



## ***The Relationship Revolution*** **From the Introduction**

“What is to give light, must endure burning.”  
—Victor Frankl

It’s not easy to witness all the turmoil in the world today and manage the stress. It’s not easy to find a steady place to stand. When virtually everything about the way society is organized needs to change, where do you start and how do you avoid overwhelm?

This book probes the depth of our predicament while emphasizing pathways for empowerment and life-sustaining co-creation. Given all that we *can’t* do, it seeks to inspire what we *can* do, and how to make it count at a time when our responses are crucial to our own sanity and our collective future.

We are witnessing the beginning of the end of a paradigm that brought great wealth and comfort to some, but at great cost to the many. It is a cost that includes putting the very future of humanity and life on Earth at precarious risk. It is time to face that risk and reckon with deep questions and choices about who we want to be in the midst of the uncertainty and discomfort that has settled in for a long stay. The age of consequences has arrived.

Grief and the threat of being overwhelmed are part of our shared experience now as we live through the unravelling of many things that we may have taken for granted—a stable climate, a social safety net, access to health care, civil rights, the rule of law, and democracy. And while losing the beneficial hurts, it can be helpful to remember that, because it is all connected, the destructive aspects of the status quo, including the mindsets of domination and exploitation are also unravelling. The old paradigm rooted in violence and injustice is collapsing under its own weight, while vast numbers of people continue the long legacy of standing up for peace, justice, dignity, and life itself.

Critical moments in world history have come and gone before. And yet, there is undoubtedly something unique and urgent about this moment. For one thing, the consequences for the future of life on Earth have never been greater. While much has already been lost, there is still so much to lose—so much diversity, so much beauty. At the same time, the opportunity within the crisis has never been greater, as a major shift in human consciousness is being called forth. One way or another, this is the time when we will learn (or relearn) that we are not separate from the Earth and each other!

Widespread incentive for transformational change has been a key missing ingredient. That is not overly surprising, since deep transformation happens at the edge of our comfort zones. Most of us privileged folks just haven't gotten there yet, but that edge gets closer all the time. As it does, inspiration rises and space opens up for co-creating the life-affirming ways of being that have always been our highest possibility.

This book is a guide to navigating the crucial years ahead. It is a guide to a mindset aligned with life and its relational, reciprocal requirements. It throws down a challenge with payoffs that ripple out to affect every aspect of life. Imagine a future where mutually enhancing ways of living with the natural world and each other is the norm. It can be hard to imagine such a thing and the growth and transformation needed to get there, but this is the non-negotiable bottom-line that calls out to us now. In the process of heeding that call, we solidify the vision, clarify the priorities, and find the needed inspiration.