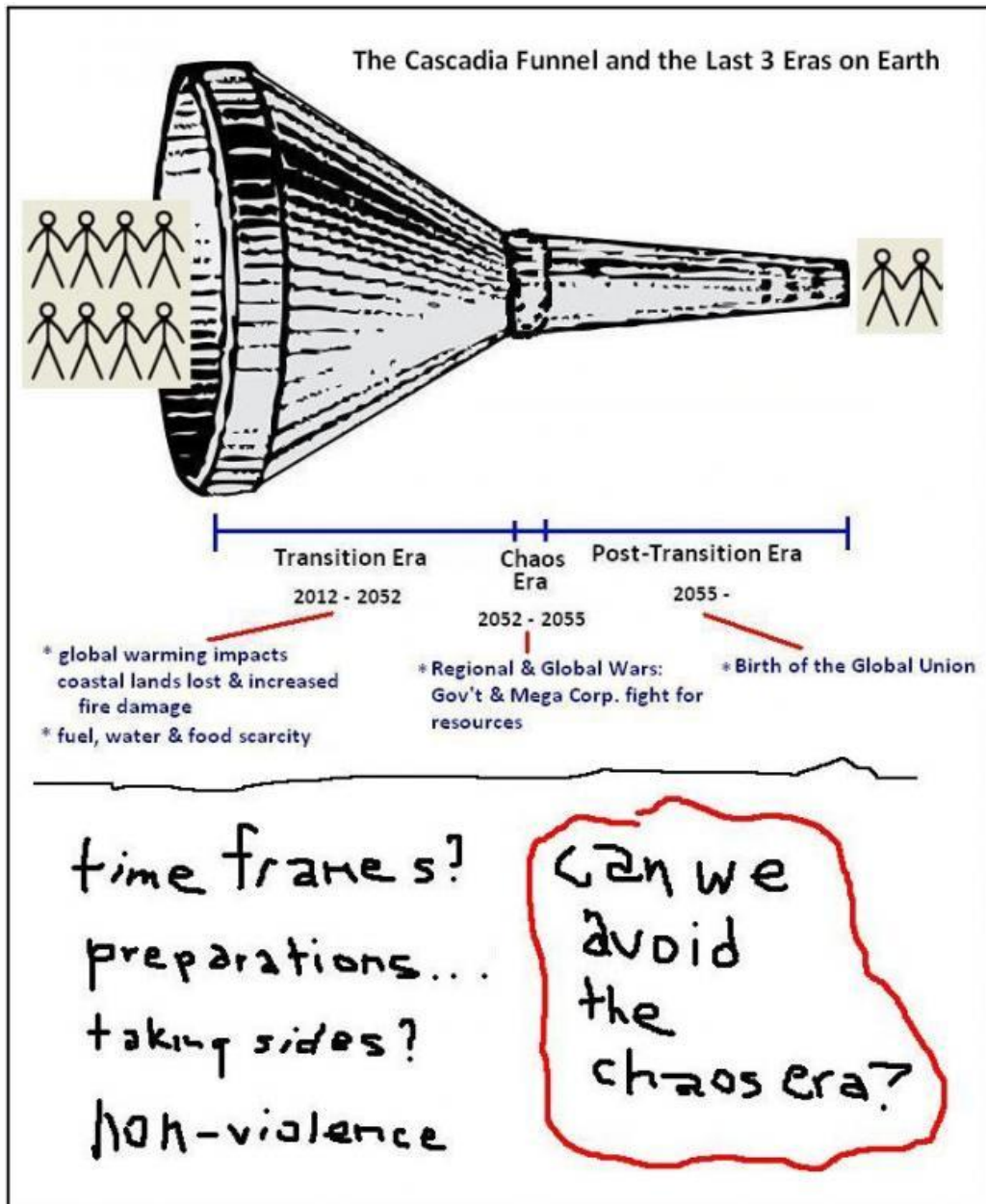




**Building the Story of Cascadia: New Tools for the Transition**  
**A Workshop for 2012 NWP Convergence by Willi Paul**

# THE LAST THREE ERAS ON EARTH



# Our New Symbols: Seeds, Soil to Stories



Turning, renewal



Cob bench community



EcoAlchemy – Transmutation



Dance, New Nature Rituals



Water birth, Diversity



Nature Steward



Reuse – Recycling



Magic, Nature wisdom



Togetherness, Eco-business

Permaculture-  
Inspired  
Symbols



Metamorphosis, Freedom

<http://planetshifter.com/node/1908>

What your favorite metaphors and symbols?

What are your kids favorite?

How do you use them? Do you create brand new symbols?

Do you think in symbols? Role of symbols in myth making?

Nature same as Permaculture symbols?

Sacred symbols?



# 5 New Nature-fueled Alchemies

Journey to Cascadia: Building a New Global Mythology

Alchemy is the transmutation of ideas and spirit into action.

There is no new mythology without alchemy.

How does transmutation or alchemy work in your life?

**Sound Alchemy:  
Rock Music**

**Landscape Alchemy:  
Permaculture**

**Spirit Alchemy:  
Transition Movement**

**Community Alchemy:  
Localization**

**Religion Alchemy:  
Dark Green Religion**



**One Earth**

<http://planetshifter.com/node/2034>

## [1] Sound Alchemy: [Rock Music](#)

As for rock music, we hear and see symbols through rock music and art. When musicians combine song lyrics with complimentary symbols, mythic meanings are reinforced and deepened. Symbols and metaphors are the seeds, our invitation to the feast. And many symbols, like numbers and colors, have ancient meanings and universal power.

## [2] Landscape Alchemy: Permaculture

[Permaculture](#) draws from several disciplines including organic farming, agroforestry, integrated farming, sustainable development, and applied ecology. The primary agenda of the movement has been to assist people to become more self reliant.

## [3] Spirit Alchemy: Transition Movement

[The Transition Movement](#) Recently [several key themes](#) have emerged from Transition:

**Seriousness and urgency.** There is a growing and indisputable recognition that our collective predicament is far more serious and more urgent than many of us had been willing to actively contemplate.

**Emergence or what** Christopher Alexander calls “Unfolding,” the evolutionary process by which the universe itself self-organizes, finding profound and practical lessons in how to catalyze Transition alchemy in our communities. I am in the process of learning about what is emerging in the Transition movement itself. In my community and groups, we’re discovering what is emerging in – and *through*- us.

**New Cosmology/Universe Story.** Man of us are also diving deep into the story of the evolution of the Universe, of the Earth, and of life itself. As Thomas Berry explains, this New Cosmology “explores the contemporary, scientific story of the origin, nature and function of the Universe from its beginning, through its galactic phase, its supernova events, the shaping of the solar system, Earth, life, human life and self-reflective consciousness as a single, unbroken series of events.” Alchemic transmutation on a grand scale. New Cosmology is helping us to recover our sense of the **sacredness** of life itself, and our fundamental connectedness with the processes that make life possible.

**Pattern Language** .As an important adjunct to the New Cosmology, we’re beginning to discover the importance of *the patterns of evolution itself* – the alchemy and patterns of wholeness and healing.

**Inner Transition/Heart & Soul.** Finally, I appreciate the alchemy of *Inner Transition*, what is frequently called “Heart & Soul”, the recognition that Transition in the outer world cannot occur without an Inner Transition.

## [4] Community Alchemy: [Localization](#)

Key ideas in the localization of community include:

**Healthy Food.** This is all about my backyard and working with other urban gardeners! Our food needs to be fresh, healthy, and locally produced and marketed.

**Personal Responsibility.** Localization mandates increasing levels of self-sufficiency, to the betterment of my family, neighborhood and town. It is now our challenge to support local ventures and local talent.

**Shifting Politics and Capital.** I can now exert some influence on my local schools and businesses. This produces a significant portion of the goods, services, food, and energy they consume from its own local endowment of financial, natural, and human capital. Regional and local funders must loan more to area businesses, keeping the community and feedback in mind. Localization alchemy hopes to restore an efficient balance between local production and imports.

**Environmental Impacts.** I need to focus on local and community vs. larger, national efforts and projects. Not just about reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but how the human and natural eco systems support each other on a daily basis.

## [5] Religion Alchemy: [Dark Green Religion](#)

“Since the publication of Rachael Carson’s *Silent Spring* in 1962, environmental alarm has intensified and become increasingly apocalyptic. Meanwhile, nature-related religion has been rekindled, invented, spread, and ecologized. A great deal of this religious creativity has been dark green, flowing from a deep sense of belonging to and connectedness in nature, while perceiving the earth and its living systems to be sacred and interconnected.

# Transition Tales: Shoot, Upload and Teach

Transition Tales from the 2012 Reskilling & Sharing Expo. Sponsor: Transition Palo Alto. Video: Willi Paul

Are you changing profit to share? Is knowledge exchange part of localization? What is the new community?



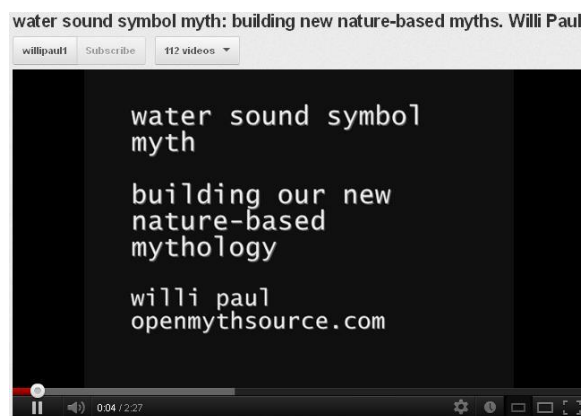
<http://planetshifter.com/node/2043>

# Stories, Songs, Poems & New Myths

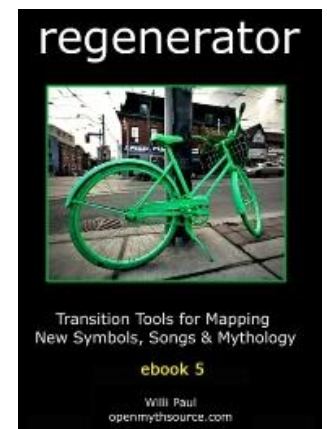
Themes of Our Times? Permaculture Songs? Is a concert like a ritual?



<http://planetshifter.com/node/1948>



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lo7kB380kE&list=0FAEA97D12725FB0>



<http://planetshifter.com/node/1888>



# Joseph Campbell's Hero, Initiation and Journey Vision

Who are your heroes? Why are they heroes?

Initiation in permaculture? What are some common milestones?

Alchemy in PDC? Define.

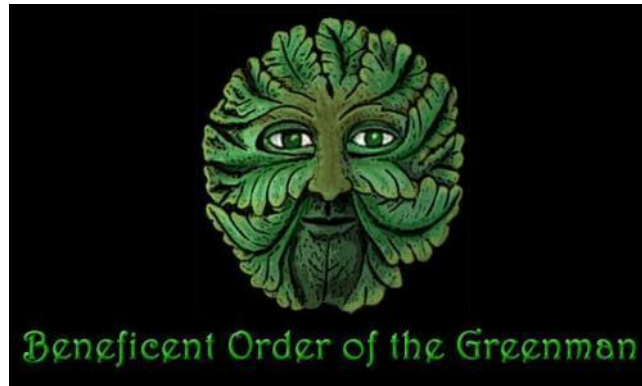
How is permaculture a shared journey?

Are we in conflict with others?





# The GreenMan Myth



<http://planetshifter.com/node/1681>

“Jung offered his theory of compensation-- that an archetype will reappear in a new form to redress imbalances in society at a particular time when it is needed. According to this theory, the Green Man is rising up into our present awareness in order to counterbalance a lack in our attitude toward Nature. He is reminding us of the union that ought to be maintained between humanity and Nature. He is a symbol of hope. As we destroy the ecosystem something in us dies as well. We need to again perform rituals and have our ceremonies to honor the Green Man ... as we envision the possibility of a new earthly paradise, or at least of rediscovering the lost greenness of our own souls...”

**Are you helping to create new rituals and ceremonies?**

**Universal Themes in the New Myths?**

**What is “New Myth of Climate Change?”**

**Journey? Initiations? Heroes?**

# The Global Design Standards & Media Archive?

Accelerating file sharing and the science of permaculture

Common Public Relations Resource

Promoting best quality images, web sites and instructions

Accelerating Innovation

Bridging science & Spirit

Open Source Humanity?

