

Praise for *Spontaneous Evolution*

*“Spontaneous Evolution is the life-map we’ve all been waiting for! With just the right blend of spiritual humor and rock-solid science, Bruce Lipton and Steve Bhaerman cast a holistic new light on an emerging new civilization. They lead us beyond collapsing economies and religious extremes to show us that such chaos is a natural step in an unfolding process, rather than the tragic end to a broken planet. Once we recognize the big picture, the choices to a better life and a better world become obvious. The guiding role of **Spontaneous Evolution** is where our teachings of life, history, and civilization should begin. I love this book!”*

— **Gregg Braden**, New York Times best-selling author of *The Divine Matrix* and *Fractal Time*

“The implications of this powerful book have the potential to change the world.”

— **Deepak Chopra**, author of *The Third Jesus*

“This wise and thoughtful book is a powerful antidote for anyone who is pessimistic and depressed about our future and the challenges we face as humans.”

— **Larry Dossey, M.D.**, author of *The Power of Premonitions*

“Spontaneous Evolution is a world-changing book that offers a heartening view of humanity’s destiny. Built on the foundation of the latest discoveries in science, it points us in the direction of functional politics, sustainable economics, and individual responsibility in the context of an interdependent community.”

— **Thom Hartmann**, author of *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight*

“Spontaneous Evolution is a great book, a vital message, and even more, it embodies Causal Evolution. By understanding and incorporating its wise revelation of how nature works, we can cause the future we intend. The future that emerges from this Whole New Story is so attractive that I believe it will encourage us to fulfill our true hearts’ desire for more love, more life, more creativity NOW.”

— **Barbara Marx Hubbard**, founder
of The Foundation for Conscious Evolution

“Spontaneous Evolution is a brilliant synthesis of science, evolutionary theory, and spiritual consciousness that provides a unique explanation of our global situation and how we might move forward to repair the world. It charts a path for a global ‘up-wising’ that could save us from planetary disaster, recognizing that both we as individuals and the global economic/political systems, in which we operate, must evolve quickly to survive.”

— **Rabbi Michael Lerner**, editor of Tikkun, chair of the interfaith Network of Spiritual Progressives, and author of *The Left Hand of God*

*S*PONTANEOUS
EVOLUTION

ALSO BY BRUCE H. LIPTON, PH.D.

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SPONTANEOUS EVOLUTION

OUR POSITIVE FUTURE
(AND A WAY TO GET THERE FROM HERE)

BRUCE H. LIPTON, PH.D.
AND
STEVE BHAERMAN



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To Mother Earth, Father Sky,
and All Imaginal Cells

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PREFACE

Why We Wrote this Book

Hello, I'm Bruce Lipton.

And I'm Steve Bhaerman.

Bruce: We welcome you to our new book, *Spontaneous Evolution*.

In my earlier book, *The Biology of Belief*, the emphasis was on how our attitudes and emotions control our physiology, our biology, and our gene expression. The book focused on how personal beliefs affect our personal reality. But there is something more profound to be learned, which is that collective beliefs of a culture or society also affect our personal biology and behavior.

Society is beginning to recognize that our current collective beliefs are detrimental and that our world is in a very precarious position. So, I thought it was time to bring out a message about how the new biology and other insights in the world of science can be applied to our societal beliefs and help us address the threatening situations we currently face.

In this work, I emphasize biology, beliefs, and behavior. However, to fully understand this message, my friend Steve Bhaerman offers information regarding how social structure, politics, and economics also tie into our biology.

Steve: For the past 22 years, I've been doing comedy, disguised as Swami Beyondananda, the cosmic comic. Comedy is a wonderful way to tell the truth and a way to break through the mind's defenses to get new information and perspective in under the radar.

Prior to the Swami, however, my first professional "incarnation" was in political science and social activism during the 1960s. I helped start an alternative high school in Washington, D.C., for students who had grown past traditional schooling. These were exciting times when new ideas were emerging and being tested. As I sadly observed, the most important of those tests—whether we could actually live the lofty principles we espoused—was being flunked left and right. For example, I recall meeting one individual who was a world-renowned expert on communal living. Unfortunately no one could stand to live with him.

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Realizing how little I knew about how to turn the ideal into the real deal, I embarked on a 25-year journey into psychology, personal growth, meditation, and spirituality. Over the past seven years, I've had the itch to integrate those ideas in a book I wanted to call *Healing the Body Politic*. After I met Bruce, I thought we could work on the project together, and he agreed.

Bruce: In the medical world, we sometimes have a patient who is declared terminal and everyone counts her out. Then something happens, and this individual has a fundamental change in personal belief through which she expresses a spontaneous remission. One moment, she is terminal and, the next, totally free of disease. This shocks many medical practitioners, but it happens frequently, and most people are aware that the phenomenon exists.

Earth and the biosphere—and that includes us—are an integrated living system. While the system appears to be faltering, the planet itself is capable of expressing a spontaneous remission. What is needed to facilitate that remission is a fundamental change in awareness and beliefs as to who we really are. We used the spontaneous remission concept in the title of this book because we believe that science's new insights will profoundly change civilization's collective beliefs on the nature of life.

We have woven this new science into a hopeful story of humanity's potential future to help promote planetary healing. *Spontaneous Evolution* merges current scientific insights with ancient wisdom to reveal how truly powerful we are and that we can influence our own *evolution*.

According to conventional Darwinian theory, evolution is a very slow and gradual process, requiring millions and millions of years to manifest the evolutionary transformations of species. New scientific insights reveal that evolution actually consists of long periods of stasis, interrupted by sudden, dramatic upheavals. The upheavals are punctuations that change the course of evolution and lead to whole new forms of life.

Our civilization is presently in a state of disorganization and disintegration. We are currently in dire need of evolutionary advancement and don't have time for a slow, gradual evolution. Interestingly, in light of the crises we face, it appears that civilization is already in the throes of a punctuation.

Steve: Perhaps the most burning question now is: Is this punctuation a question mark? An exclamation point? Or, sadly, a period?

People are aware that something is happening. They have been exposed to news of diminishing natural resources, climate change, and

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population explosion. The doomsday clock is rapidly approaching the midnight hour, when it's going to be more than love that comes tumbling down. Religious people are talking about the end times.

At the same time, we are also coming to realize humanity is connected. The most obvious physical demonstration is the Internet, through which we can send and receive messages around the world at the speed of light. This instantaneous communication ties together the entire global village. Everything is entangled. Everything is related.

As evidence of that, we see science climbing the proverbial mountain of knowledge only to find Buddha sitting on top. In combining Bruce's scientific knowledge of the body with my knowledge of the body politic, we see that science's modern discoveries and the ancient teachings of great spiritual leaders lead to the same conclusion: This is a world of relationship. Nobody gets off the bus. We're all in this together.

Of course, along with this awesome understanding, we realize that the old ways of seeing, believing, and reasoning will not help us alleviate the current situation and step into the new. Our survival is at stake. We need a new paradigm. We need a spontaneous evolution. That is why we have written this book.

INTRODUCTION

A Universal Love Story

This is a love story. A love story for the entire Universe: you, me, and every living organism.

Act I opened billions of years ago when a wave of light from the sun collided with a particle of matter. That spark of love between Father Sun and Mother Earth gave birth to a child on this blue-green spheroid. That precocious child, called *life*, has made Earth its playground ever since, multiplying into an endless array of magnificent forms. Some of those forms are with us today, but many more have become extinct and will never be known.

The curtain rose on Act II of this love story some 700 million years ago when certain *single-celled organisms* decided they'd had it with the single life. Realizing they couldn't live alone, they turned to one another and said (in whatever primal language single cells speak) "Baby, I need your lovin'." And thus, the *multicellular organism* was created.

Act III began over a million years ago when multicellular organisms evolved into the first consciously aware *humans* to arrive on the scene. With consciousness, life was able to observe itself, reflect, and create its own future. Life could experience and appreciate love and joy. Life could even laugh at itself and, eventually, come to write books like the one you hold in your hands.

Act IV traces the evolution of *human clans* who joined forces and carved the globe into nation states. At the present time, we find ourselves near the closing moments of this act, wondering if the play ends here, like a Greek tragedy that always ends badly. Looking at our chaotic world of human dysfunction and environmental crisis, we seem to be headed for an inevitable train wreck. Fortunately for us, the Greeks also had five-act plays; these were comedies filled with laughter, joy, happiness, and love.

Spontaneous Evolution is a story about how we can safely navigate from Act IV to Act V. The good news is that biology and evolution are on our side.

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Inherent within all living organisms is an innate drive to survive, known by science as the *biological imperative*. Contrary to what conventional science and religion have been telling us, evolution is neither random nor predetermined but rather an intelligent dance between organism and environment. When conditions are ripe—either through crisis or opportunity—something unpredictable happens to bring the biosphere into a new balance at a higher level of coherence.

While we often perceive of examples of *spontaneous remission* as miraculous healings that happen by the grace of God, looking a little deeper we see something else at work. Quite often these fortunate individuals actively participate in their own healing by consciously or unconsciously making a key, significant change in their beliefs and behaviors.

So here is the bad news and the good news. The story of human life on Earth is yet to be determined. If there is to be an Act V, it will depend on whether we humans are willing to make changes in our individual and collective beliefs and behaviors and whether we are able to make these changes in time.

For millennia, our spiritual teachers have been pointing us in the direction of love. Now science is confirming that ancient wisdom. We are each and all cells in the body of an evolving giant super-organism we call *humanity*. Because humans have free will, we can choose to either rise to that new level of emergence or, in the manner of dinosaurs, fall by the wayside.

The religions that grew out of the cradle of civilization, the Fertile Crescent that is modern day Iraq—which, ironically, is now in danger of being the grave of civilization—have all had the notion of redemption through some savior. In that sense, the coming of the Messiah in Act V will turn the play of life into a human comedy.

All good comedies need a joke, so here is the punch line: we are the answer to our own prayers.

THE RISE OF THE PHOENIX

At the current time, many people find themselves transfixed by disturbing symptoms that seem to mark civilization's devolution. However, this myopic focus distracts us from seeing the Light in the darkness.

Whether you call this Light love or knowledge, its flame grows brighter each day. The Light reveals that civilization is in a birthing process as the old way of life falls away and a new one emerges.

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This pattern of evolution resembles the phoenix, a sacred firebird in Egyptian mythology. At the end of its life, the phoenix builds a nest of cinnamon twigs that it then ignites. Both nest and bird burn fiercely, but from the ashes arises a new, young phoenix that is fated to experience the same life cycle.

A modern version of the myth is portrayed in the film *The Flight of the Phoenix*, which provides an epic example of conflict resolution, mastering challenges, and transformation. The story begins when an oil exploration team abandons its oilrig in the Sahara Desert. The crew encounters a hitchhiking stranger who joins them, and together they fly off in a twin-engine cargo plane. When the plane crashes in the middle of the desert, the crew and passengers are stranded. Meanwhile, a band of cutthroat nomads follows the trail of jettisoned cargo to the downed plane.

Just like in the real world, a power struggle ensues for control of this small community. Who will prevail: the strongest individual or the one who controls the resources? As it turns out, neither. Faced with infighting that threatens to destroy their community and endanger them all, the group is forced to develop a plan. The hitchhiking stranger, who claims to be an aircraft designer, presents what seems to be an improbable plan to build a viable aircraft from the plane's wreckage. With no other options, the community has no choice but to give this outlandish new idea a chance. Galvanized by this new vision, they band together to create the impossible. In true Hollywood fashion and not a moment too soon, with the nomads firing their guns at the ramshackle aircraft, the untested plane lifts off on its maiden voyage to safety.

The story of a structure failing and something else rising is a familiar one that plays over and over again in the biosphere. Life is in a constant state of perpetual re-creation.

HUMANIFEST DESTINY

If you find it hard to imagine that we can ever get from the crises that we are facing now to a more loving and functional world, consider the tale of another world in transition. Imagine you are a single cell among millions that comprise a growing caterpillar. The structure around you has been operating like a well-oiled machine, and the larva world has been creeping along predictably. Then one day, the machine begins to shudder and shake. The system begins to fail. Cells begin to commit suicide. There is a sense of darkness and impending doom.

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From within the dying population, a new breed of cells begins to emerge, called *imaginal cells*. Clustering in community, they devise a plan to create something entirely new from the wreckage. Out of the decay arises a great flying machine—a butterfly—that enables the survivor cells to escape from the ashes and experience a beautiful world, far beyond imagination. Here is the amazing thing: the caterpillar and the butterfly have the exact same DNA. They are the same organism but are receiving and responding to a different organizing signal.

That is where we are today. When we read the newspaper and watch the evening news, we see the media reporting a caterpillar world. And yet everywhere, human imaginal cells are awakening to a new possibility. They are clustering, communicating, and tuning into a new, coherent signal of love.

Love, we will find, is not some mushy-gushy sentiment but the vibrational glue that will help build this new flying machine and manifest our destiny as humanity—what we call “humanifest destiny.”

Chances are you are among the evolutionary imaginal cells who are contributing to the birth of this new version of humanity. Although it may not seem evident now, the future is in our hands. To secure that future, we must first empower ourselves with the knowledge of who we truly are. With a firm understanding of how our programming shapes our lives and the knowledge necessary to change that programming, we can rewrite our destiny.

Spontaneous Evolution introduces the notion that a miraculous healing awaits this planet once we accept our new responsibility to collectively tend the Garden rather than fight over the turf. When a critical mass of people truly own this belief in their hearts and minds and actually begin living from this truth, our world will emerge from the darkness in what will amount to a *spontaneous evolution*.

By the time you finish *Spontaneous Evolution*, we hope you will have a better understanding of past programming, current knowledge, and future possibilities. Most importantly, you will see how all of us can change our programming, our own and civilization’s, to create the world we’ve always dreamed is possible.

Bruce H. Lipton, Ph.D., and Steve Bhaerman

PREAMBLE

Spontaneous Remission

*“I have good news. There will, indeed,
be peace on Earth . . . I sure hope we
humans are around to enjoy it.”*

— **Swami Beyondananda**

To paraphrase American revolutionary Tom Paine, these are soul-trying times. Madness and dysfunction seem inescapable. We used to imagine getting away to a desert island or mountain retreat to live in quiet sanity. But now, the whole concept of away is meaningless. There is no such place as away. National borders, for example, couldn't contain the radioactive fallout from Chernobyl, nor can air pollution from China be stopped from blowing across Asia. Toxic medical debris dumped into the water somewhere washes up and pollutes a beach somewhere else.

The air we breathe and the water we drink are all part of a delicate interrelated ecosystem. Yet, the current system we live by, the human “ego-system” if you will, is simply not equipped to deal with these inconvenient realities.

Albert Einstein stated that a problem couldn't be solved at the same level it was created. Never has that assessment been truer than today when all of our reality checks seem to be bouncing. Clearly, we can no longer solve our problems by doing exactly what we've been doing. More weaponry doesn't bring peace. More prisons don't reduce crime. More expensive health care doesn't make us healthier. Nor does more information make us wiser.

In lieu of focusing on the crises, we are encouraged to escape into addictions and distractions conveniently placed before us to keep us pre-occupied and passive. But reality keeps intervening. Everything in the world seems to be rolling toward some inexorable, beyond-our-control crisis. Those of us with children and grandchildren are concerned as to what kind of world we will leave behind for them and their children.

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In early 2007, the so-called Doomsday Clock—the marker that the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has used since the first atomic bomb was dropped in 1945 to measure the danger of nuclear holocaust—was moved up to 11:55 P.M., a mere five minutes before midnight. This is the closest it's been to the doomsday hour since 1953 when the Soviets exploded their first hydrogen bomb.

The latest movement of the doomsday marker reflects not only the increased threat of nuclear war but also threats to our survival from deterioration of the biosphere, oceans, and climate—what Lord Martin Rees, president of the Royal Society, has called “threats without enemies.”¹ Actually, there are enemies, but these enemies are in the form of false, self-perpetuating mindsets and the obsolete institutions based upon them.

In the face of disturbing news reports that the impact of global warming is coming sooner than expected, combined with intransigence by a system that doesn't want to change, it looks more and more like the world needs a miracle. This miracle would be something akin to the spontaneous remission of an advanced terminal condition.

After assessing civilization's plight using insights offered by cutting-edge scientists, we are happy to report that there are, indeed, golden opportunities hidden in the dark clouds of crisis. Those willing to face the music and dance together will be the ones who will help transform the threatening crises we face into awesome opportunities.

The spontaneous remission we seek appears to be contingent upon a spontaneous re-missioning of civilization through which we change our mission from one based on survival of the individual to one that encompasses survival of the species. This is our fundamental evolutionary mission, our biological imperative. Achieving this remission necessitates that we individually and collectively reexamine many of the fundamental assumptions our civilization accepts as true. Those beliefs we find inadequate or incomplete must be revised so that the new awareness is incorporated into civilization and becomes our new way of life.

Once we understand what science is now revealing about who we truly are, the structures that have kept us from that truth will crumble and a new path will present itself.

It is our intention that *Spontaneous Evolution* bridge the gap between what we now know and what we will need to know in order to manifest a spontaneous remission. Ironically, some of the new insights offered by science are so far outside of what we've accepted as conventional wisdom that science itself is having a hard time coming to grips with the

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implications. In other words, if you suspect that reality isn't what it used to be, you're in good company.

So strap yourself in, keep your eyes open, and hold on tight because we are about to experience the adventure of a lifetime. When we realize our role as awakened and aware cells in the body of humanity, when we all participate in and fully experience what may be the most profound and pivotal moment in the history of the planet, then we will witness a new order spontaneously emerge out of chaos. How do we know? The science tells us so.

Oh, really?

If this new reality is truly upon us, why do things seem to be getting more chaotic and disconnected? The answer is that these crises are simply symptoms, which is Nature's way of informing us that our civilization has pushed the biosphere to its limits and must now consider a new way of life in order to sustain our existence.

We know things cannot continue in the same way, and we are frustrated because there appears to be no pathway to lead us anywhere else. Interestingly, the way out isn't a linear path. If anything, it is likely represented by a higher level of consciousness that must be attained by a critical mass of the population. Maybe, when the real rapture comes, we won't have to fly into the sky and leave our clothes behind. Maybe we can stay right here on Earth, fully dressed . . . or not. Rather than being beamed up by Scottie, perhaps all we need to do is beam Buddha down.

Now at this point, if we were you, we'd be saying, "Boy, this spontaneous evolution stuff sure sounds good. But how can we know that this is not merely some wishful pie-in-the-sky thinking and that it actually represents a real possibility?" That is exactly the question the rest of *Spontaneous Evolution* addresses. And the place to begin is with evolution itself.

IT'S TIME TO EVOLVE EVOLUTION

The fundamental argument about evolution is, excuse the expression, a bunch of BS. Belief Systems, that is. We have two opposing belief systems that are like two barking dogmas making so much noise the rest of us can't hear ourselves think.

On one side, we have scientific materialists who insist we got here by random chance. Their argument is akin to the belief that an infinite

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number of monkeys pecking away on an infinite number of typewriters would in infinite time produce the works of Shakespeare.

On the other side, we have religious fundamentalists who insist that God created the world just like the Bible said He did. Some of these believers have even calculated that God initiated Creation at precisely 9 A.M. on October 23, 4004 B.C.E.

While these points of view, respectively, are in all probability wrong, when taken together they paradoxically point us in the right direction. The latest science is telling us that, while Creation didn't happen in seven days, it was not the result of random evolution, either. Thanks to the new science of *fractal mathematics*, we are aware that self-similar intelligent patterns recur throughout Nature. As we will see, when these universal patterns are used to assess the state of human civilization, they reveal the evolution of our human species is on the path toward a hopeful and positive future.

Of course at this point, you might be thinking, "If things are so hopeful, why do we have such a mess right now?" In our discussion of evolution, we will describe the nature of *punctuated equilibrium*, in which crises drive evolution. Accordingly, there are vastly long periods of stability that are punctuated by radical and unpredictable changes. In the wake of such upheavals, which are frequently marked by mass extinctions, evolution rapidly provides a profusion of new species.

Crisis ignites evolution. The challenges and crises we face today are actually signs that spontaneous change is imminent. We are about to face our evolution.

How will our evolutionary advancement come about? Our path is similar to that of cells in the metamorphosing butterfly larva. When provided with a new awareness, the cellular population that comprises the deteriorating larva collaborates to restructure their society in order to experience the next highest level of their evolution.

We use the caterpillar-to-butterfly pattern to illuminate our current situation, and yet there is one significant difference. While caterpillars inevitably become butterflies, the success of our evolution is not inevitable. Even though Nature is nudging us toward this exciting possibility, it cannot happen without our participation. We are conscious co-creators in the evolution of life. We have free will. And we have choices. Consequently our success is based on our choices, which are, in turn, totally dependent on our awareness.

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The good news is that we are already well on our way to the next level of human evolution. We believe this leap in evolution was inaugurated by an event that changed civilization's perceptions forever. The first pictures of Earth beamed back from space in 1969 offer photographic evidence of what spiritual seers have proclaimed for centuries: the world is one.

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but the value of the picture of Earth that appeared on the January 10, 1969, cover of *LIFE* magazine was incalculable. Etched into the imagination of the world's citizens was not only the beauty of our precious blue-green planet but also its smallness and fragility. Anthropologist Margaret Mead called that image "the most sobering photograph ever made. Our lovely, lonely planet afloat in a vast black sea of space. So beautiful yet so tragically fragile. So dependent on so many people in all countries."²

That image of Earth from space inspired American visionary John McConnell to create the Earth Flag in 1969. And this greater concern for Earth also stoked the first environmental legislation in the United States in the 1970s.

So what happened? Why does it seem we've been moving backward since then?

Even though the world's imaginal cells were activated by their new awareness, the global body of humanity is still a caterpillar that, naturally, feels threatened by and is resistant to the upstart imaginal cells. And it is that paradigm of struggle that continues to shape the world's energy field.

In order to secure our future, we must empower ourselves with the knowledge of who we truly are. With an understanding of how our programming shapes our lives and with the knowledge of how we can change that programming, we can rewrite our destiny.

Spontaneous Evolution is designed to be a primer for that transformation. We hope it provides information, inspiration, and encouragement for those readers seeking a healthful, peaceful, sustainable world.

PART I

WHAT IF EVERYTHING YOU KNOW IS WRONG!

“The best way to face the unknown is by not knowing.”

— **Swami Beyondananda**

Gaze into the sky on a clear, dark, moonless night, and you will see thousands of pinholes of light—each one a massive, magnificent star in a Universe too large to imagine. Focus on one star and realize that it might no longer exist but may have burned out and collapsed into space rubble eons ago. But because the star was light-years away, illumination from its former existence is still visible, serving as a navigational guide for mariners.

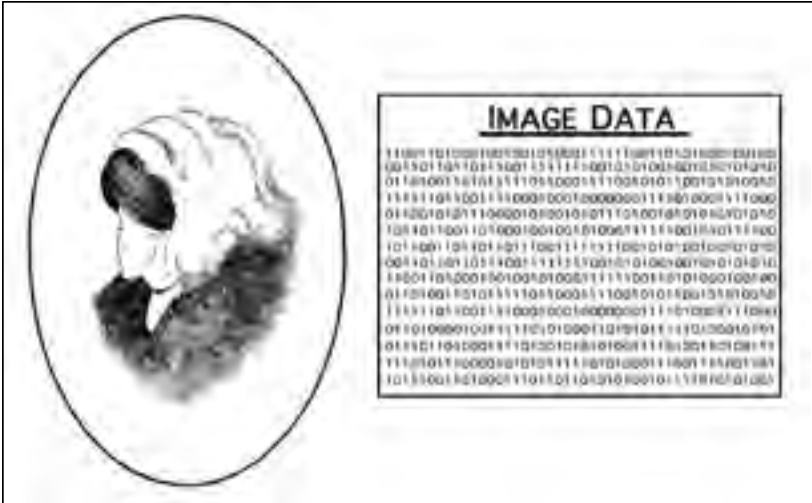
Now, turn your gaze from the heavens to our less-than-heavenly Earth and ask: “Is it possible that we have been charting our course by a burned-out philosophical star? What if our belief system about life is wrong?”

On the surface, that contention seems odd. After all, we now generate, share, and absorb more scientific information than ever through books, CDs, DVDs, radio, television, and the Internet. But information alone is not enough. Right content in a wrong context is really misinformation that will lead us either off course or on a dangerous course.

Consider the story of the captain of a ship who demanded that the light he saw on a dark horizon change course. When a voice from that other light radioed back, suggesting that the ship change course instead, the captain bellowed his authority to hold his course. The voice from the distant light replied, “Captain, we are a lighthouse.”

So you see, the course we choose depends on our perspective.

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The simple example emphasizes our point.

In image A, you might see either a hag or a young woman (you may have to study the image for a while to see them both). Image B is binary code of image A. While the image data in B can scientifically define the content of A, the determination about which image you see at any given moment does not reside in the data code but in your interpretation and perception as the observer.

The message is simple and insightful: *one piece of scientific data* can describe *two entirely different perceptions*. And when we truly believe in a perception, we see it as the one and only reality and ignore all other possible realities.

In fact, as individuals and society, we are navigating by old, scientifically disproved philosophical perceptions. But, like those burned-out stars light-years away, the news of their deaths hasn't yet reached us. Like the light on the lighthouse, beacons are shining forth to guide us in a new direction—if we perceive them correctly.

Today, human evolution is at a turning point where an old paradigm and a challenging new awareness are uneasily trying to coexist. We are wedded by habit and tradition to an outmoded view of the Universe and yet civilization is pregnant with a new, exciting, and optimistic understanding of life.

To understand our predicament, let's travel back in time 500 years when astronomer Nicolas Copernicus, looking at the sky from a cathedral

PART I

turret, made a world-shattering astronomical observation. Contrary to popular belief that Earth was the center of the Universe, Copernicus realized that Earth rotated on its axis daily as it orbited the sun annually.

Church leaders considered Copernicus' idea blasphemy and clung to old beliefs, even to the point of forcing Galileo, at the point of a sword 90 years later, to renounce his support of Copernican theory and spend the rest of his life in prison. Yet, ironically, those same Church leaders adopted Copernicus' mathematical formulas to reconcile discrepancies in their religious calendar. The point is, as Galileo experienced, it takes time for human consciousness to accept major changes.

A century has elapsed since Einstein mathematically proved that everything in the Universe is made out of energy and intertwined. Yet a vast majority of humanity still lives by the outdated principles of *Newtonian physics*, which say the world is a physical mechanism engaged in a series of cause and effect actions and reactions. While those in power used Einstein's theory of relativity to build atomic weaponry—just as the Church employed Copernicus' calculations to reconcile their calendar—they ignored the immense implications of bombing even a small part of the planet we share.

Meanwhile, our adherence to misunderstandings and “myth-perceptions” has so disconnected humanity from Nature that human activity has become “web of life-threatening.” While headlines bear alarms about suicide bombers in the Middle East, too many people fail to realize that our entire species has become a ticking time bomb for the planet. Scientific studies have incontrovertibly established that human gluttony and pollution are causing the greatest mass extinction since dinosaurs disappeared 65 million years ago. If present trends continue, half of all species will be extinct within this century.¹

While our daily routines will continue without lions roaming the Serengeti (hey, we can always visit them at the zoo, right?) there is no life outside the web of life. Unspoken, but definitely implied among warnings of animal and plant extinction, is our own imminent human extinction.

Modern humanity has taken a great deal of pride in the knowledge we have amassed about the Universe and life. As the most highly educated and information-laden population in history, we collectively know a lot. But what do we really know about what we know? True, we have lots of data, but, as the crises before us reveal, we are apparently a little short of knowledge.

Our problems are not with the data, itself, but arise from our interpretation of the data. As the illustration of the hag/young woman

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demonstrates, the same data can be used to interpret two completely different images. When it comes to understanding the nature of life, the image we assemble from the data can mean the difference between the life and death of civilization. Fortunately, the radical science discussed in *Spontaneous Evolution* offers a new interpretation of scientific data, one that casts doubt on our conventional perception of life.

René Descartes advised us to doubt everything. And now is the time for us to begin. Not everything we know is wrong, but everything we think we know is up for examination, reflection, and reconsideration.

In Part I of *Spontaneous Evolution*, we begin with a biological view of how we've come to believe what we believe. In doing so, we firmly establish the relationship between beliefs and biology, and how the interaction of these two, in fact, creates our reality.

In Chapter 1, *Believing Is Seeing*, we turn the cliché “seeing is believing” on its head. Starting with how cells process information, we trace biological pathways that convert perceptions into beliefs and what might appear to be reality. We offer irrefutable evidence that the mind is, indeed, the master over matter, and then we get right down to the cellular level to show how and why this is how life really works.

In Chapter 2, *Act Locally . . . Evolve Globally*, we explain how subconscious programming unconsciously thwarts our best intentions. When tracing the evolutionary history of the mind, we show how each of us is, at once, blameless and yet completely responsible for our actions!

In Chapter 3, *A New Look at the Old Story*, we move from biology to philosophy and describe how the story we use to explain reality controls our perceptions and, inevitably, our behavior. We explain how civilizations evolved over millennia and how each new paradigm greatly influenced the world our ancestors and parents saw and created as well as the world we see and create today.

Most importantly, by stepping outside our *stories*, we can see that stories are, well, merely stories, no more real than words on a restaurant menu are edible. However, the meaning we bring to those words ultimately determines our choices of what we end up eating. By lifting ourselves outside the matrix of unquestioned beliefs, we allow new stories to emerge that will take us from the tragedy of Act IV to a lighter and brighter Act V.

In Chapter 4, *Rediscovering America*, we relate the principles and practices that influenced the creation of the Declaration of Independence and still apply to the evolution now at hand. This is not a patriotic paean

PART I

to glorify America, rather it is an acknowledgment of the revolutionary, visionary truths that “all men [and women] are created equal . . . endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights . . . Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” These truths, which have yet to be fully realized in the United States, were actually a gift to the whole world, a gift that originated with Native indigenous tribes.

Reading Part I should provide some relief because its message explains what is wrong with the world and helps generate a new life-sustaining story. When we understand that cultural philosophy and individual perceptions are actually *acquired beliefs* that determine not only our biology but also the world we live in, we gain personal and world-changing insight. We cease to be dazed accident victims and claim our right to become personally empowered co-creators and architects of a brave and loving new world.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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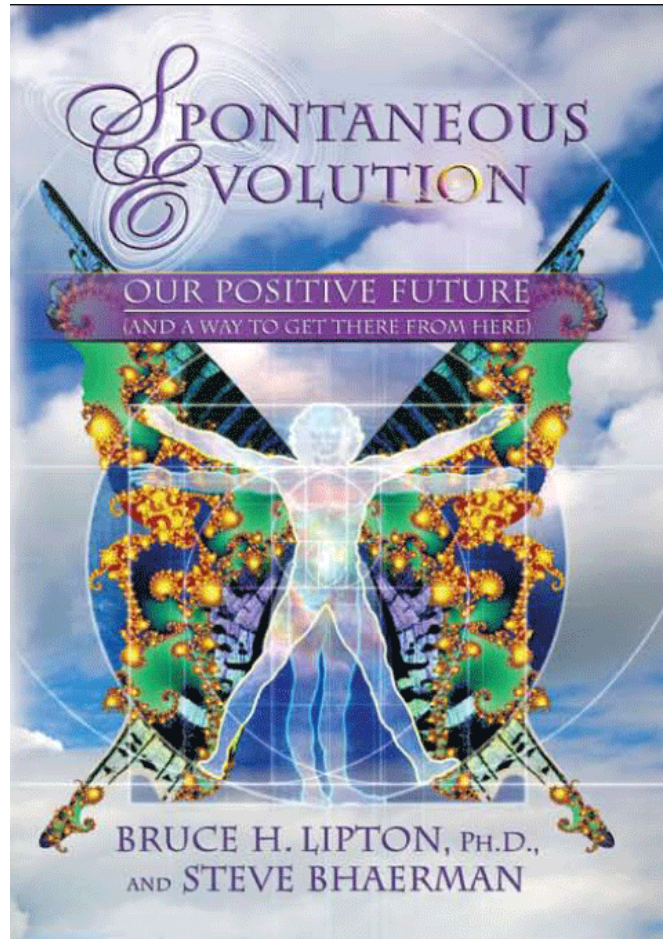
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