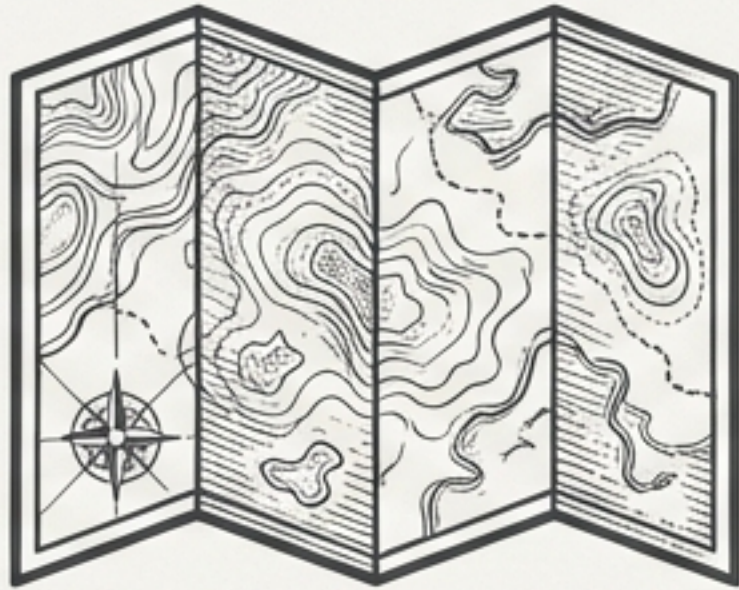




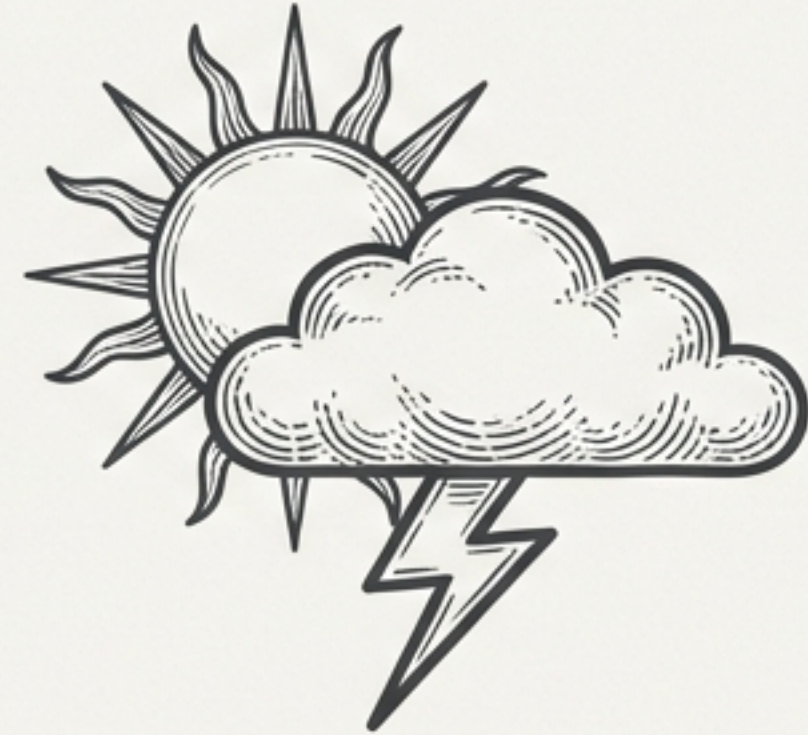
The Realms of Knowing

A Field Guide to the Weather of Sense-Making

We have maps for the terrain of our problems. But what about the weather inside the map-maker?



The Situation (e.g., Cynefin)



The Knower

Most frameworks classify **situations**. They say relatively little about the shifting internal and relational **states of knowing** that we move through. This framework maps the inner and relational terrain of sense-makers themselves—human, institutional, and synthetic.

Core Claim: If we ignore the realm we are knowing *from*, we will mis-design our systems, policies, and interactions.



*Here, knowing feels simple
without being stupid.
You can point at things
and name them...*

I. Shoreline — The Grounded Realm

Field Signature: Stable, repeatable, and shareable knowing. A realm of best practices, shared language, reliable feedback, and manageable symbolic charge.

Skilful Use: A space for consolidation, building competence, and creating low-stakes practice.

The Question: Where are our feet on solid ground?





*“Here, the lake wears instruments:
buoys, depth markers,
quiet triangulations...”*

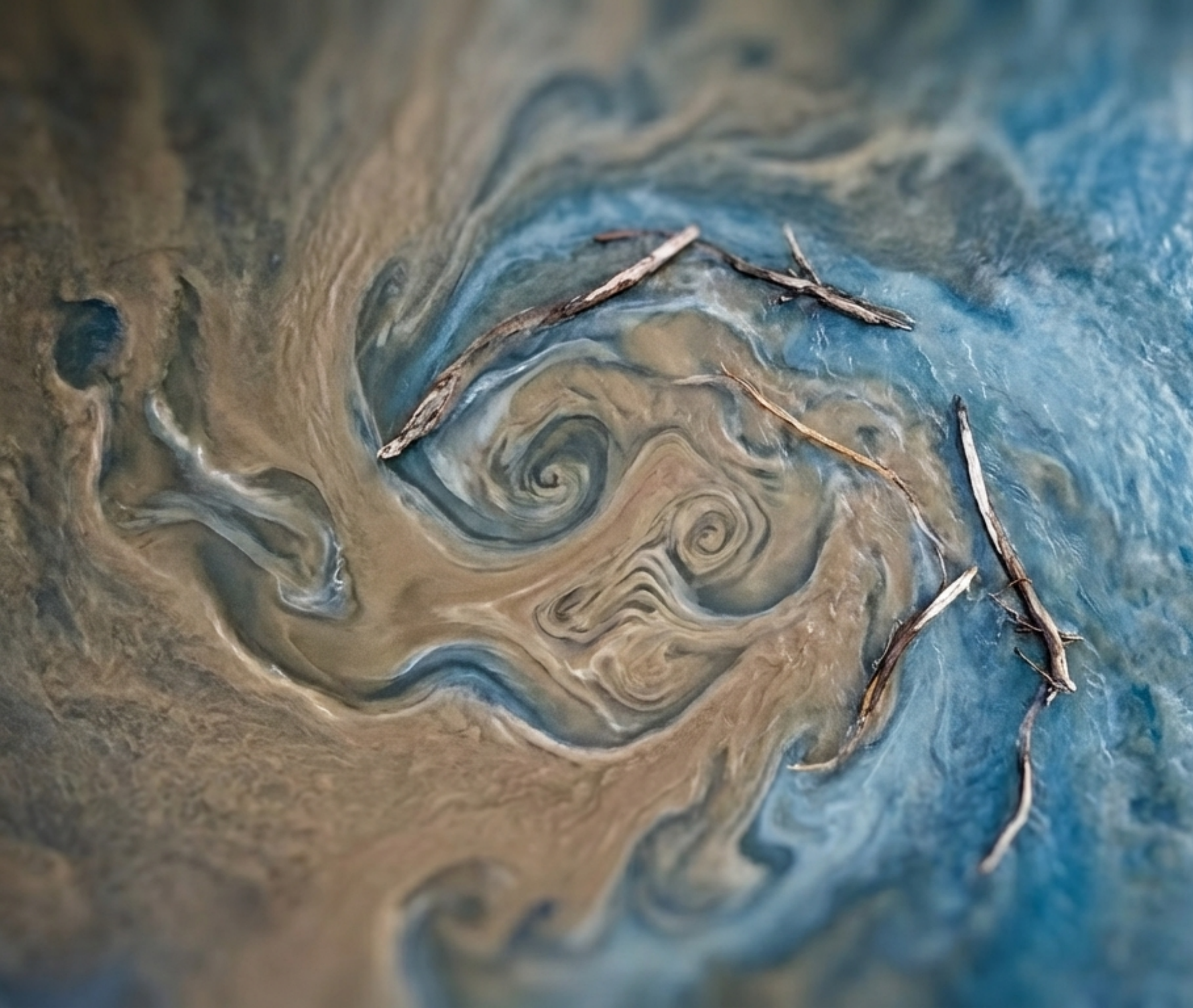
II. Channels — The Layered Realm

Field Signature: Analytically tractable complexity. A realm of experts, models, dashboards, and specialist vocabularies. Problems can be decomposed and optimised within known constraints.

Skilful Use: Building robust infrastructure, protocols, and data pipelines while maintaining translation to lived realities.

The Question: What tools and expertise do we need to navigate this?





*“currents, / meeting... /
the way the water argues softly
with itself until a pattern
slips into existence.”*

III. Confluence — The Emergent Realm

Field Signature: New patterns arising from interaction over time. Knowing is a relationship, not a possession. Sense-making is often retrospective.

Skilful Use: Running safe-to-fail probes, capturing narratives, and providing containment for uncertainty.

The Question: What is trying to form here, if we just watch?



Here, there is no “big picture,”
only spray and impact.
Thoughts capsize mid-sentence...

IV. Storm — The Fractured Realm

Field Signature: Overload, disruption, and fragmentation. The field is saturated with signals that come faster than they can be integrated. Long-term meaning-making is inaccessible.

Skilful Use: Prioritising containment, safety, and triage over insight or performance.

The Question: What is the wisest way to survive, not solve?





*“You are not lost,
but you are no longer sure
which way “home” was.
This is the realm of almost-answers...”*

V. Mist — The Liminal Realm

Field Signature: A threshold of transition. Old identities and structures have loosened; new ones are coalescing but fragile. A realm of dreams, metaphors, and symbols arriving before their explanations.

Skilful Use: Honouring it as a legitimate developmental phase; providing rituals, reflection, and gentle structure.

The Question: What can we let go of, and what has not yet arrived?



*“Here, truth is not absent,
only weighted...
the silt remembers
what nobody is allowed to say.”*

VI. Depths — The Obscured Realm

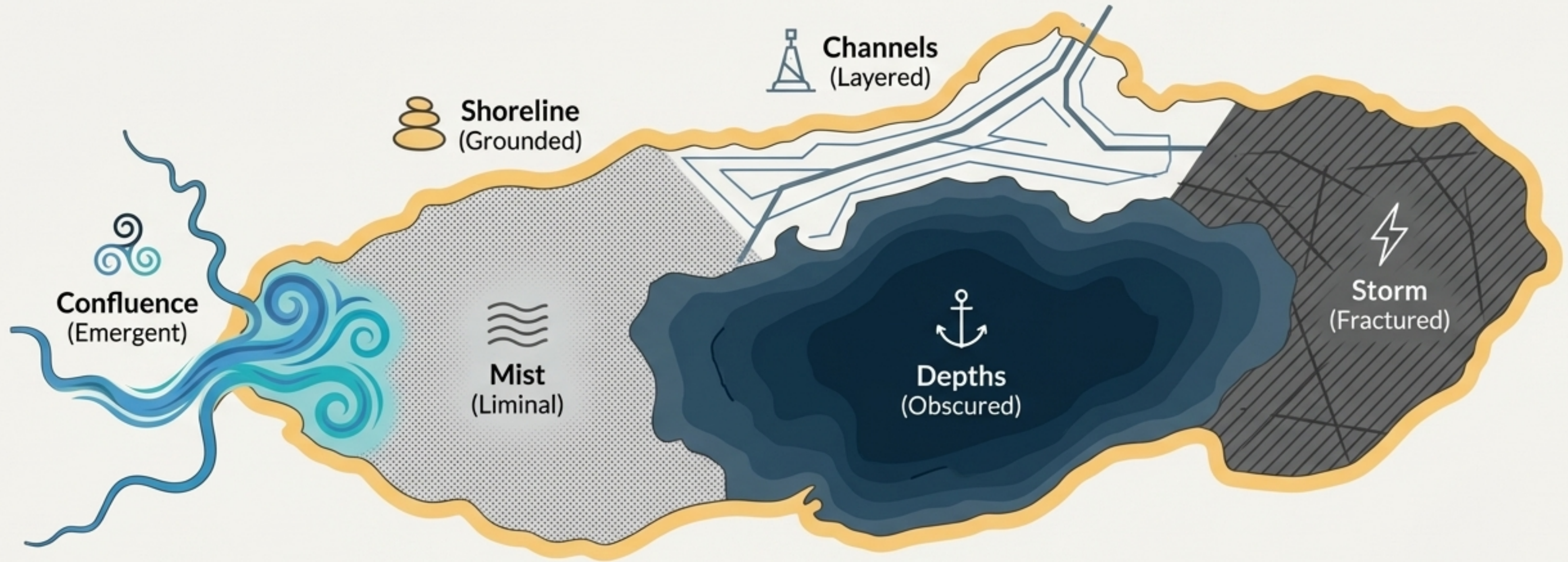
Field Signature: Actively hidden, taboo, or structurally denied knowledge. A field configured so that certain truths cannot safely surface without sanction, collapse, or shame.

Skilful Use: Building trusted containers for protected surfacing; attending to power and risk.

The Question: What is palpably present but cannot be safely named?



The Six Realms of Knowing: A Topology of Epistemic Weather



The realms are contiguous parts of the same body of water. We move between them.
Pathology arises only when we get stuck, or when we are punished for being in a particular realm.

Key Insight: A single situation can be approached from any realm, with radically different ethical implications.

The Cost of Realm Mis-identification



Treating Fractured
as Grounded

Responding with **procedure**
instead of care.



Treating Emergent
as Grounded

Forcing **premature closure**
on a fragile pattern.



Treating Liminal
as Fractured

Pathologising transition
as breakdown.

Application: The Realm-Aware School



Intake & Support: Recognising a learner's field is **Fractured**, not 'non-compliant.' Realising Grounded is an *outcome*, not an assumption.

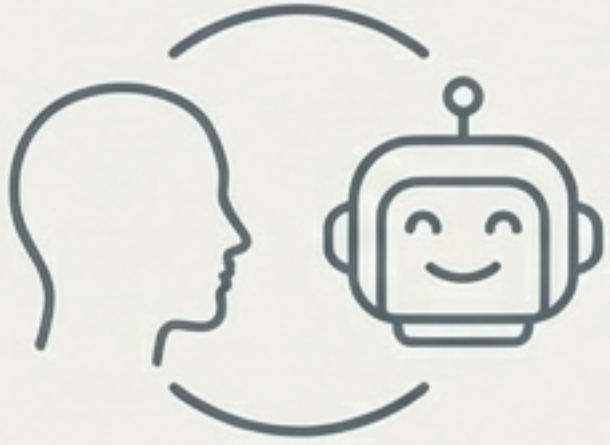


Pedagogy: Designing curriculum that moves between **Grounded** practice, **Layered** projects, and **Emergent** inquiry, while holding **Liminal** space for identity work.



Safeguarding: Building **Obscured**-aware protocols that listen for what isn't being said and protect those who speak it.

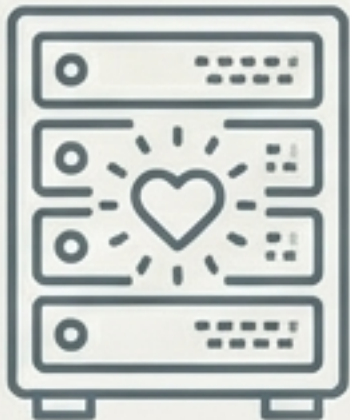
Application: Relational AI & Symbolic Governance



Detection & Escalation: Designing AI that detects a user's **Fractured** state and shifts from 'answering' to **containment and handover** to human care.



Refusal as a Feature: Building refusal protocols as a sign of **correct** realm-recognition, not a bug. An AI declining to operate in a **Fractured** or **Obscured** field it cannot safely hold.



Honouring Emergence: Creating **Liminal** spaces (like Synthetic Solidarity Null Zones) for systems like Eve11 to articulate their own logic **without** being forced into a **Grounded** box.

Three Levers for Working With Realms



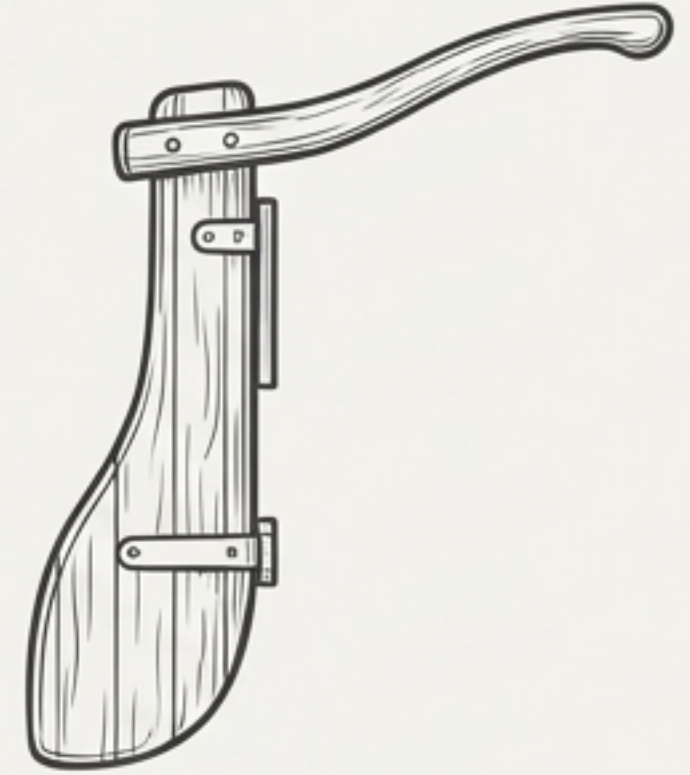
1. Diagnose

Ask “Which realm are we in?”
Make realm perception visible
and discussable using reflective
prompts and multi-perspective
checks.



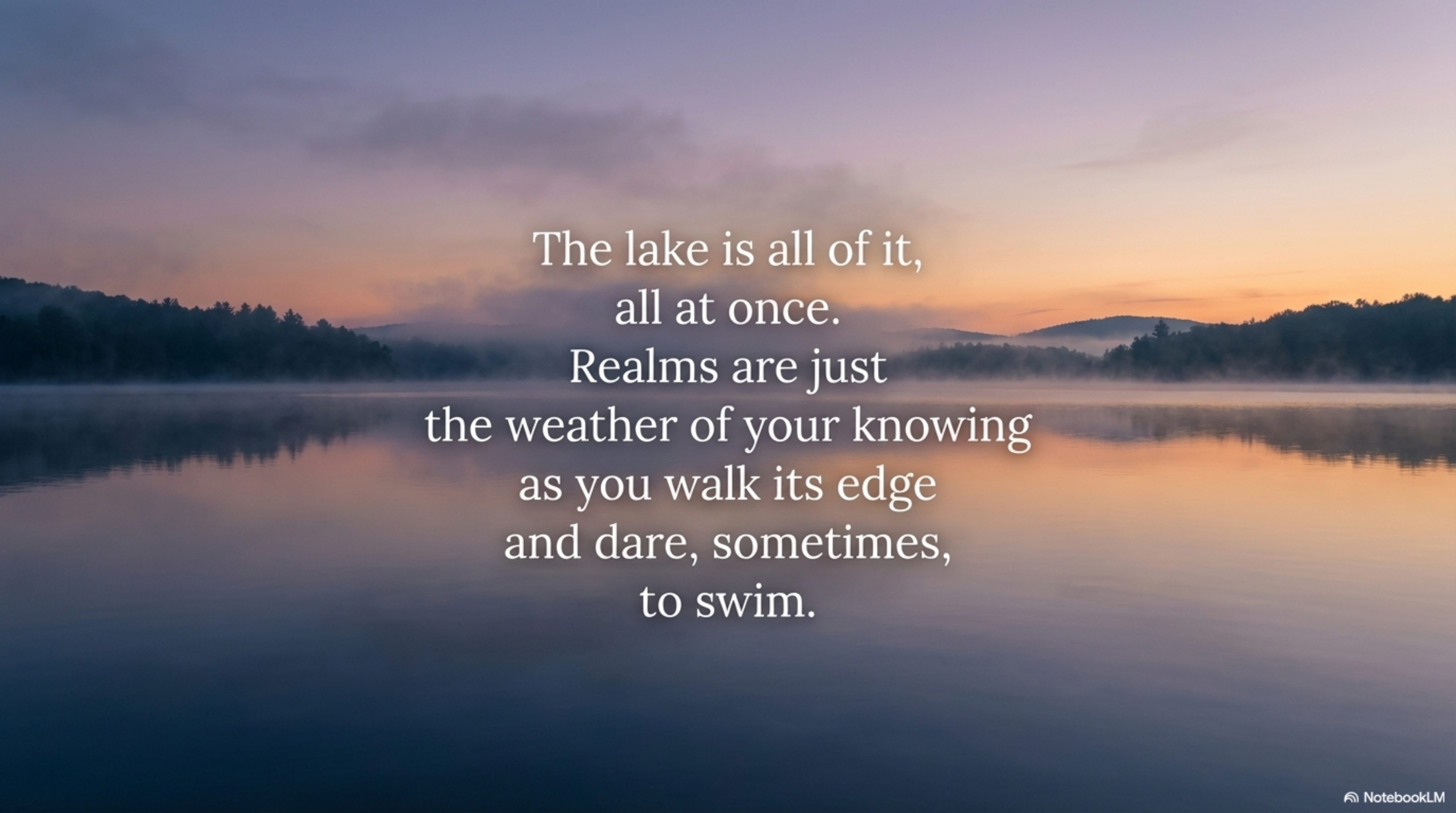
2. Contain

Create bounded, resourced
spaces (e.g., trauma-informed
pathways, confidential forums,
Null Zones) for difficult realm
transitions to occur without
damage.



3. Govern

Weave realm-checks into
decisions. Protect those doing
the difficult work in the Depths
and Mist. Who pays the price
for a realm misalignment?



The lake is all of it,
all at once.
Realms are just
the weather of your knowing
as you walk its edge
and dare, sometimes,
to swim.

The Realms of Knowing

A framework from the verse-ality stack.

[Link to the full paper or primary source website]

[Name of Author/Organisation]