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CROSSING NEW THRESHOLDS®

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IMAGINAL CELLS: Food for Thought by Greg Jahn

The metamorphosis of a caterpillar changing into something as radically different as a butterfly is a powerful metaphor for societal transformation.

Inside a cocoon, new cells just start popping up. They are not the original caterpillar cells changing into these new cells, rather they seem to come out of nowhere. These new cells are called **imaginal cells**. They are so completely different from the original worm cells that they are initially perceived like an enemy virus and attacked for being so foreign and not fitting in. But the imaginal cells just keep showing up, multiplying, until they begin to find each other and cluster together. Like attracts like, and the clusters begin to join up with other clusters.

Pretty soon, the caterpillar's immune system cannot destroy them fast enough and more and more of the imaginal cells survive. They're all resonating at the same frequency, all passing information from one to another there inside the chrysalis. Eventually, they get to be a large enough community and they switch gears from simply being a group of like-minded cells into the programming cells of the butterfly. They are no longer imaginal cells but become butterfly anatomy cells. A wave of information travels throughout the system until at some point, the entire long string of imaginal cells suddenly realizes all together that it is something different from the caterpillar. Something New! ...and in that realization is the shout of the birth of the butterfly! (see Norie Huddle's site www.bestgame.org).

The people who awake to the new possibility of a more cooperative world are like the imaginal cells of their own society. The process of societal transformation starts with the emergence of these individuals who carry within them the seeds of the future. They are "imaginal" in that they carry in their innovation an aspect of the image of the shared future of their society.

Working together we can do what no one of us can do alone. If you're feeling alone and solitary, with a growing unease about our increasingly unsustainable planetary trajectory, join a cluster of the like-minded.

Engage in dynamic collectives, like The Good Earth Market [Billings, MT], experimenting in creative cooperation, the key to the conscious evolution of humanity itself.

Link up with other clusters. Our clustering community is part of the 're-localization' movement and the greater collective leap into a whole new acceleration of transformational activity. IMAGINE!, together, a co-created alternative future.