Intro

There are lots of kinds of conflicts

... but in principle, they're better studied as opportunities in disguise. The hard part is looking at them without getting sidetracked by fear or confusion, learning to just see them simply, and play with their connections a little to find their valid basis and the unexpected perspectives that open doors. One of the deep conflicts that led me to learning to design with natural systems is the deep conflict between "sustainability" and "compound growth" wrapped up in our thinking about how to change the earth.

There's a disconnect, leading to conflicts, between how things physically work in nature and what they mean to us. Economic growth it the universal objective of government and business interests. It's also a process of ever more rapid change and increasing consumption of physical things. The earth is fragile and finite, though... so we're caught in a bind.

...By our 'Somewhat Magical Thinking'

Physical growth is thought of like 'Praise'... as a passing thing...

> Praise needs to be reapplied every day, and does not accumulate in direct proportion.

But unlike Praise, the economic reward system of money accumulates, making its effects multiply *Physically* by %'s. We may do it for the praise, but on a strictly finite planet it tends to crowd out and overwhelm all other things, expanding and changing more rapidly over time. No wonder we're running into cultural, ecological, and urban imbalances, congestions & conflicts of all sorts all over. !

> But what's enough...?
>
> If Growth is physical... don't we still need Praise...?

The main change in view is understanding what impacts we're actually responsible for. Because our economic impacts are spread throughout the world, literally, we find it very hard to account for them, and impossible to argue with people who believe that the impacts we can't see don't matter. It's sort of an accounting problem. When you add up the impacts of a project we have records for, and its direct share of the global impacts, using the best 2007 measurement methods, they differ by a factor of 10 or more... We don't see our direct impacts partly because they're so spread out.

So, making growth more efficient only reduces the rate of increasing impacts, and still multiplies the problem. We need to discover the pleasures and new possibilities of 'enough'. Exploring new kinds of value for a stable world, though, can only begin in earnest once physical multiplying growth & development of our whole complex civilization and it's accelerating rearrangement of the earth begin to level off. That's not yet part of much of anyone's plan, though, and lots of reason to think it will happen in a dramatic unplanned way, because we're violating nature's balance. Even the popular 'grass roots' solution of voluntary simplicity is mainly just distancing ourselves from the problem, not solving it, responding to only 10% or less of our actual impacts and not altering the naturally dominant multiplying of impacts by the economic growth industry.

More Ways to Respond

- Switch to 'learning mode' and 'Look Around...'
  - If we're measurably missing more than 90% of our direct impacts they must be hiding somewhere!
  - Look for the difference be what things mean to us and what they do in the natural world & connect.
- Consider total project impacts, not % change of parts
- Find compensations in being an agent of change
- Find compensations in discovering other connections and worlds, and how to create new kinds of value using them for free.

Reconsider using profit to multiply profit

- Because every real dollar has about the same real physical impact on the earth.
- Dollar shadow principle - Based on the principle that our most untraceable economic impacts will also be the most average, and clear evidence that the great majority of our impacts are untraceable, every real $ is