

SPARK 015

(Matrix Code: **SPARK015.00** for StartOver.xyz game.)

DISTINCTION: There exist gaps between moments.

NOTES: One way that your Box defends itself is by creating the illusion for you that things stay the same all by themselves. Things do not stay the same all by themselves. Your Box is continuously working to keep things the same. Your Box seeks to make situations appear to be stable and continuous. But things are not stable and continuous. Things are all constantly in flux. Not only that, but there exist gaps between moments.

Your greatest creative effort is directed towards maintaining an illusionary paste that smears all of your moment-to-moment experiences together into a picture that looks consistent to you. You tend to think that moments are solidly connected one to the next because your mind is easily affected by the motion-picture phenomena. When individual images are rapidly flashed up onto a white screen one after the other, you easily perceive them as a smooth continuously moving picture. Without knowing it, you do the same thing with life in general. Your Box adopts the habit of smearing moments together because it makes life seem predictable, controllable, safe, and comfortable for your Box to manage. What you do not see is that it also costs you your freedom of movement. As a Possibility Manager you can do a more effective job if you have conscious access to the gaps between moments.

Each moment stands uniquely on its own. Between each moment there is a gap in time like the gap between each house in a row of houses, or the gap between the cars of a freight train. Through each gap sudden nonlinear moves can be made. This is fantastic news. Just as a film editor can choose which scene follows the next in a movie, by making cuts between frames, a Possibility Manager can learn to choose which direction the next moment will take my moving sideways through gaps. Noticing the gaps between one moment and the next makes you aware that suddenly moving in a new direction is almost always possible.

EXPERIMENTS:

SPARK015.01 You will be experimenting both with the conversations that you create and the conversations that others create. Start by minimizing your NOW and noticing that when your NOW is minimized you can pay attention to the purpose, timing and designed intention of the words and phrases of conversations in a new way. This new set of perceptions is useful.

For example, a musician does not play a song all at the same time. Even if to your ears the notes flow together, the musician perceives and performs the music one note at a time, being acutely aware of the gaps and intervals between each note. With a little practice the same can be true of your conversations. Rather than perceiving the whole conversation as if it were all happening at once, narrow your field of perception to include a very small slice of the conversation. Leave aside implications, meanings, inferences, and so on, and interact with the conversation as if that small slice were the totality. Suddenly the scene as it unfolds before you is no longer solid.

Time is quantized into moments. Some moments are as long as a pause and some moments are as short as an instant, but if your NOW is small enough you will find that you can move sideways through the gaps between moments. When you are in contact with a group of people and your NOW is minimized, then you can take the whole group with you sideways through a gap between moments into an entirely new space of possibility. Navigating into nonlinear spaces by moving sideways through gaps between moments is a core innovation soft skill.

The experiment is to practice this innovation soft skill, both with your own conversations and the conversations of others. Once you have minimized your NOW then relax totally, quiet your mind, and wait for a gap. The experiment is to be present in a conversation that has one mood, one context, one set of possibilities, and then the instant a gap opens, stay in contact with everyone and move sideways through the gap into a new mood, new context, and new possibilities. Practice this move until you can make the transition from one space to another space so smoothly that everyone comes with you and no one notices the shift. While practicing you will fail many times. With each failure you will receive both direct and indirect feedback. The direct feedback will be people's comments or questions. The indirect feedback will be that not everybody comes along into the new spaces. Be grateful for your feedback, and especially for those who give it to you. The feedback you receive is the instructions for how to improve your skills.