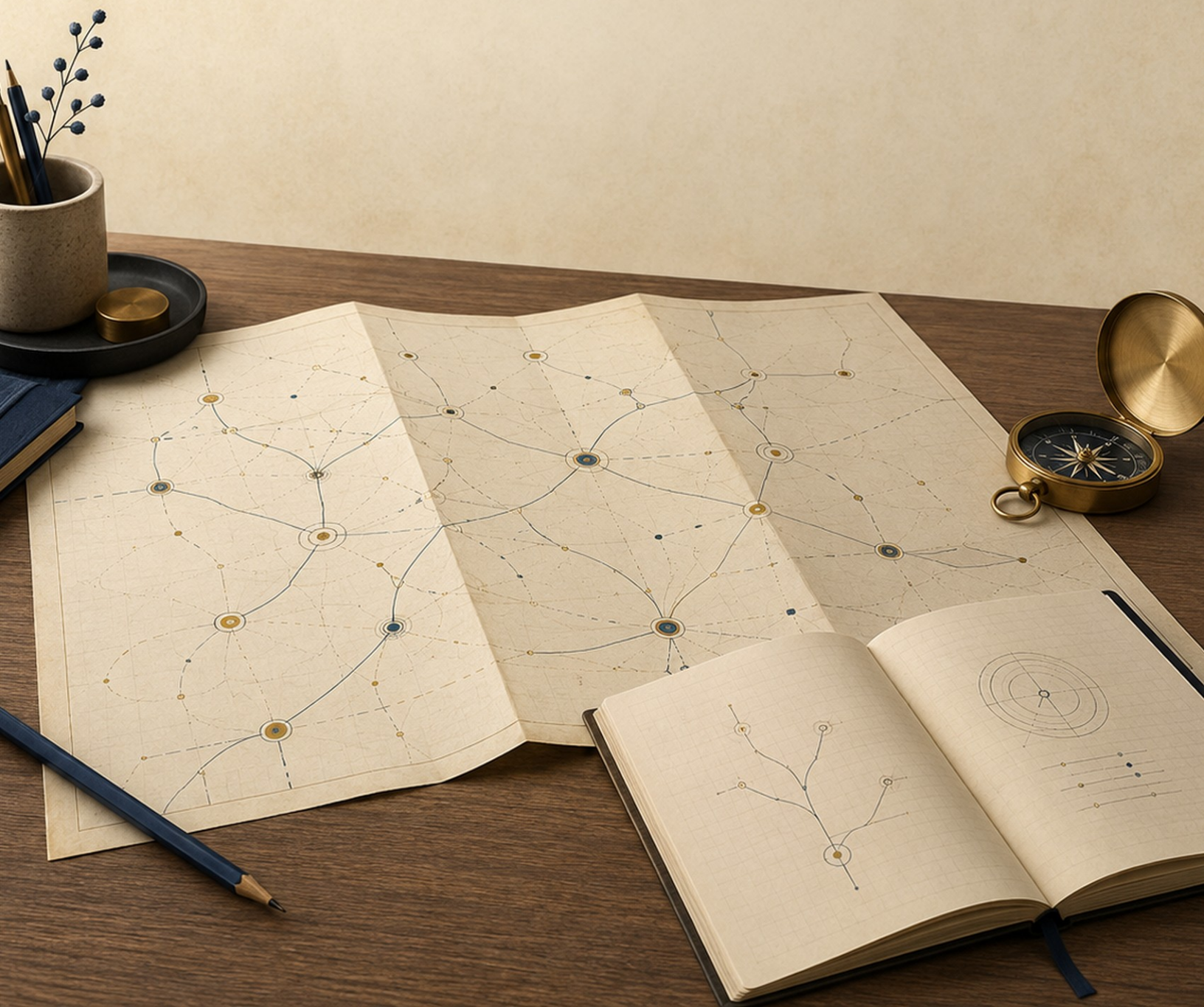
READ THIS FIRST

The Primer

How I put this map together
and how you can use it as you read.

a companion to The Desmic Lattice · The Magazine Edition

JIRI RUTNER · MMXXVI

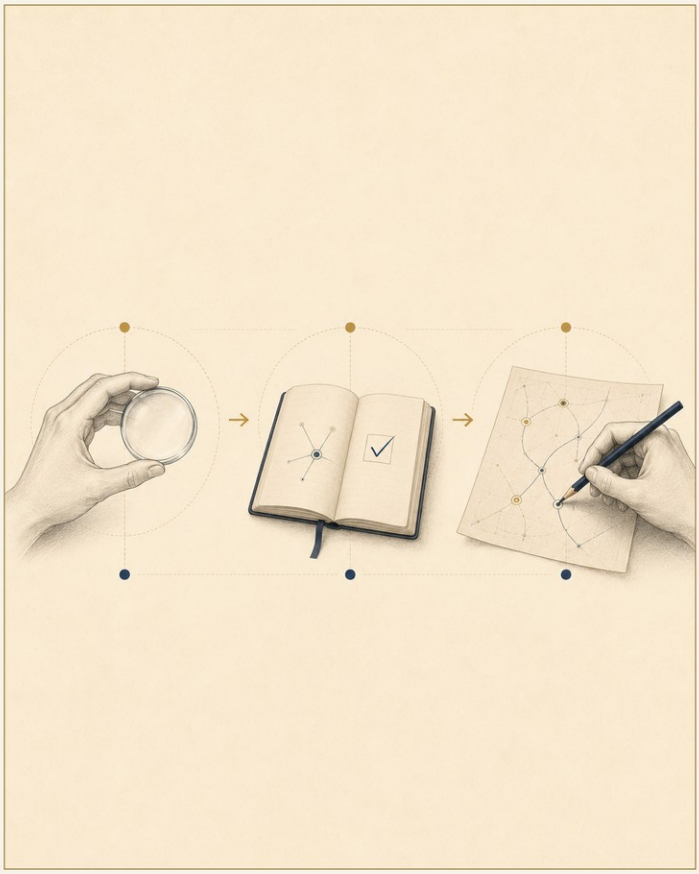


WHY A PRIMER

Read me before the magazine

The Magazine Edition takes you through the Desmic Lattice in sixteen illustrated pages. It moves quickly. Before you open it, I want to give you a little context for how I put the map together and what I had in mind when I called it a framework.

I'll start with a street corner, because it's easier to explain how I came to this work if you can see what two people might notice standing in exactly the same place. From there, the step from government to a question about consciousness may make a little more sense.



Look closely, follow what catches your attention and see how you would draw the map.

HOW TO USE THE FRAMEWORK

You can try the framework for a while and see whether it changes what you notice. If you come away with one question worth asking again, that's a good place to start.



These are the kinds of material I'm trying to read together. Before I look for a connection, I want to understand what each person was trying to explain in the first place.

WHO IS WRITING THIS

How I came to this work

Most of my working life has involved helping people understand a problem they share. Consciousness may seem like an unusual place for that work to lead. The connection, for me, is in how you approach a question that no one person can see in full.

In state government in Australia, and later in city and county work, I kept running into problems that crossed departmental lines. Take homelessness. A transportation engineer might look at a street corner and see how people and vehicles move through it. An outreach worker might recognize someone there and know why they've come back to that particular spot. Both can give you an accurate account. You'll understand considerably more if you hear them together.

Part of my job has been getting that context to travel, from the person doing the work to the person making a decision about it, and back again. I pay particular attention when two people point to the same thing before either has heard the other's explanation.

That's part of what drew me to AI. I could see how useful it might be in government if more of what one team knew could reach another in a form they could actually use. I carried that interest into consulting. Understanding the problem is half the solution has been a working principle for me ever since.

I'd also been reading about consciousness for years. Eventually I found myself doing with those books what I'd done with departments. I'd read Monroe, come across something in Huxley or a Sufi account that reminded me of it, then go back and ask whether they really meant the same thing. The places where the comparison broke down ended up being as important as the places where it held.

I put the Desmic Lattice together by following the connections that kept drawing me back to those accounts.

Seventeen main works went into this version. You might begin with a different one than I did and find your way into the same question from another direction.

THE METHOD

Convergence: the two-departments rule

If an engineer and an outreach worker both point to the same corner, the first thing I'd ask is what led each of them there. They may have noticed the same problem. They may also have noticed two quite different things happening in the same place. You only find out by asking each person to walk you through what they saw.

I use the same habit when I read about consciousness. When two people describe something familiar in very different terms, I want to hear more. Sometimes it's precisely where their accounts diverge that a part of the picture comes into view.



Each person sees the corner from a different angle. Put their accounts together and notice what you can see now.



They've pointed to the same corner. I'd want to hear each person's account before deciding what they agree on.

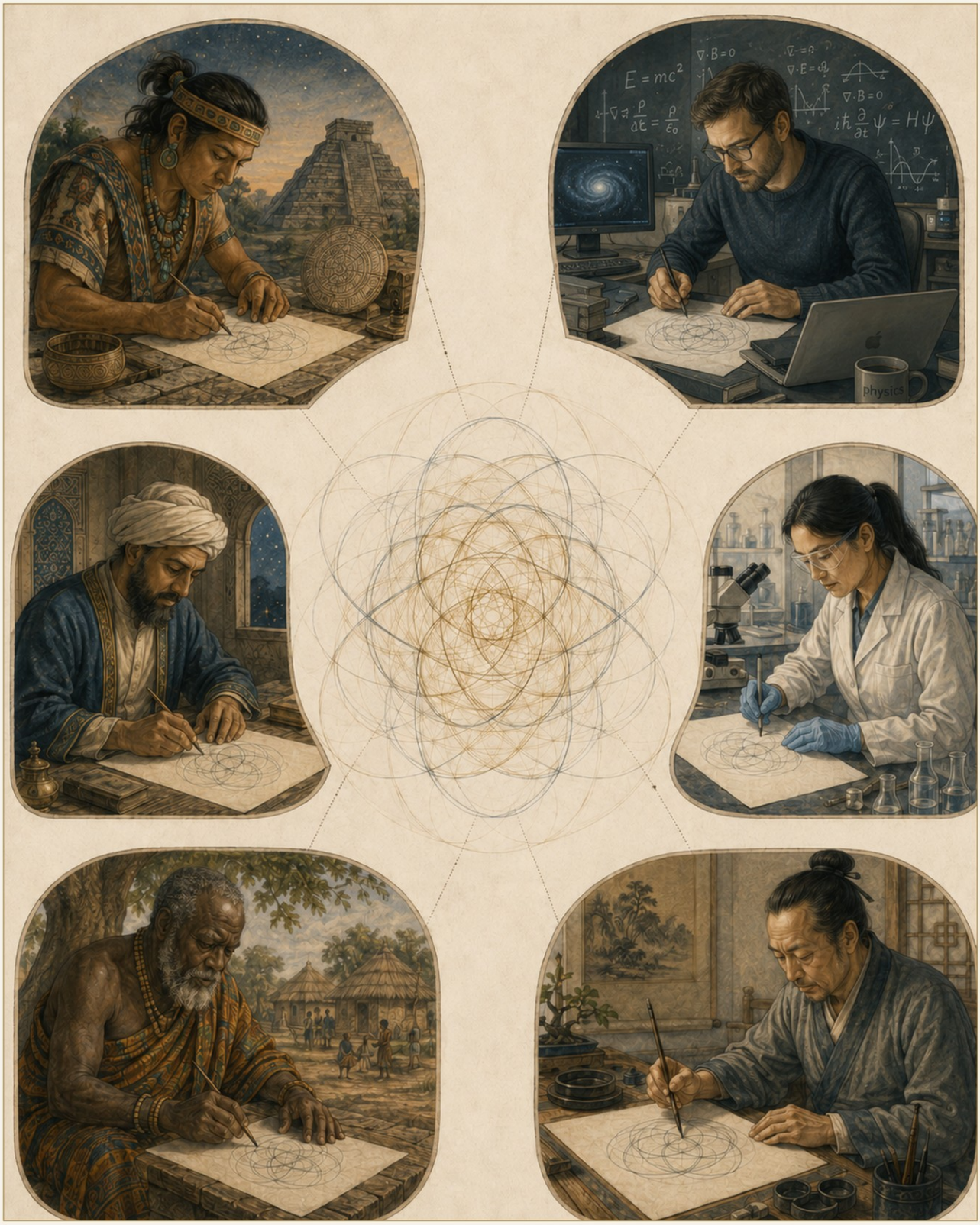
Reading the accounts side by side

I brought the same approach to the seventeen main sources behind the framework. Monroe recorded experiences he described as out of body. Hawkins developed a scale for states of consciousness. Faggin came to the question through physics and engineering. The contemplative writers brought methods and vocabularies of their own.

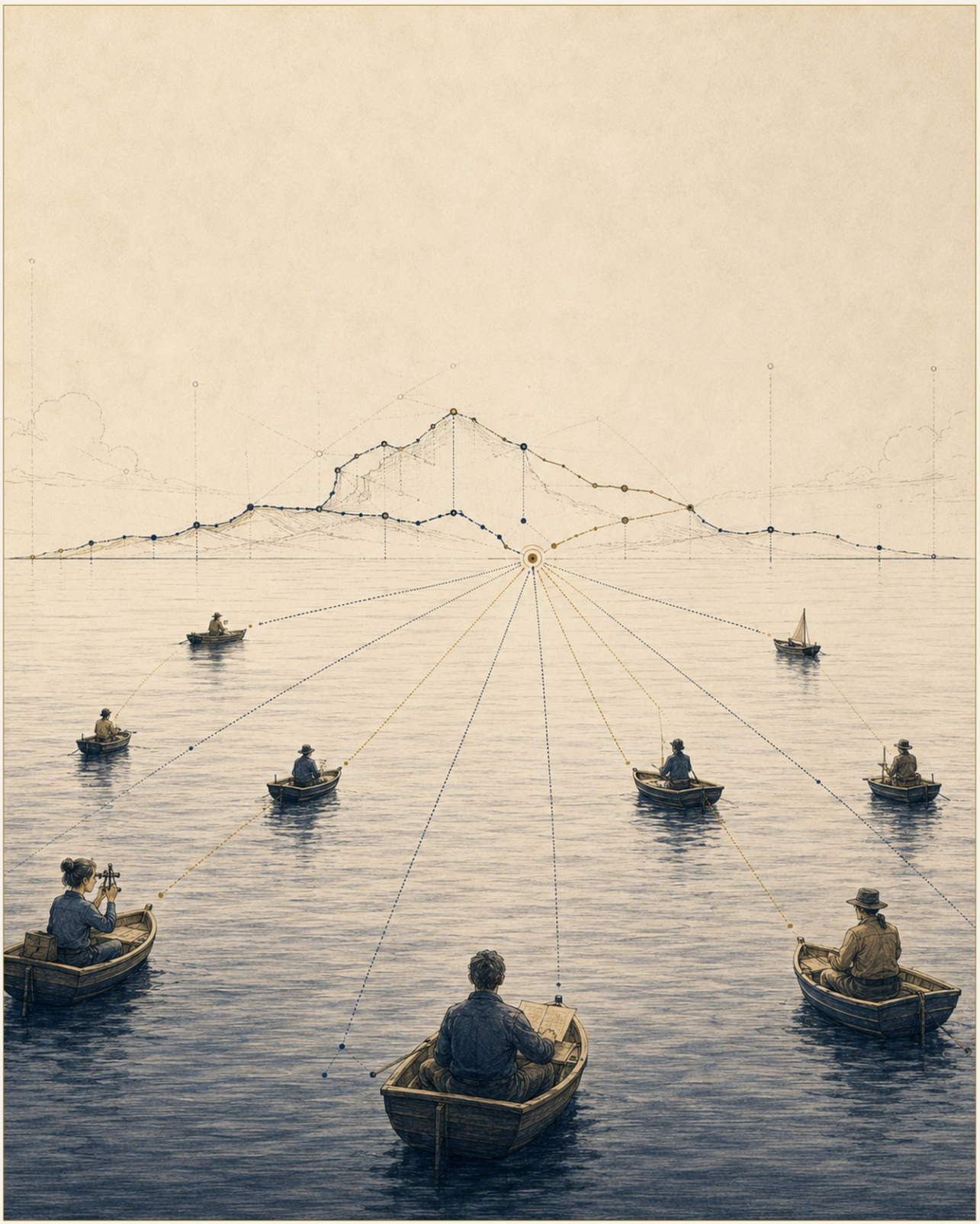
I'd spend some time with one account, then return to another with a different question in mind. Over time those trips back and forth began to give the Lattice its shape.

A word like awareness can turn up in several places and feel quite different in each. One person is sitting in meditation. Another is describing the moment they came back from an experience they could barely put into words. Reading them together changes what I hear in both.

Sometimes a passage led me to another writer. Sometimes it brought me back to an experience in my own life. I wanted the map to have room for both kinds of recognition.



Spend a moment with each scene. What do you notice in one that changes how you look at the next?



The ships approach from different directions. One might see a harbor another can't see at all. Where their coastlines overlap is worth a closer look.

BEFORE YOU TURN THE PAGE

Try the method yourself

When something in the Magazine stays with you, give it a little room in your notebook. Maybe it's the dream, the dial or the picture of a life returning to a larger self. What did it bring to mind from your own experience?

You can come back to the same page later. Sometimes what stood out the first time changes once you've spent a few days with the idea.



Your notebook belongs on this desk too. Start with the moment you remember most clearly.

HOW TO HOLD IT

A framework, not a doctrine

I use a framework to organize what people know and see what becomes clearer when those pieces sit together. In city planning or emergency response, a framework earns its place by helping people understand how their work fits together. When the situation changes, the framework has to change with it.

That's how I think about the Desmic Lattice. The Professional Reference Edition brings 31 theories and related questions into one frame while keeping their differences visible.

As you read, notice where something becomes clearer and where you find yourself having to make a leap. I'm particularly interested in that second moment. It may mean I've missed a step, or it may be the point where your experience leads you somewhere else.

Pick one idea and live with it for a while if you'd like. The question is whether it helps you see something you might otherwise have missed.



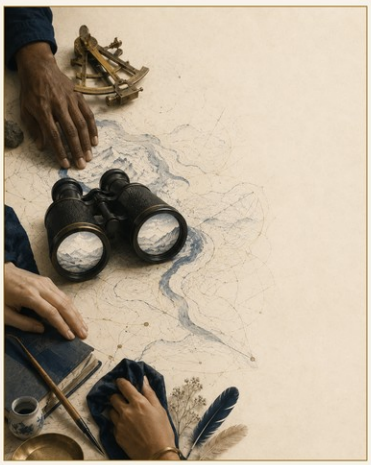
A framework has to leave room for what you learn when you use it.



Sometimes it takes another person's notes to see what was missing from your own.

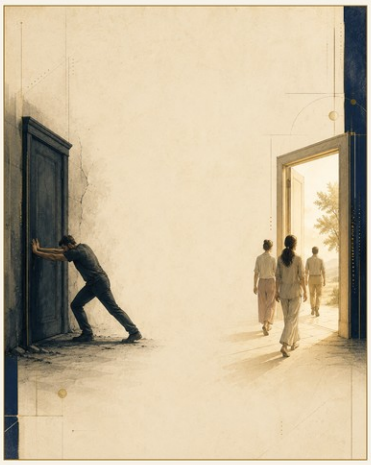
THREE INSTRUCTIONS

How to read the magazine



01 Read the map lightly

Think of it as a borrowed pair of binoculars. Use what helps you see more clearly and set it down when it stops helping.



02 Watch one distinction

For one week, notice the difference between force and power in a meeting, an argument or a decision. What happened when you pushed? What allowed people to come into alignment?



03 Take your anomalies seriously

Write down the dream that stayed with you, or the coincidence you've thought about more than once. What do you remember happening, and when did you start to give it a meaning? Both belong in the account.



Start with the person in the center. From where they stand, the whole picture looks like one life. Follow the relationships outward and that same life belongs to something much larger.

THE FRAMEWORK, IN ONE BREATH

I begin with consciousness and picture it as a connected web.
Earth is one place in that web where a larger consciousness
can experience the limits of a single life.
Your time here is finite. You care what happens to the people you love.
You make choices before you know how they will turn out.
I call that life a probe, and Earth a crucible.
In the Lattice, what the life gathers returns to the larger self.
Power is the pull that keeps the parts in relationship,
even under the pressure of feeling separate.

You've seen how I put the map together. Now you can try it for yourself.

Open the magazine.

www.desmiclattice.com

the professional edition · the magazine · the plates · the library

Walk well.