

## 10-Systems Paradigm

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it.

Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

Chief Seattle, Suquamish and Duwamish chief

All things are our relatives; what we do to everything, we do to ourselves. All is really One.

Black Elk, Oglala Lakota

The qualities are incapable of being declared as completely separate from one another. Passion and Goodness and Darkness are seen existing in a state of union. They are attached to one another. They depend on one another. They have one another for their refuge. They likewise follow one another. As long as goodness exists, so long does Passion exist. There is no doubt in this. As long as Darkness and Goodness exist, so long does Passion exist. They make their journey together, in union, and moving collectively.

Hinduism, Vyāsa, *The Mahabharata* 14, 39.1

The Tao that can be told is not the eternal Tao.  
The name that can be named is not the eternal name.  
The nameless is the beginning of heaven and earth.

Laozi, *Tao Te Ching*

The universe, with each most particular thing in it, is the work of God alone, for nothing could flow from itself. What can exist without an origin? If the origin belong to nature itself, whence then is nature, unless you worship that as God? And if these are the works of God, it is necessary that He sustain them, for without perpetual sustentation all things would relapse into their primitive chaos.

Christianity, Emanuel Swedenborg,  
*The Soul or Rational Psychology*, 31.2

Those who think from interior reason can see that there is a connection of all things through intermediates with the First, and that whatever is not in connection is dissipated. For they know, when they think about it, that nothing can have permanent existence from itself, but only from what is prior to itself, thus all things from a First; also that the connection with what is prior is like the connection of an effect with its effecting cause; for when the effecting cause is taken away from its effect the effect is dissolved and dispersed.

Christianity, Emanuel Swedenborg,  
*Heaven and Hell*, 34.1

...whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth is a direct evidence of the revelation within it of the attributes and names of God, inasmuch as within every atom are enshrined the signs that bear eloquent testimony to the revelation of that most great Light.

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, 107

It is obvious that all created things are connected one to another by a linkage complete and perfect, even, for example, as are the members of the human body. Note how all the members and component parts of the human body are connected one to another. In the same way, all the members of this endless universe are linked one to another.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,  
*Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, 21.6

Ponder over the contingent realities, their mysteries, wisdom, connection and relations. The world is harmonious in all things and the connection therein is mighty and nothing is missing. All things are eaters and eaten in the physical creation. The plant sucks from the mineral, the animal eats and swallows the plant, and human eats the animal. Then the mineral (in turn) eats the human body. Physical bodies are transferred from death to death and life to life.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,  
*Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 'Abbás vol. 1-3*, 43.2