller. And your partner won't suggest that your four-year-old help dig a sandbox area with a front-end loader. This is not a suggestion that reflects balance. Instead it will suggest a child-safe tool or activity that will give him a sense of helping and achievement.

A Garden from Nature's Perspective

After working with nature for several gardening seasons, I had a funny feeling that nature and I had a different understanding when we each used the word "garden." So I asked nature for its definition.

 *A GARDEN IS ANY ENVIRONMENT that is initiated by humans, given its purpose, definition and direction by humans, and maintained with the help of humans. For nature to consider something to be a garden, we must see humans actively involved in all three of these areas. It is the human who calls for a garden to exist. Once the call is made,*

nature responds accordingly to support that call because a garden exists through the use of form.

Humans tend to look at gardens as an expression of nature. Nature looks at all gardens as an expression of humans. They are initiated, defined and maintained by humans. When humans dominate all aspects and elements of the life of the garden, we consider this environment to be human dominant. We consider an environment to be “nature friendly” when humans understand that the elements used to create gardens are form and operate best under the laws of nature, and when humans have the best intentions of trying to cooperate with what they understand these laws to be. When humans understand that nature is a full partner in the design and operation of that environment—and act on this knowledge—we consider the environment to be actively moving toward a balance between involution and evolution.

As a result, the nature-friendly environment supports and adds to the overall health and balance of all it comprises as well as the larger whole. It also functions within the prevailing laws of nature (the laws of form) that govern all form on the planet and in its universe. In short, when a garden operates in a balance between involution and evolution, it is in step with the overall operating dynamics of the whole; the various parts that comprise a garden operate optimally, and the garden as a whole operates optimally.

Nature does not consider the cultivation of a plot of land as the criteria for a garden. Nature considers a garden to exist wherever humans define, initiate and interact with form to create a specialized environment. This is the underlying intent of a garden and the reason behind the development of specialized environments such as vegetable gardens.

Nature applies the word “garden” to any environment that meets these criteria. It does not have to be growing in soil. It only needs to be an environment that is defined, initiated and appropriately maintained by humans.

This is what nature means when it uses the word “garden.” The laws and principles that nature applies in the co-creative vegetable garden are equally applicable to any kind of garden, whether it is growing in soil or otherwise.... The principles and processes apply across the board because all gardens are operating with the same dynamics—only the specific form elements that make up each garden have changed.

What are some of these other specialized environments or soil-less gardens? According to nature, a garden has just three criteria: It is initiated by humans, given its definition, direction and purpose by humans, and maintained with the help of humans. Well, managed forests, landscaping, farms, and potted plants would be gardens that grow in soil. Soil-less gardens could include waterways, ponds, the atmosphere, aquariums, livestock ranches, trout farms and a landscaping business. But nature’s gardens also include a swimming pool, the home, large and small businesses, individual offices within a business, a classroom, a college study program, a children’s playground, an assembly line, a car, a computer, a computer program, a human body, a printing company, NASA, a toxic waste dump, a nuclear waste storage facility, community landfills, parking lots, national parks, the New Jersey Turnpike, an infectious disease research lab, a pharmaceutical research lab,

a police crime lab, an athletic training program, an artist's canvas... All of these soil-less "environments" meet nature's criteria for a garden. This is actually good news. In order to establish a co-creative partnership with nature, you won't have to quit your job and buy land in the country. Stay right where you are.

Remember:

- Where there is form, there is nature.
- Where nature and humans interact, there is a garden.
- Where there is a garden, there is an implied co-creative partnership.
- And where there is a co-creative partnership, there is the potential for i/e balance.



ABOUT PERELANDRA AND THE AUTHOR

PERELANDRA CONSISTS of seventy-seven acres of open fields, meadows and woods in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. Machaelle has resided at Perelandra since 1973 and has done her research with her nature partner since 1976. Over these many years, she and nature have written and/or developed:

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In 1981, as a result of Machaelle's work, Perelandra established an international outreach and business department to provide the tools for those who wish to include co-creative science in their environment, work and lives.

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When humans consider solutions for restoring balance to an out-of-balance world, they need only access the intelligence of nature for answers.

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