

Homework – Spirals of Despair/Hope

1. Please read pages 171-175 (*The Downward Spiral*) and 176-179 (*Reversing the Spiral*) from Seeing Nature.
2. Be prepared to discuss the following in class....
 - a. Krafel states that he senses “*a dismal downward spiral within my culture*” (p. 174). Do you? What evidence do you have?
 - b. Do you see any relationship between the downward spiral he describes and either soil erosion (from the film) or the commodity system causal loop diagrams we have been playing with?
 - c. When he explores the “*headwaters of my culture*” for the causes of erosion of that culture, he finds widespread assumptions. What are they? Do you agree?

d. Krafel believes that these “*widespread assumptions*” are powerful mental models that can lead us either toward spirals of despair or spirals of hope. The diagram on page 178 may be difficult to read so the words are printed again below. The words in the two spirals are as follows:

<i>Spiral of Despair</i>	<i>Spiral of Hope</i>
Erosive Assumptions Believed	Erosive Assumptions Doubted
Hope Withers	Possibilities Increase
Individuals Give Up	Individuals Act More
Possibilities Diminish	Hope Grows
Erosive Assumptions Believed	Erosive Assumptions Doubted
... and on and on	...and on and on

Do you see yourself in either of these spirals?