

## Acknowledgments

Prayers and libations for the dearly departed.

How can I give thanks to all of the people that have made this book possible? I don't really know. I have thought long and hard for the past several months about how to make the perfect book. (For those that don't or didn't know, I'm a perfectionist when it comes to writing; however, I do take liberty with the grammatical chains from time to time). I wanted to put my best foot forward for this first book that I'm able to assemble.

I guess the only way to give proper thanks is just to say **THANK YOU** to everyone that has ever touched my Life, whether it was negative, positive, or a mixture of negativity and positivity. Without each of you this book would not have been possible.

Anyways, I would like to thank my lineage on both my father's and mother's side for giving me the heritage that has enabled me to speak up for what I believe is right and for passing along the gift of *true* education. I would like to thank the village that raised my siblings and me over the years. Thank you all soooooo much!!

I would like to thank all of my family, friends, associates, comrades, former (girl)friends, and other people (that I bestowed with other relationship labels) for being my guides along this journey that is Life. I would also like to thank all of the

immaterial/spiritual guides that have provided me with my connections to the Past, Present, and Future (thus the conceptual framework of this work).

I would like to thank each of my teachers that I've had over the years for the encouragement, criticism, support, grammatical lessons, praise, and so on. In addition, I would like to thank those teachers that completed the initial editing for some of the pieces that you will be reading shortly.

And lastly I want to thank each and every one of you that will purchase this book, as well as any others that may read this book too.

This book is a step in the journey of my personal healing and transformation. I hope that this book provides both entertainment and useful information to you.

Thank you *all* again.

Over time I have re-realized that all Art can have many different interpretations for each person. I stumbled upon that lesson again during a class dialogue this past spring semester (2004) at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT). I had enrolled in a graduate social work course, International Social Welfare and Sustainability, as I felt that that class would help me better understand Sustainability, which it did. Back to the aforementioned discussion.

In order to partially satisfy the course requirements on

the final project, I gave a brief lecture on the Web site [[http://www.questionuniverse.com/oldway/crisis/crisis\\_home.html](http://www.questionuniverse.com/oldway/crisis/crisis_home.html)] that I had created. The subject of the Web site was the Crisis in Perception. [I credit Sharif Abdullah in *Creating a World That Works for All* and Fritjof Capra in *The Web of Life: A New Understanding of Living Systems* for fully discussing the Crisis in Perception and solutions to that overall problem. Thank you both and any others that have described this ultimate Crisis in their own ways.]

A few weeks before the presentation, I entered an exhibit in the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Fair at UT. The exhibit consisted of a report, entitled “Sustainability: A Paradigm Shift in Engineering,” and a poster depicting the old and the future paradigm of engineering design.

I used the aforementioned poster, created for the fair, as another teaching tool in my class presentation to illustrate how I defined Sustainability and the Crisis in Perception. I asked my classmates and the professor how they interpreted the poster, which depicted the Web of Life in stark contrast to the linear, mechanistic world that we have created. Each person gave their own idea of what they figured the poster represented. I, in turn, invalidated their responses that were different from my own vision of what I had created; however, since then, I came to realize that each interpretation of the poster was correct. There was no incorrect interpretation.

I now acknowledge that everyone will have a different interpretation of this book based on the time, space, place,

personal outlook, and so on of each “individual” person. As well, I recognize that I also have my own interpretations of why I wrote each piece and what they meant to me – when I conceived the idea and wrote the short story or poem & also now after years have gone by, in most cases. I bring this up, as I don’t want you, the reader, to feel that your understanding of what I have written is somehow incorrect because it doesn’t match any interpretations that I or others may have conceived. Each one of us must have our own view of the world.

# Originally written in 2004 and slightly revised in 2014

Thank you to my family, immediate and extended, friends, acquaintances, and my good friend for your vocal and/or silent support.

Thank you especially to those individuals that have repeatedly asked when I was going to complete this book. Well, it’s complete now.

# January/February 2014