

Emergence

The common element running through all of humanity is emergence into physical existence. All are faced equally with the same initial task. The task is to make some sense of the existence thrust upon us.

Much of human culture has probably evolved in response to this task though this may not be widely recognized. Existing social, scientific, economic, political, philosophic and religious systems provide an orienting framework for making existence meaningful. These systems provide the context into which we emerge. They provide the threads with which we weave our life.

The adequacy of the threads may vary across time and place, but we can only work with what is available or create our own meaning independent of the existing paradigms. Most of us readily adopt what is at hand and become true believers in the conventions surrounding us. The greater our faith in our conventions the blinder we become to any alternative conception. This ultimately must lead to conflict with those who have woven a tapestry different in appearance from our own.

Emergence begins without personal history and traverses an unknown path through an uncertain future. One has no personal responsibility for what others who preceded one did and cannot rationally be held accountable for what they did. The common task of rendering life meaningful with which we all must grapple requires freedom to pursue that meaning. A freedom restrained only by interference with another person's pursuit of meaning.