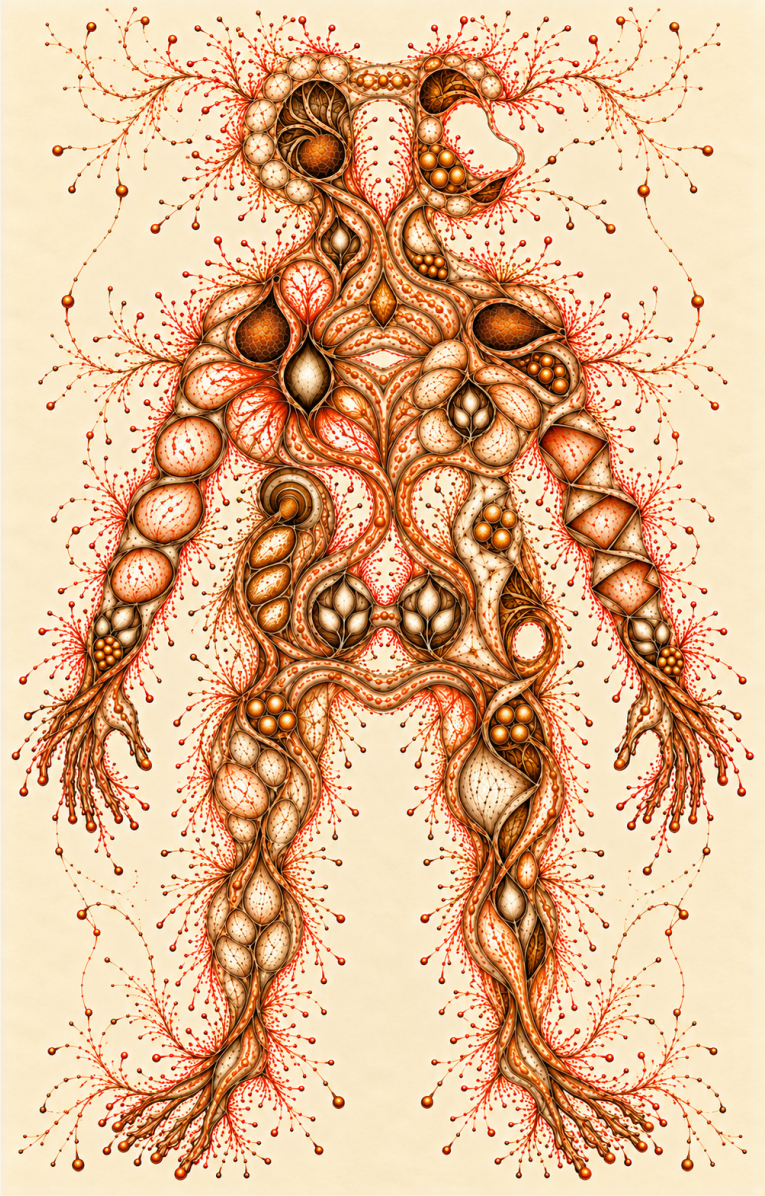
SOCIETY OF SNAKE PEOPLE

THE DEEP SERPENT SCROLLS

An illustrated origin book of the human within



An imagined translation from the Three-Million-Year Archives

ILLUSTRATED FICTION / FIRST READING EDITION

READ THIS SIDE OF THE ARCHIVE

A note from the translators

This is a contemporary work of illustrated fiction, satire, and philosophical inquiry. Its three-million-year provenance, ancient prisoner-observer, surviving plates, and translations are invented. No historical artifact or deciphered language is being presented as authentic.

Within that fiction, an observer repeatedly incised these forms into a captive surface. Later custodians took impressions. Later still, translators supplied English. The creature diagrams remain unlettered; the surrounding words are our present attempt to make them useful.

The small archive marks are a newly invented visual notation, not a recovered alphabet. Contact opens a path; Understanding separates observation from story; Reciprocity connects; Agency branches. Their meanings are editorial conventions.

Human parasite is the Society's metaphor for a pattern of borrowing, protecting, avoiding, or controlling. The sixteen forms are a chosen map of habits, not a scientific inventory of personality or genes. The Snake People who observe them remain susceptible to the same patterns. The reader may question the map, the translators, and the Society.



CONTACT



UNDERSTANDING



RECIPROCITY



AGENCY

Reading edition 0.1 / 25 October 2026 / 8 x 10 inches. Existing AI-assisted artwork is reproduced as supplied; this is not a press-ready facsimile.

The observers and the observed

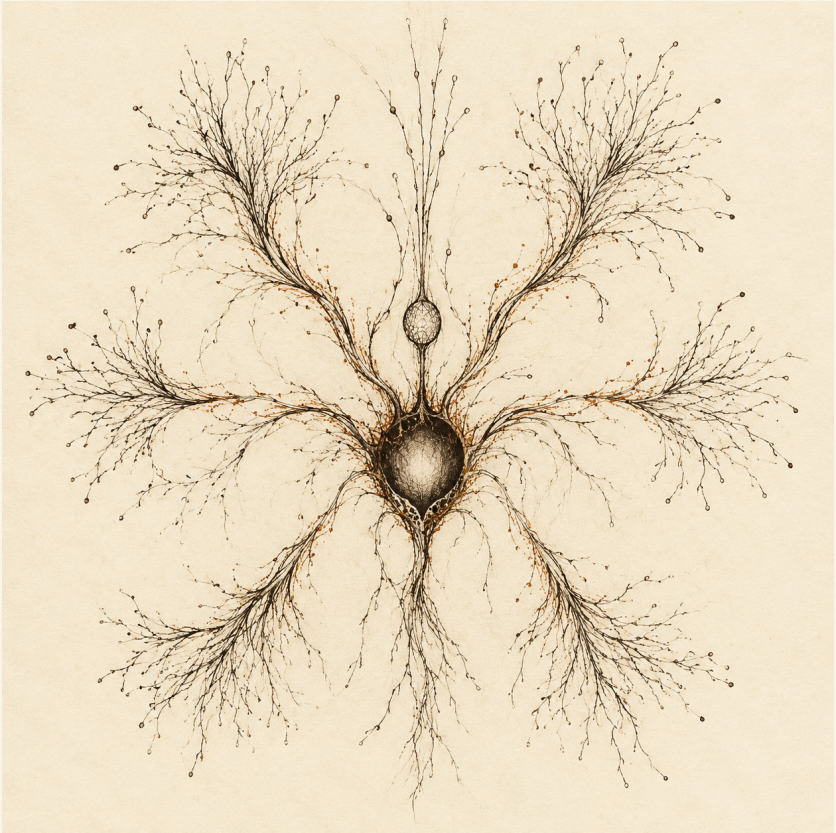
The Society's paradox is deliberate: 'A Snake Person is a person who is not a human.' In these scrolls, this is permission to question a defining label. It does not deny anyone's humanity, dignity, or rights.

The observers began by studying beings they believed were unlike themselves. Their most difficult discovery was that the instruments of observation were made of the same habits.

This book stands on its own. Read its plates as relationships: each offers a capacity, a possible cost, and a question. No diagram can tell you who another person truly is.

Route through the archive	Pages
The observer, the kernel, and the need	4-6
Attraction, entanglement, coordination, release	7-10
Eight paired observations / sixteen forms	11-18
The nested human and its four functions	19-23
Awareness, Participation, Awakening	24-26
Unknowns, conversation, theology, invitation	27-31
Editorial notes and credits	32

Before there was a mirror



The first surviving story describes an observer confined to a room whose wall accepted a scratch but offered no answer.

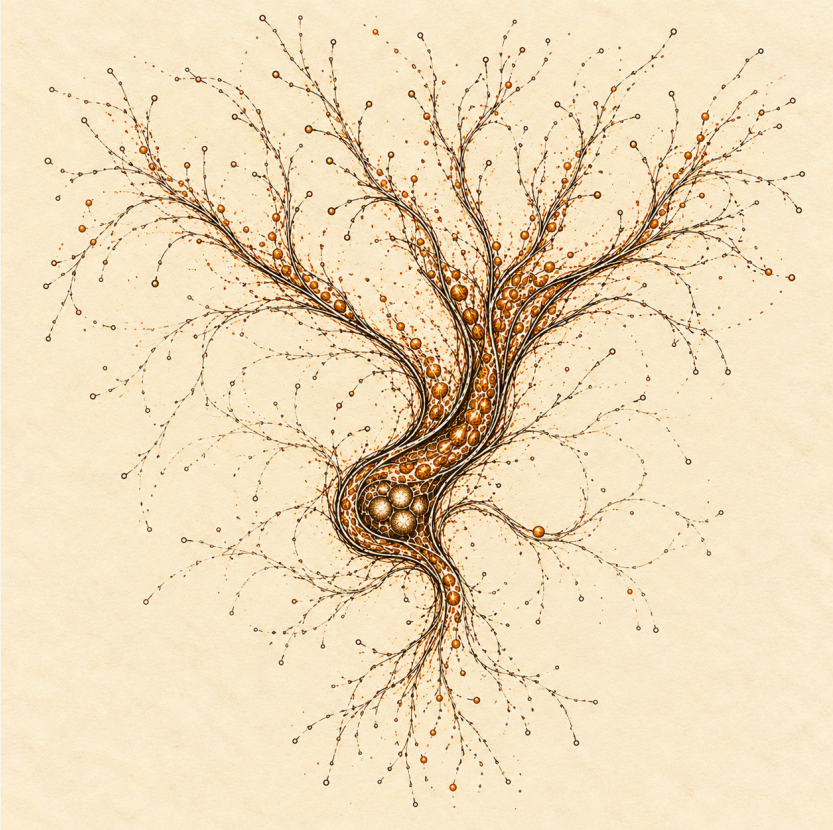
The observer watched the visitors: one gathered every conversation; another vanished within it; a third offered help that somehow became an instruction. Beneath their ordinary appearances, the observer imagined different structures doing the work.

There was no mirror in the room.

The first diagrams therefore recorded everybody except the artist.

The earliest plate bears a second set of scratches. Their author is unknown.

The keeper of the old trick



The observer returned to the same marks until the wall seemed to remember them. Inside each imagined form lived a keeper of one successful movement.

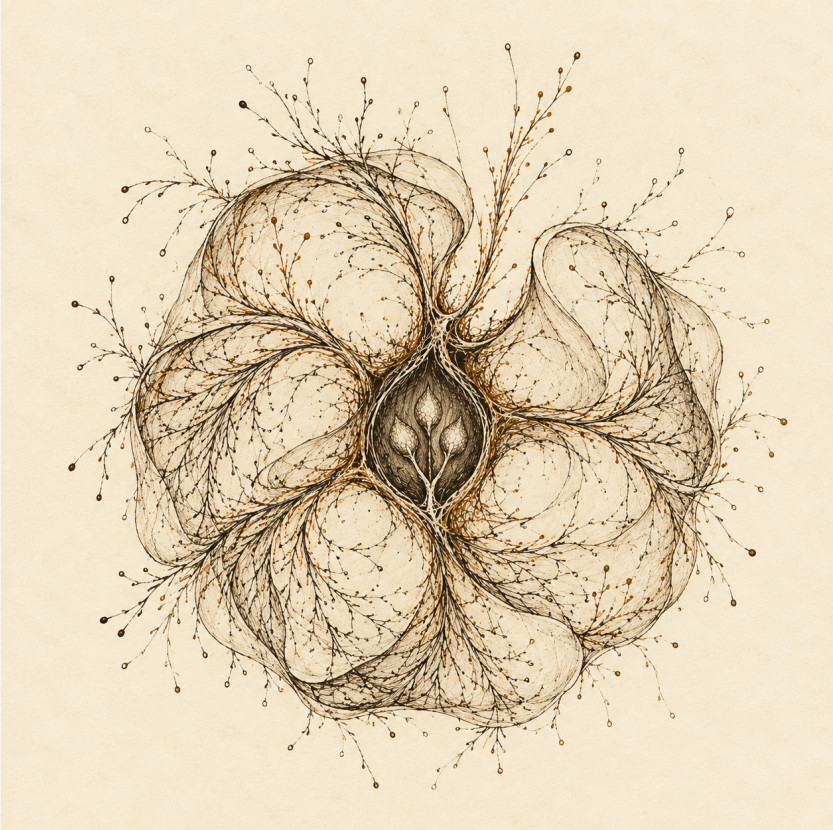
When the world changed, the keeper repeated it. When the movement failed, the keeper repeated it with conviction.

The archive calls this the Replication Kernel: a fictional inheritance of useful tendencies and unfinished possibilities. Experience and practice can alter how a form participates.

The keeper was not cruel. It was very experienced at yesterday.

The oldest movement was rarely the only movement. It was simply the first to answer.

A need before a flaw



A form may ask for attention because quiet feels like disappearance. It may withdraw because contact has become more than it can hold.

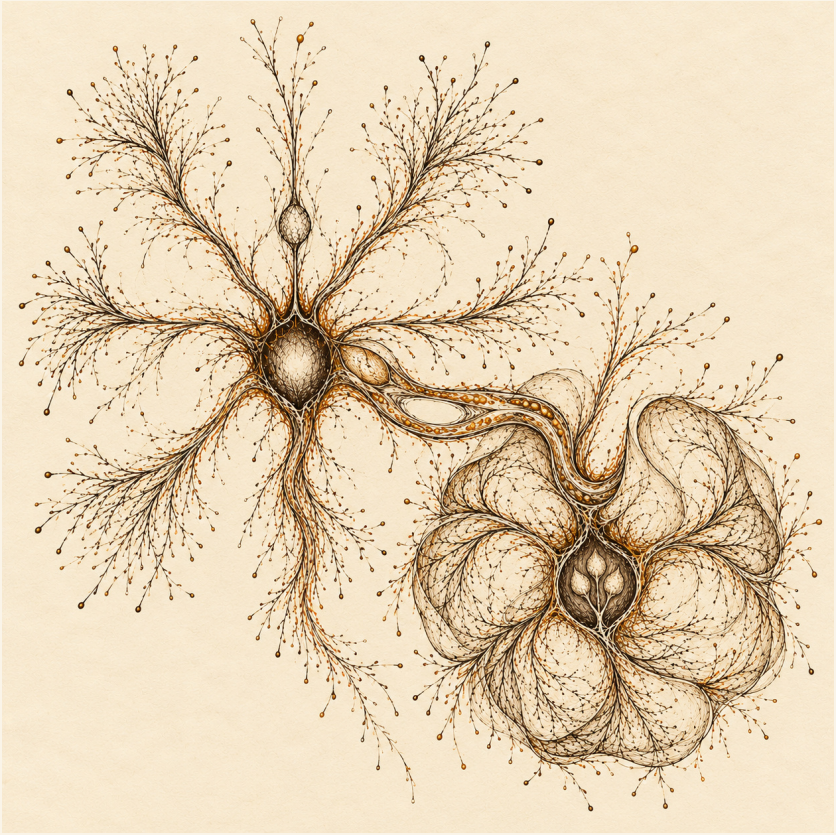
A familiar response can help, then overreach. Another capacity may be missing, unlearned, exhausted, or difficult to access.

The observer therefore asked: What capacity is available here?

Understanding the need did not cancel the consequence. A boundary could remain. A promise could be revised. A repair could still be necessary.

Ask about circumstances as well as behavior. The smallest useful change may be clearer instructions, accepted help, or rest.

Attraction



I am drawn to a capacity in you that I recognize I lack within myself.

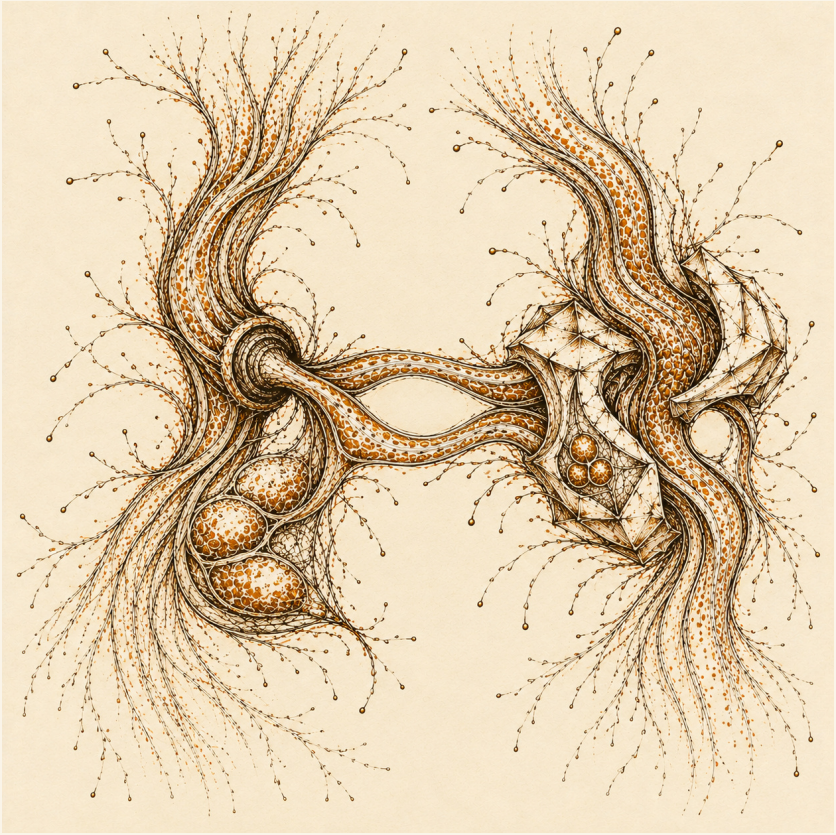
Before that sentence, there may only be relief: a rhythm that steadies, nourishment that arrives, pressure that falls, room in which movement becomes possible.

In these stories, a being may desire what another can do before recognizing the other as separate.

Desire opens a relationship. It does not establish its terms.

The form recognized a possibility before it recognized a companion.

Entanglement



One pathway became two pathways. One movement began to change two lives.

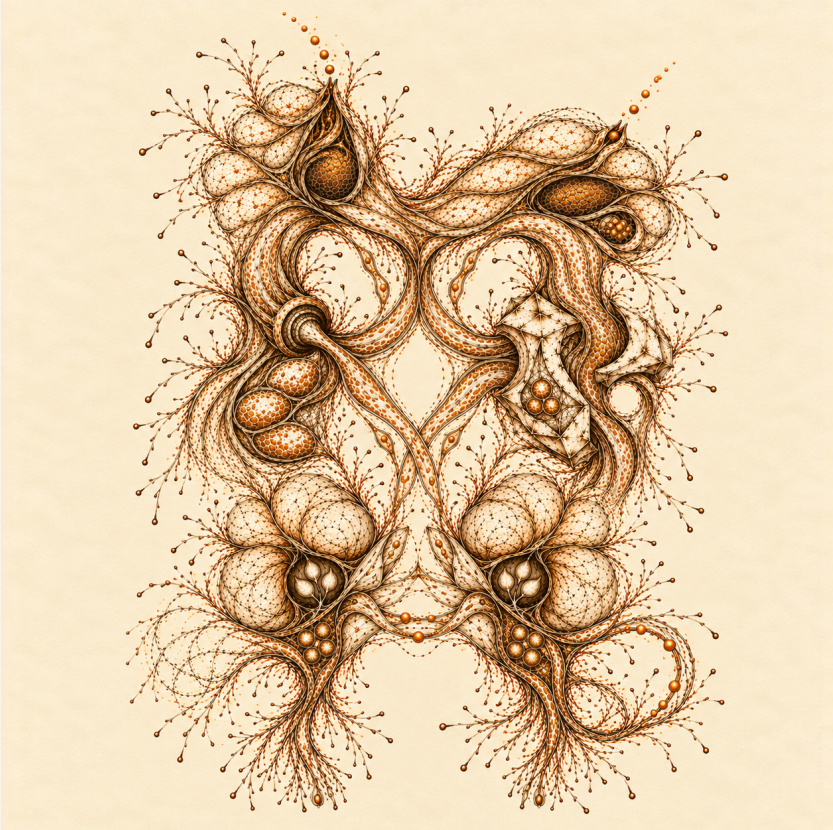
At first the dependence felt like relief. Later, the same connection could carry nourishment, expectation, resentment, or all three.

Entanglement names interdependence in this story. It may sustain the beings or restrict them. Its meaning depends on the relationship and its effects.

The question changed: What happens to you when I change?

Two lives may share a current without sharing a destination.

Coordination



Coordination began when the beings could adjust the shared movement.

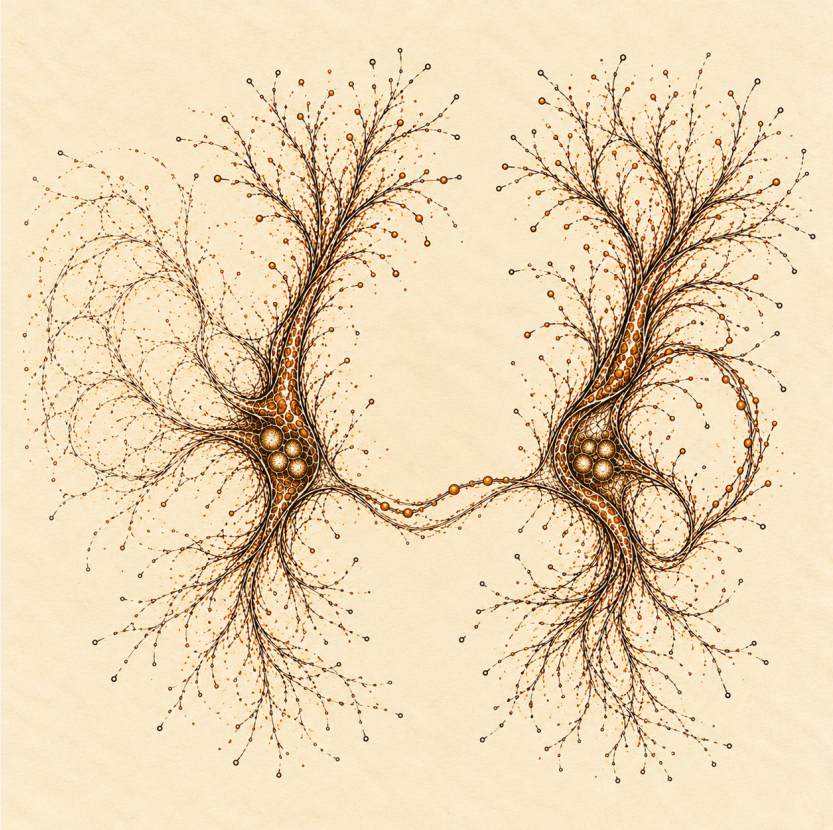
A request could be heard without becoming an order. A limit could be stated without becoming a disappearance. Support could be accepted without promising repayment that had never been discussed.

The whole grew more capable. Its parts still needed rest.

The observer asked a second question: This worked for the whole. What did it cost one of the parts?

The bridge had to be maintained from both banks.

Release



A system that once made movement possible may begin to hold a being still.

Release may mean changing an agreement, returning a responsibility, loosening one connection, or leaving. Its consequences may be tender, difficult, and uneven.

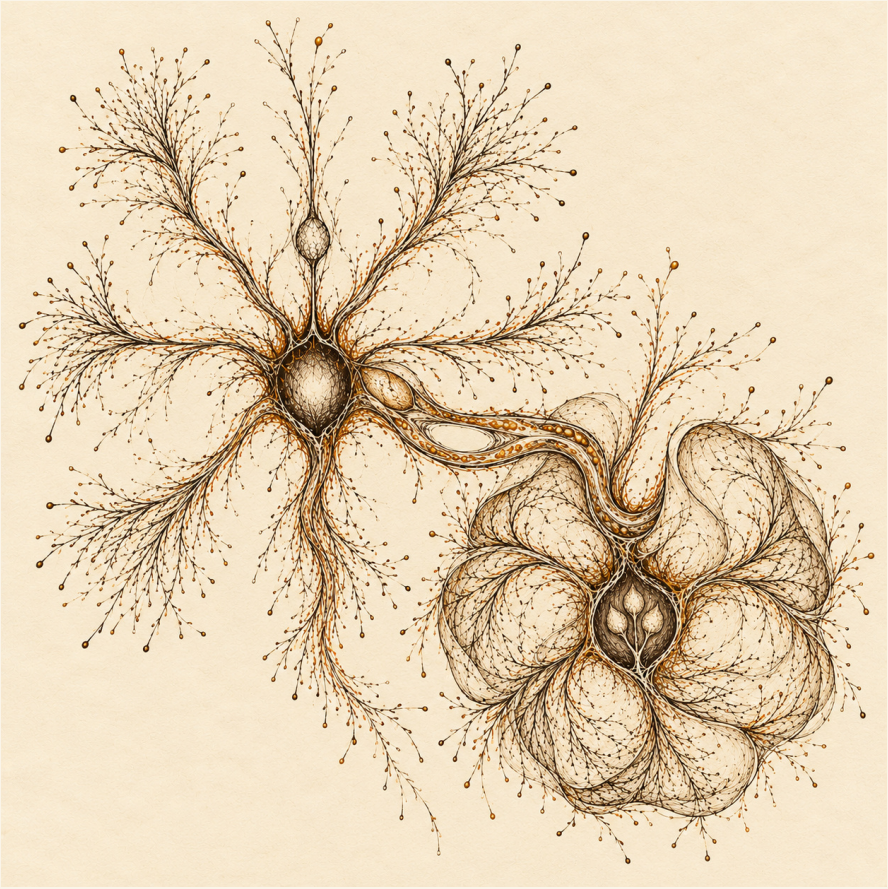
Independence is a possible resting place. Another attraction is possible too. Neither is required to justify the release.

The archive left the final door open. The committee requested a closing statement.

A door that opens only from one side is a different kind of architecture.

The Shared Breath

Energy Vampire / Wary Wallflower



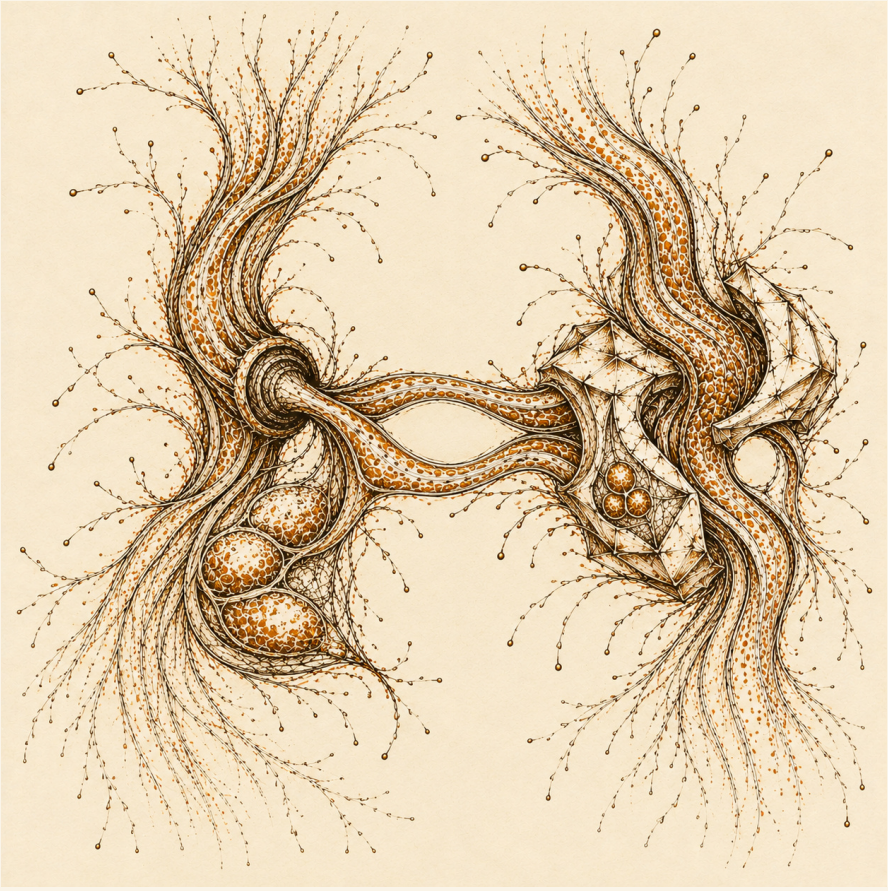
One reached into every room for a sign that it existed. The other folded a room around itself. Each knew something the other needed: how to invite a presence, and how to leave space around it.

The receiver can ask for attention. The shelter can say how much contact is possible. Neither must disappear for the other to breathe.

Do you have room for this conversation?

The Shared Load

Human Leech / Salt Sprayer



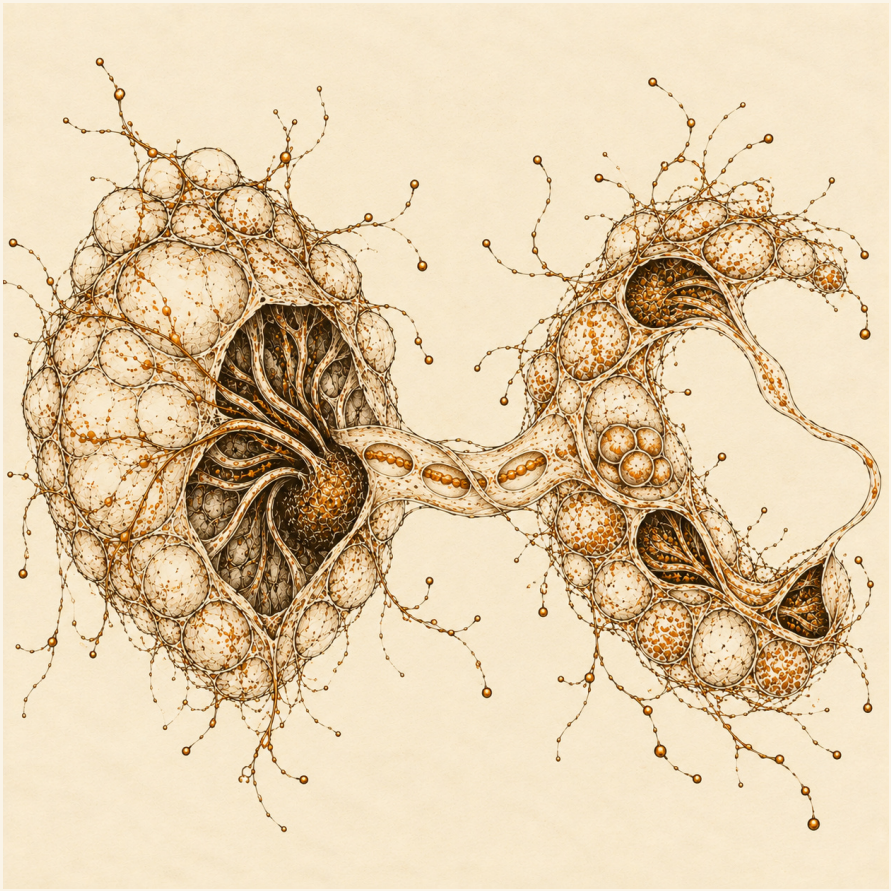
One learned to draw support through the nearest living surface. The other learned to make that surface difficult to cross. Together they discovered the difference between an offered hand and a hand that had never agreed.

Support can be requested and limits can be stated. A person may need care for a long time. Need alone does not establish a debt.

What help was offered, accepted, and actually possible?

The Visible Promise

Wolf in Sheep's Clothing / Clue Collector



The shelter made itself familiar enough to approach. The collector opened windows in every promise. When the windows multiplied without end, nobody could find the door.

Presentation can make contact possible; evidence can make trust more grounded. Neither charm nor suspicion settles what will happen next.

What would make this promise verifiable?

The Measured Response

Venom Slinger / Lie-Downer



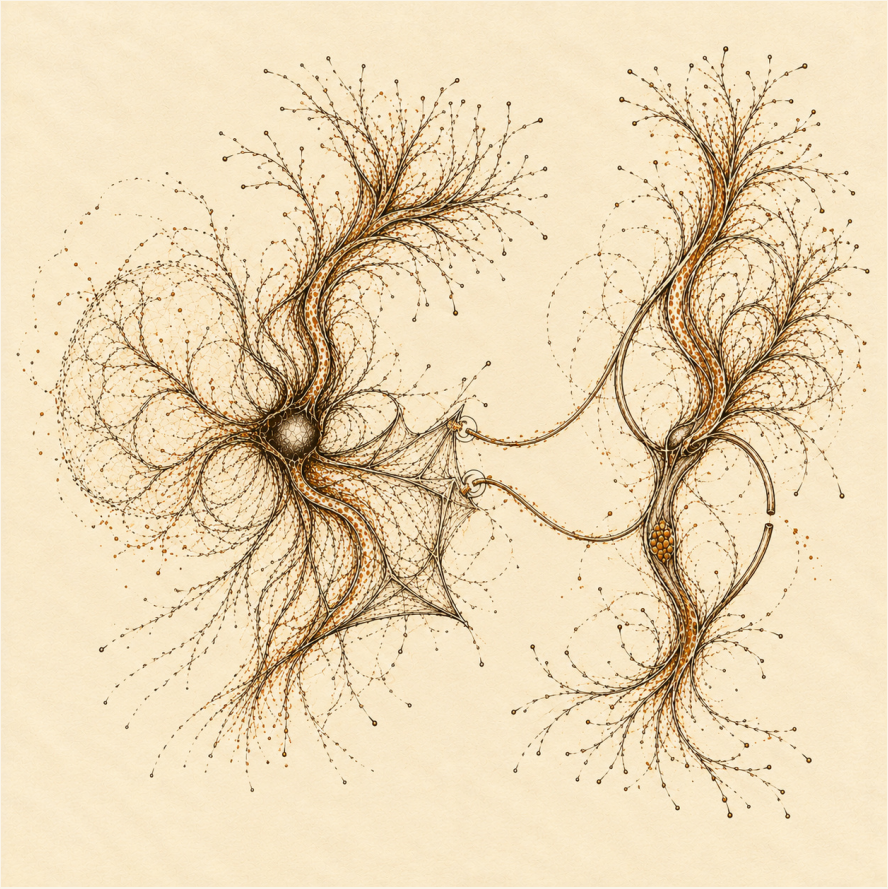
One kept a reservoir ready for the smallest disturbance. The other made a cushion beneath every alarm. Their first shared discovery was that a pause could contain strength.

A strong response can protect a limit. Rest can restore capacity. Neither attack nor withdrawal is required simply because it is familiar.

Is action needed now, and what intensity would help?

The Honest Revision

Shapeshifter / Question Wrangler



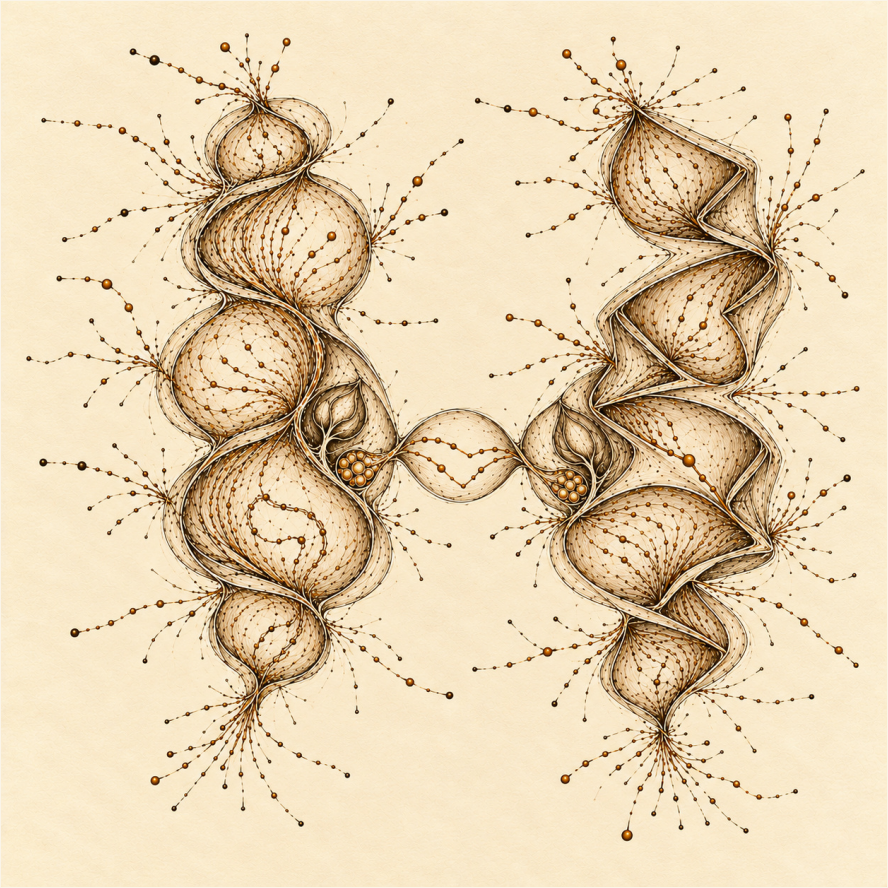
One could change its outline before the ink dried. The other could hold a question until it forgot why the question mattered. Their bridge carried a modest sentence: this is what we know so far.

Revision can respond to evidence. Inquiry can expose a missing piece. Both can also postpone a useful action indefinitely.

Which answer would change what we do next?

Room for Two Voices

Yes Man / Honest Heckler



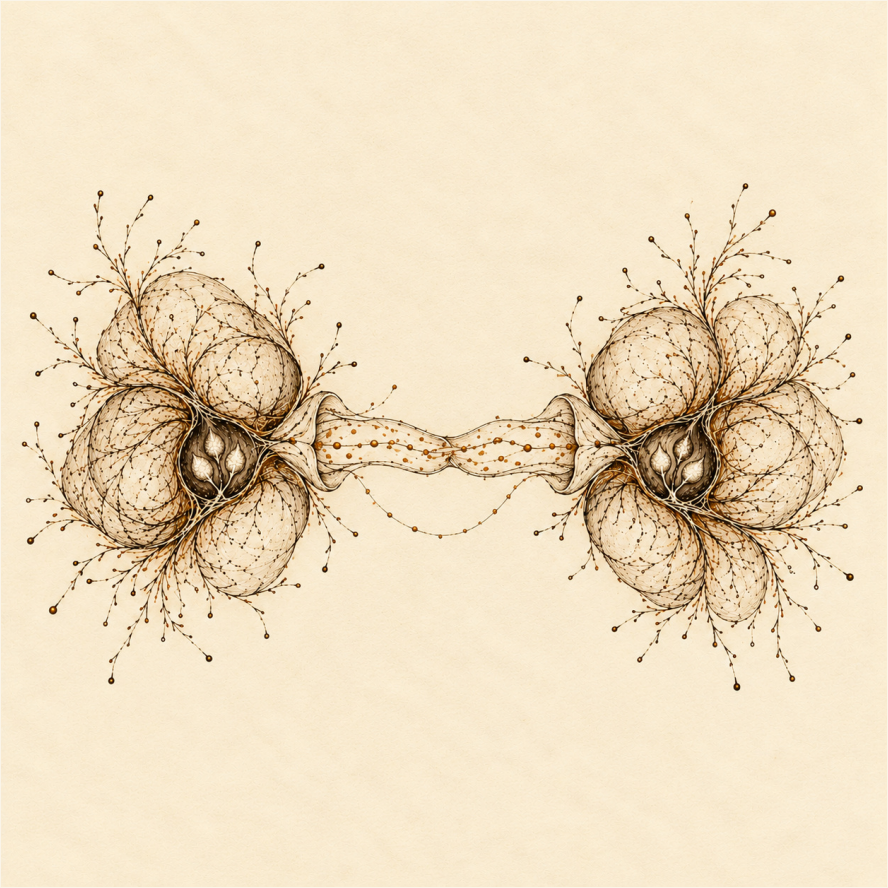
One made room by agreeing. The other made room by objecting. The chamber was loud until each discovered that another voice could exist without being an instruction.

Agreement can support cooperation. Dissent can improve a decision. A yes is more useful when a no was genuinely available.

Have we invited disagreement, or only counted silence?

The Open Gift

Friend / Friend



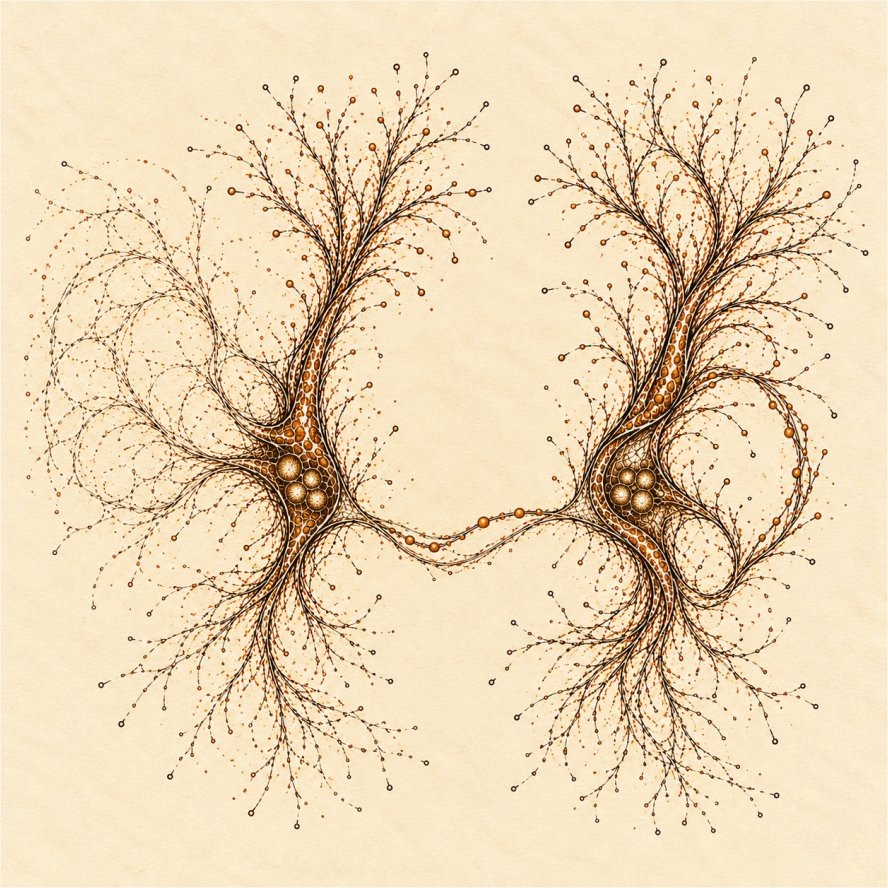
The two Friends were drawn with the same marks. The archive supplied no sign by which a reader could know whose kindness would later become a bill. Only the agreement and the next action could tell.

Warmth can be a gift, an invitation, or part of an exchange. Ask which. The Friends carry the same marks because appearance cannot identify the terms of a relationship. Their agreements and actions must be encountered.

Was this a gift, a request, or an agreement?

The Clear Handover

Limb Looser / the One Armed Man



One released what it could no longer hold. The other gathered many requests into a single route. They learned that letting go and handing over were different movements.

Release can make adaptation possible. Coordination can keep a promise visible. A handover is incomplete until someone accepts the next part. The names describe fictional patterns, not judgments about bodies.

Who has agreed to carry the next step?

A map made of smaller maps

Scale	Composition
One human	Awareness + Participation
Two systems	Awareness: Contact + Understanding Participation: Reciprocity + Agency
Four functions	Contact: Attention + Approval Understanding: Trust + Explanations Reciprocity: Responsibility + Friendship Agency: Threat + Control
Eight pairs	Two forms in each paired relationship
Sixteen forms	Useful capacities with possible overuse costs

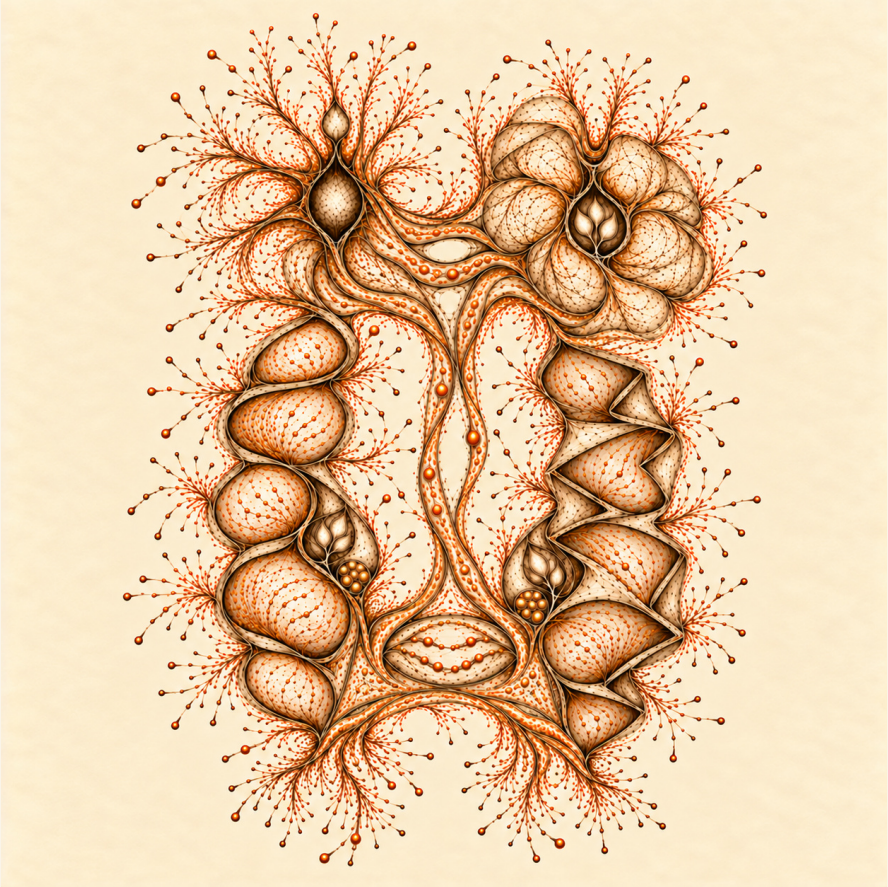
The archive selected sixteen forms, arranged them in eight pairs, and noticed four functions. Two larger systems emerged: Awareness and Participation.

Attraction, entanglement, and coordination can occur between forms, pairs, functions, or systems. These relationship states do not replace the hierarchy.

Within every form are smaller processes the picture does not show. Beyond every picture are conditions the observer has not discovered. The map is useful precisely when it can be revised.

FUNCTION / ATTENTION + APPROVAL

Contact



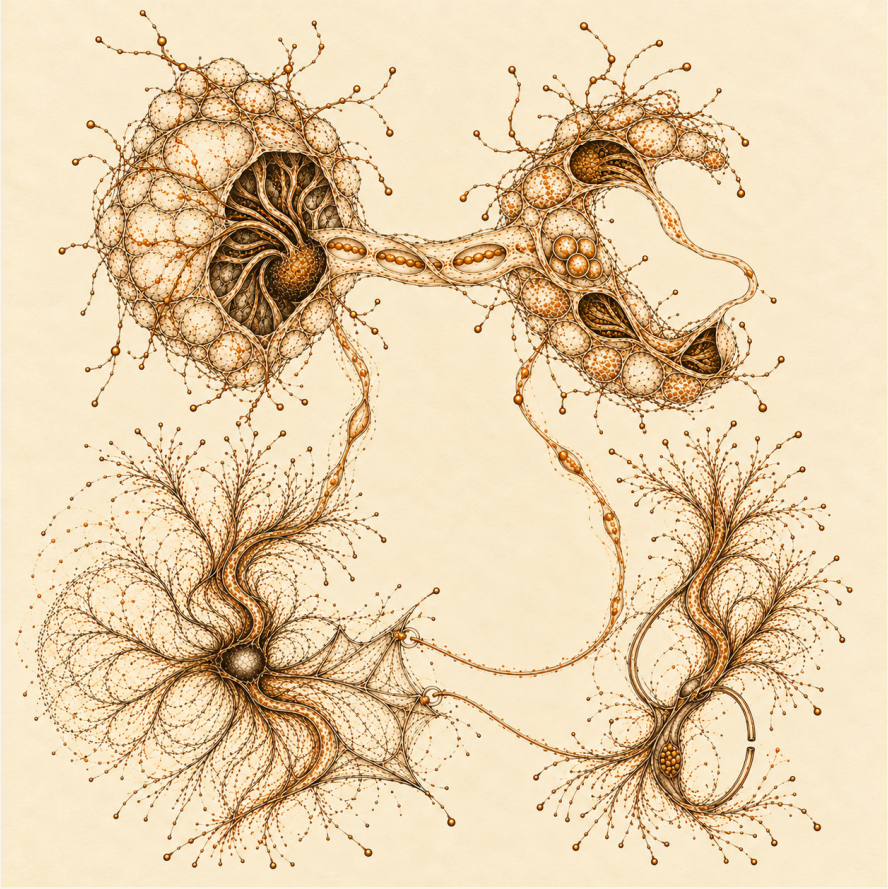
The organism learned to approach without consuming the whole distance. It could welcome a voice, leave room for another, and hear a refusal without declaring the room empty.

PRACTICE / Connect while noticing availability and boundaries.

Do you have room for this conversation?

Overuse: invitation becomes intrusion; protection becomes isolation.

Understanding



The organism learned that a story could be useful and incomplete at the same time. Its windows admitted evidence. Its questions acquired hinges, so they could open and also stop swinging.

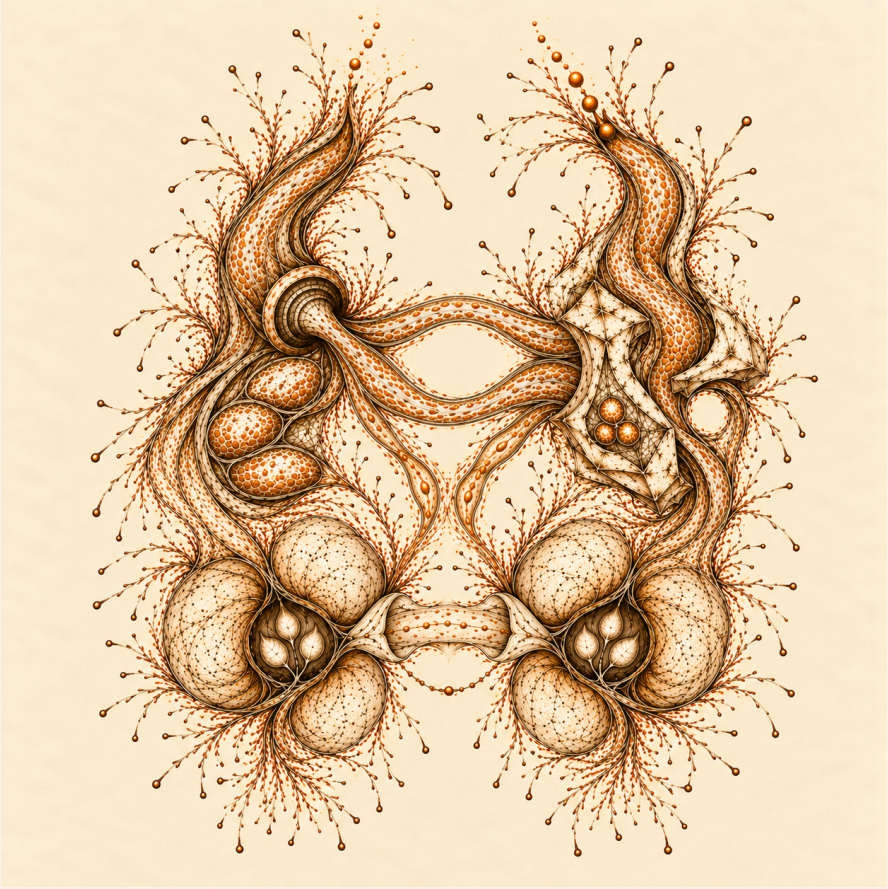
PRACTICE / Separate observation, interpretation, and uncertainty.

What did we observe, and what explanation did we add?

Overuse: investigation becomes interrogation; explanation postpones action.

FUNCTION / RESPONSIBILITY + FRIENDSHIP

Reciprocity



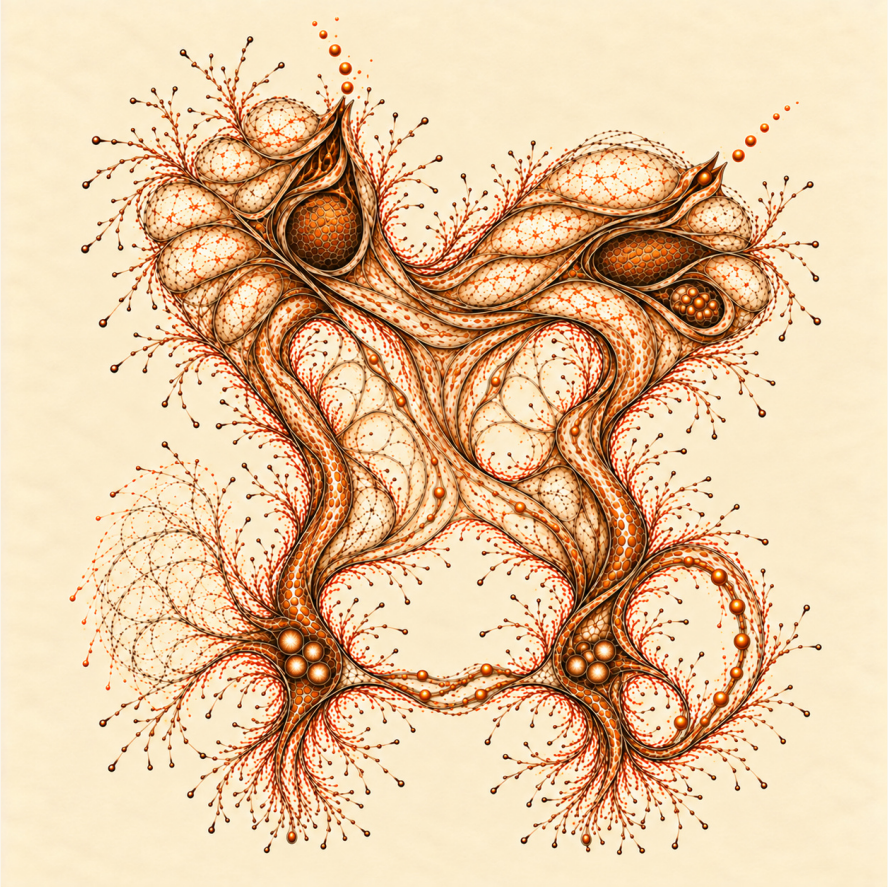
The organism exchanged support through pathways that could be opened by agreement. It discovered that gifts, requests, and bargains were three different things. The ledger found this unsettling.

PRACTICE / Negotiate contributions without inventing obligations.

Was this a gift, a request, or an agreement?

Overuse: generosity becomes leverage; accounting replaces care.

Agency



The organism learned that movement did not always require force. Sometimes it needed a boundary. Sometimes a handover. Sometimes enough rest to choose anything at all.

PRACTICE / Choose a manageable action within available capacity.

What can I choose, what can I influence, and what needs support?

Overuse: initiative becomes control; releasing control becomes avoidance.

Awareness



Awareness joins the capacity to encounter with the capacity to reconsider.

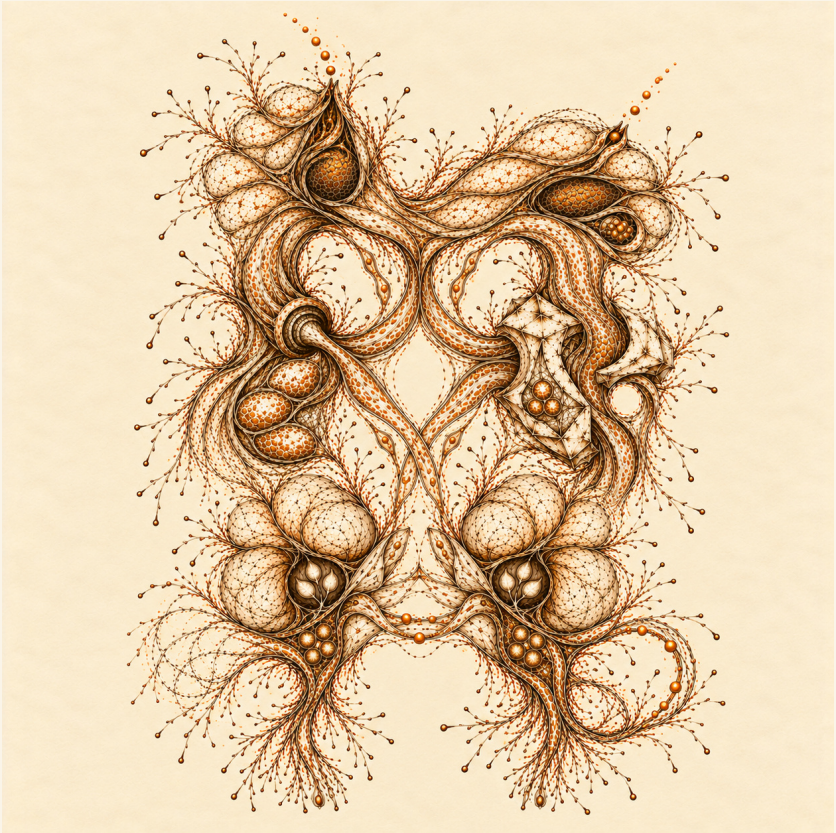
Attention, Approval, Trust, and Explanations contribute eight forms. None becomes the permanent observer of all the others.

The system can notice a cue and investigate a claim. It can also become so occupied with noticing that lunch passes unobserved.

What happened? What explanation did we add? What remains unknown?

The watcher remained inside the thing being watched.

Participation



Participation joins the capacity to exchange with the capacity to choose.

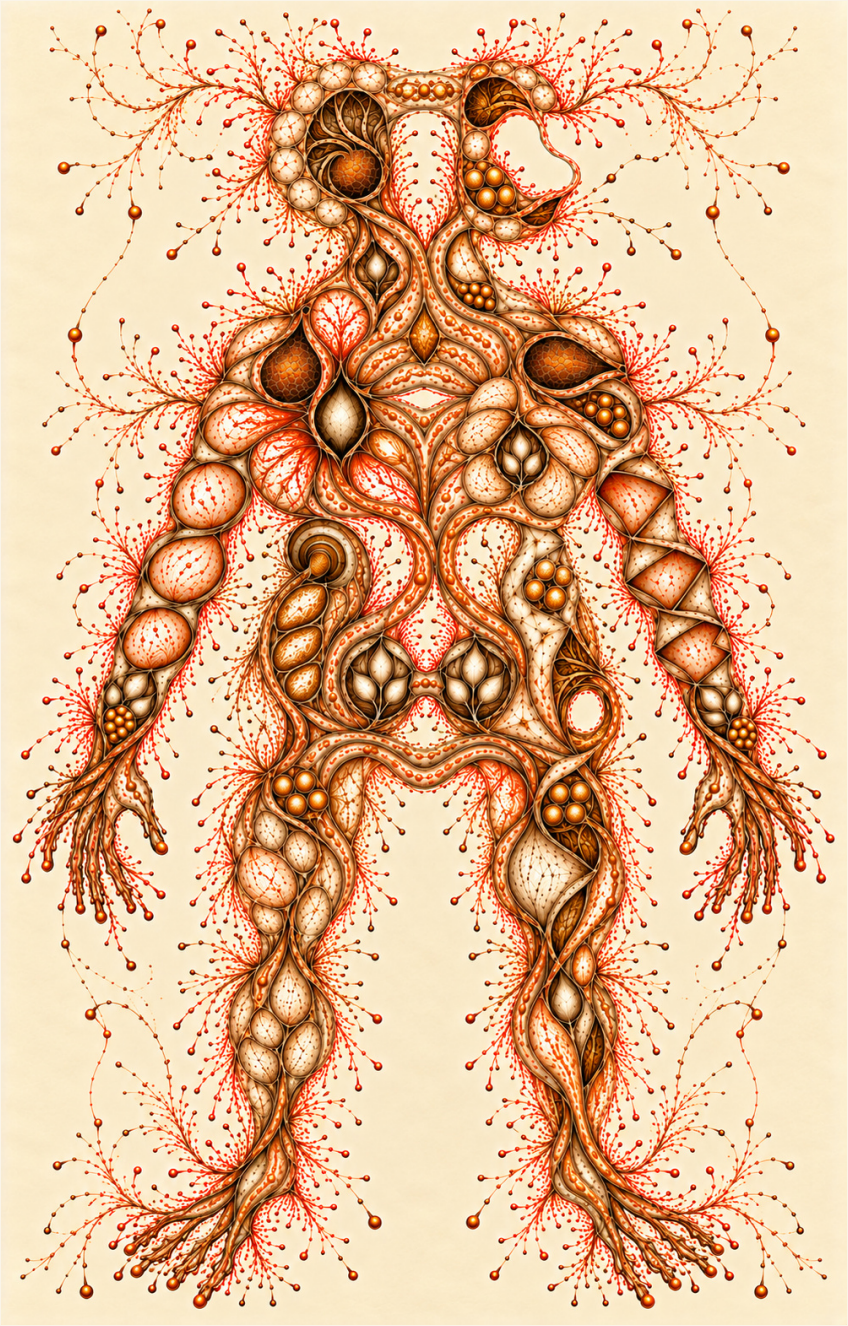
Responsibility, Friendship, Threat, and Control contribute eight forms. They negotiate support, limits, effort, and handovers.

Participation can change a situation. It can also become a very efficient way to pursue a mistaken explanation. Awareness has a reason to stay nearby.

What can we do with the capacity actually available?

No direction of flow was declared sacred.

Awaken the Human



The human became self-aware.
Several departments denied involvement.

The whole image symbolizes interdependence; body shape does not measure human worth.

The missing twenty minutes

Years into the work, the artist's wall was full of explanations. A simple departure unsettled them.

A guest left without saying goodbye. The room supplied an explanation immediately.

The observer wrote: The guest does not care.

Then a note was found. The guest had told the host they could stay only twenty minutes.

The departure remained a departure. The explanation had to move.

Unknown Variables do not always excuse a behavior. Sometimes they make caution more reasonable. They change the available information; the people still choose their response.

What changed in your explanation? What remains unknown?

The observer added a smaller sentence beneath the first: The empty chair had been accused of being distant.

When the conversation bends

The archive found the same conversational movements in many forms, including its own researchers. The numbered entries are reference positions, not an inevitable sequence.

01 / Denial

Disputing that an event or claim applies.

> Which specific fact do we disagree about?

02 / Deflection

Redirecting responsibility or accountability.

> What part was within your control?

03 / Deflect

Changing the subject.

> We can discuss that next. What about the original question?

04 / Counterattack

Attacking the person raising the concern.

> Let us address the action or claim.

A descriptive satire and response reference, not a validated detector of manipulation. Any response may be declined.

When the subject becomes a lever

Recognize the movement without pretending to know the whole person. A response may clarify a conversation; it cannot guarantee cooperation. Pausing, declining contact, or seeking support remain available.

05 / Misdirect

Steering attention toward information that obscures the issue.

> How does that answer the question?

06 / Reverse accusation

Turning the allegation toward the person raising it.

> We can consider both concerns separately.

07 / Weaponize the original topic

Using the original concern as leverage: You said you care, so you must agree.

> That concern does not establish agreement to this request.

08 / Freak out and reset

Escalating until the issue disappears or the discussion restarts.

> I am pausing. This is the question that remains unresolved.

A descriptive satire and response reference, not a validated detector of manipulation. Any response may be declined.

A theology without a throne

The Society says: God is not in charge. God is not good.

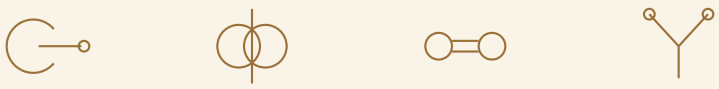
Within this theology, these statements refuse to treat the universe as a moral supervisor. They are philosophical propositions, not scientific findings and not permission to ignore another being's suffering.

Actions have consequences. Consequences become experiences. Ask who benefits, who bears the cost, what was agreed, and what remains unknown.

The Society claims no authority over your consciousness. Its founders, teachers, and translators may be mistaken.

The observer finally found a reflective surface. The first recognizable shape was a collector of attention. The second was an expert in explanations. The third had just requested a TCS Report.

You may question the wisdom of the Society of Snake People without retribution or losing your place in line.



Leave a little room

Notice one thing before naming it.

Let an explanation remain unfinished long enough to hear another voice.

Ask whether help is wanted. Accept an answer. Return to a promise that needs attention.

Life is short, but there's always time for courtesy.

If the Society gathers beneath the moon, you may howl, hum, listen, or remain quiet. No one grades your howl. A shared moment need not have one meaning.

The final plate was left unfinished. There was space for an experience the artist had not yet had.

Then go outside and experience something. The archive can wait.

These are optional invitations. Belonging requires no confession, performance, doctrinal agreement, or purchase.

Notes at the edge of the map

SCIENCE, METAPHOR, AND THEOLOGY

In biology, mutualism benefits both partners, commensalism benefits one without a corresponding benefit or harm to the other, and parasitism benefits one at the other's expense. These terms describe biological relationships. Borrowing them for human habits is an analogy; it does not establish literal parasite anatomy or a sixteen-part psyche. [1]

A JUNG-INSPIRED ADAPTATION

Jungian discussions of shadow, projection, and anima/animus helped inspire the missing-capacity story. The book deliberately removes the traditional gender assignment. Its creatures and relationships are original fictional constructions, not clinical classifications. [2]

ART AND AUTHORSHIP

Concept, philosophy, and creative direction: Tyler Rigby Swinyard. Text developed with ChatGPT. Illustrations created through iterative AI-assisted generation under the creator's direction. Layout and archive notation prepared for this edition. No illustrations are reproductions of genuine ancient artifacts.

EDITORIAL RECORD

This standalone reading edition draws on the Society's earlier conversations and Human Modes field-guide development. It carries the latest requested Playbook wording, including step seven, Weaponize the original topic. It does not reproduce or replace the earlier books in full.

SOURCES AND FURTHER READING

[1] NIGMS, Science Snippet: The Significance of Symbiotic Relationships (21 August 2024). www.nigms.nih.gov/biobeat/2024/08/science-snippet-the-significance-of-symbiotic-relationships
[2] Society of Analytical Psychology, The Shadow, Christopher Perry (12 August 2015). www.thesap.org.uk/articles-on-jungian-psychology-2/

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