

REGENERATIVE LIFE LEVELS

- Children play soccer for the **value** it generates in terms of strength or controlled reflexes.
- Teenagers play it as an arena to hone their skills and **correct the flaws** in their performance.
- College athletes play it to express their **potential** and gain **accolades**.
- Professionals on teams that achieve greatness evolve the game and encourage millions of fans to pursue **aspirational** lives.

Whenever I push myself to take on something new, I feel like a child again, awkward and struggling to make things work (**value return**).

But little by little I develop enough basic competence to start working on self-improvement (**arresting disorder**), aspiring to excellence (**doing good**), and ultimately contributing to a better world (**regenerating life**).

Levels –

Regenerate Life – focuses on how to build the capacity in people and other living systems to be self-determining in the world. At this level, we make a profound shift in perspective. We commit to seeking what's essential in each person and every sort of thing that is the subject of our work. We become radically particular. We are no longer willing to pigeonhole people, places, groups, or materials because we see each as unique. When we make this shift, we're able to enter into deeply respectful relationships, where the full expression of the unique potentials of others is our primary objective. As the highest level of paradigm in our framework, regenerate life incorporates and transforms how we work on all of the others. We're still willing to do good, but not in a generic or abstract way. The good we seek starts from an essence that wants to be expressed. We may still wish to reduce waste and dysfunction by arresting disorder in a system, but we never allow this to distract us from the overall creative purpose we're pursuing. And we certainly need to achieve a value return from our efforts if we're to be able to continue them, but value return includes the fulfillment that arises from realizing the potential of someone or something other than ourselves.

Do Good – operate from a faith in the potential of things and people to improve and make more meaningful contributions to the world. This allows us to look at more than the immediate consequences of our actions. We're motivated by a desire to manifest the potential we can see, to make the world a better place. Not only do we need to pay attention to our actions and their context, but also we need to build our own character, so that we're able to be consistent and honorable with regard to these motivations. Adopting this level of paradigm will have the effect

Arrest Disorder – manage entropy; manage both our own actions and the context within which they occur, usually by addressing gaps and problems that are showing up.

Value Return – generate a useful return

Sanford, Carol. *The Regenerative Life* (p. 31-4).