

## SPARK 041

(Matrix Code: **SPARK041.00** for [StartOver.xyz](http://StartOver.xyz) game.)

**DISTINCTION:** Having a conversation about the conversation creates the possibility of possibility.

**NOTES:** Having a conversation about the conversation is called having a meta-conversation. Normally you cannot even conceive of having a conversation about your conversations because you are sucked into your conversations to such a degree that no other conversation seems possible. Having a meta-conversation would breach some unspoken protocol of conversations. You give your conversations a false packaging of importance or reality by locking yourself into their self-contained set of assumptions, the first assumption being, “This is the only conversation possible.”

Some years ago the Russian government was considering their sad state of affairs at an international conference. Official after official detailed their country’s dire lack of resources to create jobs, housing, education, health programs, transportation, trade, or growth. They spelled out the severity of their problems, their scarcity of options, and their limited possibilities. The whole nation’s future looked bleak and hopeless. One of the guest speakers was an American inventor named Buckminster Fuller. Mr. Fuller began his talk by reflecting upon the kind of speaking he had so far experienced at the conference. Previous presentations were consistently problem conversations, scarcity conversations, victim conversations, each with its own built in catastrophic result. Then Mr. Fuller announced that he was going to use the same evidence presented to initiate a different kind of conversation. He began explaining that there already were indeed enough resources. He began showing that from a different perspective there were an abundance of opportunities for creating housing, jobs, education, trade, and so on. The resources were not the problem. The conversation was the problem. From a different perspective the people had many unseen options and possibilities. The government officials were so surprised that they cancelled all the other scheduled presentations and turned the rest of the conference over to Buckminster Fuller so that he could keep speaking to them in this new conversation.

Each conversation you have inherently contains limits built into its form from the very beginning. Whether the conversation is business or private, with individuals or groups, the limits of a conversation come from the context of the conversation. A Possibility Manager retains the rights to have a conversation about the conversation at any time for no reason. This makes a Possibility Manager dangerous in a special sort of way – they cannot be contained by the contextual limits of a typical conversation because a Possibility Manager sources context. If the present conversation does not have enough integrity, clarity or possibility to serve the needs of the circumstances then a Possibility Manager can reinvent the context of the conversation by having a meta-conversation. If you change from one conversation to another, you change from one set of possibilities to another. Changing the conversation can change the world.

## EXPERIMENTS:

**SPARK041.01** Meta-conversations often begin with an orthogonal question because orthogonal questions take people's attention and put it somewhere where it was not. If you ask an orthogonal question about the conversation itself, the orthogonal question will take a person's attention outside the boundaries of the conversation. A question about the conversation wakes participants up to the fact that they are not actually imprisoned but are simply trapped in the illusory limits of one particular conversation. Suddenly many other conversations become possible. Here are some examples of orthogonal questions:

What is really going on here?

What kind of conversation is this? Is this gossip? Blame? Triangulation? Low Drama?

Who is responsible here?

What are the hidden assumptions you are making?

What is the purpose being served now?

What else could you be doing right now?

What did you forget?

Who is having this conversation?

What is the benefit of this conversation?

Why are you saying this to me?

What would it take for you to have integrity and be responsible?

Are you victims?

What do you really want to do?

What are you really committed to?

What else could you be considering right now?

What really matters here?

What do you really care about?

The experiment starts with you memorizing three of the above orthogonal questions. Then twice a day pop, drop, slip, flip, or spin outside of the limits of what is being created in a conversation by seriously asking one of your orthogonal questions.

You do not have to know what the new conversation will be before you take apart the present conversation. You just need to sense that something else is wanted or needed. Try to remember that starting a meta-conversation often immediately takes the present conversation into chaos and disorder. You should take care that having a meta-conversation does not feed your Gremlin. If the other people follow your meta-conversation they may be a little shocked to find that the previous limits of their investigations are no longer as solid as they were believed to be.

Using the Possibility Wand, orthogonal questions and meta-conversations it is easy to shift perspective to the outside of a conversation. The difficult thing is to remember that having a conversation about the conversation is at any moment possible.