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INTRODUCTION TO  
CENTERPATH

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BY JIN NUA



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*A unity in diversity of phenomena; a harmony, blending together all created things,  
however dissimilar in form and attributes; one great whole animated by the breadth of life.*

-Alexander von Humboldt

*The aspects of things that are most important to us are hidden  
because of their simplicity and familiarity.*

-Ludwig Wittgenstein

One day fifteen years ago the world suddenly appeared very differently to me when, during a routine walk near my home, a series of events somehow conspired to overthrow an old worldview and replace it with something new. A revelation that seemingly unrelated phenomena –both natural, biological, and social; actually share a common underlying pattern –and apparent purpose.

Surprisingly the spark for this new vision didn't arise from noting the world's contrasts –but instead its similarities. In fact during that fateful walk, nature's apparent differences appeared not so differently after all.



My path to this new understanding began when a gust of wind pointed me in the direction of a storm cloud developing on the horizon. But whereas I once viewed things like clouds as isolated objects, today the wind at my back convinced me the two were connected in a larger way. Indeed the towering cloud before me lay at the heart of a much larger organism encompassing miles of atmospheric air converging from all directions.

Suddenly I realized I was part of something greater –a massive, rotating being perpetuated by a central, low pressure zone. I could see the underlying, center-oriented pattern of the storm –and just as importantly its cause –the powerful center at its core. My new worldview had just been cast.



Next to draw my attention were thunder bolts rumbling in the distance. My view of bolts as simple z-shapes quickly gave way to something more essential. In fact, the innumerable streamers surrounding the main bolt weren't just randomly assembled. They collaborated to form a whirlpool-like arrangement about their central bolt quite similar in form to the thunderstorm spawning them.



Silhouetted trees in the foreground were next to declare allegiance to the developing consensus of form. With their branches still exposed in the nakedness of early spring, I couldn't help but notice their cumulative form –the merging of smaller and smaller branches into larger and larger ones spiraling inward towards the main trunk, fashioned a stunning replica of lightning bolts!

The sound of flowing water drew me to a nearby creek. Prompted by my new insights I quickly visualized the creek's 'position' in the larger pattern of which it was only a small part.



Indeed the creek before me was only a small part of a much larger, multi-state river system formed from the progressive combination of creeks into ever larger waterways, forming a massive arterial branching system centered on the mouth of the Mississippi River in New Orleans. I'd stumbled on yet another creation formed from unique circumstances yet one still sharing the same underlying form as trees and lightning bolts!

The tide had shifted. As I looked out at other structures populating the woods, the same center-skewed pattern emerged from an incredibly diverse array of phenomena.



Flower petals burst outward in grand radial designs. Majestic spiral tapestries adorned the stream. Spider webs funneled food towards the hungry architect at its core. Pavement cracks propagated outward in eerily organic forms. Turkey vultures circled inward like water draining down a sink. And ants fanned outward from their queen like soldiers marching across the desert.



As rain began to fall I stopped to reflect on my experiences. Recognizing a flower wasn't a spider web or a thunderstorm; I also realized each shared the same underlying form. A center-oriented pattern resulting from agglomerations of 'parts' about a domineering center. I wondered if I was witnessing the Great Creator's ordering principle at work.

But my lesson on form wasn't complete yet. As hints of sunlight appeared, park goers reemerged to start activities they'd put on hold for the storm. A tug-of-war resumed, kids scurried about a soccer ball, and a concert restarted. But even for the variety we tend to associate with such groupings, it soon became clear they organized in the same center-oriented configurations I'd observed in nature!

People and rope formed mirror-image arrangements about a common center of gravity in the tug-of-war competition. Concert goers encircled the center stage like planets about a sun. Even in the chaos of the soccer match I couldn't help but notice the game's essential shape never changed. Indeed as players rushed inward from all directions, they continually reformed a center-oriented pattern about the ball!

Finally, I witnessed the larger pattern formed by couples walking hand-in-hand. Their glowing affection readily exposing the love merging them as one.

Hence was the conclusion to a powerfully enlightening day –and the founding of a new worldview. A vision recognizing center-oriented patterns underlay all of nature and man's creations –a natural result of formidable centers residing at their core.

Years later I learned the symmetric, halo-shaped configuration of center-oriented forms naturally generate worlds of beauty and balance –nature's great creative force is hard wired to produce worlds of accord and harmony! Phenomenal virtues of being we can use in our lives once we reopen our hearts to nature's wisdom –and the possibilities. Let Centerpath show you the way.

