



SEVEN PATHS TO POWER

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PROLOGUE

I wrote *Seven Paths to Power* to provide readers with a more direct means of accessing Centerpath's ideas.

Having already written several books, I eventually came to the realization that, even though I personally considered these publications to be highly meaningful, it was possible that they might only be of interest to me; that my rawer ideas might not resonate with others.

At the same time, I knew Centerpath's messages were certainly very valuable and could be put to good use in the lives of others. Rubber needed to hit the road. The dreamer in me needed to give way to the 'practicalist'. I needed a more 'everyday' version of Centerpath so that its great message might reach—and therefore positively influence—a larger audience.

The result is *Seven Paths to Power*. A collection of Centerpath short stories outlining nature's awesome creative force and more specifically—how her creative process can guide our lives to higher planes.

I chose the title not only for its inherent allure, but because it perfectly encapsulates the book's intent.

For instance, when I use the term power, I'm referring to the various forms of magic that the universe has to offer—beauty, harmony, balance, and bliss. Qualities we all admire and want more of in our own lives.

To gain more of this power, we need a pathway to navigate our way, for which Centerpath provides the perfect conduit.

Centerpath provides the right roadmap because its tenants are rooted in nature and her deep wisdoms, and just as importantly, it reveals how these are inextricably linked to our lives.

Centerpath allows a glimpse into nature's workings: how her wisdom applies to our lives; and how, through faithfully following her way, we can elevate our experience to the enchanted.

I hope you find *Seven Paths to Power* useful, uplifting, and inspiring, and that, in some small way, it achieves my dream of bringing the universe's magic back into our lives.

Because the very makeup and character of centers—both at their point of inception and through their on-going presence—are transmitted and embedded into the larger creations forming about them, we are able to devise means to enhance our lives by ensuring that the centers of our being are as wholesome and meaningful as possible.

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The elements of Centerpath most relevant to this book are listed below.

The Power of Centers: Chapter 1— The Power of Beginnings—explores how, through controlling the character of our life’s points of inception, we can raise the overall quality of our larger life.

Likewise, Chapter 2 (The Power of Centers) considers how nurturing the centers of our lives—in essence the various control locales of our minds—we can directly improve and uplift our experience.

The Power of Symmetry: The universe’s center-biased, creative process naturally generates a host of aesthetic and geometrically beneficial qualities including symmetry, balance, beauty, holism, and collaborative relationships.

Chapters 3 and 4—The Power of Symmetry and The Power of Now—explore the applications of these geometric qualities in our lives and how through recognizing these patterns, we can directly improve our lives.

The Power of the Paths We Choose: Chapter 5 examines how the journeys of our lives mimic the processes of nature, and how we can use that knowledge to enhance our lives. In this chapter, we learn how destinations and points of departure are one and the same. We also learn how, through the choices we make, we can enhance the various journeys that make up our lives.

The Power to Control Our Lives: Chapter 6 celebrates the splendid ability we enjoy of largely being able to control the character of our lives: that through enhancing our mindset, choices, and habits, we find real means toward improving and uplifting the content of our lives.

Divine Power: Chapter 7 looks at the ultimate power—the implications a Great Creator perpetuates nature’s rich mosaic of being. In this chapter, we explore means to get closer to her exquisite presence and in the process, elevate our lives to higher planes of being.

CHAPTER ONE

The Power of Beginnings

There's no better place to start our journey of discovery than at the beginning—where creations form. Centers.

Mighty oaks grow from mere seedlings; you and I each grew from a single cell; first impressions last throughout relationships; philosophies and fads engulf entire nations.

Each creation is a direct reflection of the 'source code' present at its point of inception. Learning to control the character and makeup of these beginning points is a powerful first step toward enhancing your life.

Begin All Right

A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.

— Chinese proverb

It's astonishing to find just how much of our larger lives are created from what are nothing more than small, tiny instances of change; fluctuations, thoughts, and interactions forming the seeds of something much larger to follow. It's this dynamic that causes local earthquakes to spread into far-reaching tsunamis, small lava flows to grow into massive volcanos, and the flapping of a single butterfly's wings to change weather patterns half way around the world. It's the way of the universe, and the way of our lives.

Cognizant of these conditions, we can do ourselves a great service towards enhancing the larger arrangements of our lives if we ensure that their various inception points are as greatly formed as possible.

What are the key moments of inception in our lives? They are our thoughts, reactions, interactions, choices, words, and actions: little moments of glory planting the seeds for ever more glorious things to follow. Thus, as you go about your life, you can ensure a degree of excellence in all you ultimately create—the strength and quality of your

relationships, the impressions and lasting memories you leave on others, your reputation, the character of your children; if you begin all things with great intentions—virtuously and with a golden heart.

Each time you think, act, plan, choose, speak, and dream, do so with sincerity, passion, and purity. From such beginnings, all that results will ultimately grow and flower into something beautiful, meaningful, and enduring. Practiced routinely, these guiding characteristics set the stage for a life of enchantment.

Everything Comes Back to You

I changed the world; the world changed me. Everything you do comes back to you. When you affect a situation, you are also affected.

— Libba Bray

Real joy comes from discovering how much our lives are intricately linked with nature's grand designs.

For me personally, one such stirring discovery was coming to realize just how deeply nature's cycle of returning all things to their source was embedded in my life. For instance how the same forces driving plants to produce seedlings, proteins to migrate to their originating DNA, salmon to journey thousands of miles to their spawning grounds, and stars to collapse back to the same gravitational center where they began were also the same forces molding my life—such as why rituals unfolded toward their originating purpose, why conflicts only reached resolution when the instigating event was confronted, and why we're all irresistibly drawn to be buried in our hometowns. Realizing just how much my own life approximated nature's events, I gained great insights into how my life fit into nature's grand jigsaw puzzle.

Nature's trick of implementing this rhythm into its day-to-day business is once again linked to its creative process. Specifically, this timeless

flow is linked to the relationship of a developing creation's parts to their originating center. You'll remember from *Heart of the Universe* how centers create fields and fields generate well shapes. Further, those things caught in the grips of the well become aligned and attracted toward the center.

In the cases where the well's walls are steep enough, the surrounding parts will actually fall inward and downwards toward their originating centers. They may even come into contact with the center. The creative force's full cycle expression causes things to come into contact with their originator; in other words, to return to their source!

In a perfect kind of harmony, nature keeps all things true to where they began, forever linking and ultimately drawing them back toward their source. All things do meet their Maker.

The ramifications to our lives are profound. The conditions surrounding the points of inception in our lives are paramount. They are always present in our current lives and will always come back to us. In other words, all the creations of our lives never escape their roots; they are forever linked to and a whole byproduct of the place where they began. We are accountable for everything we do.

Thus, as you go about the various acts of your life—thoughts, a conversation, new initiatives, relationships, hopes, desires, and dreams—always strive to make them as fine and balanced as possible. Approach, interact with, and begin all things with only the highest order of truth, love, kindness, and compassion. By doing so, you'll have given all things their best possible start, and the best chance of returning to you in similarly beautiful form as something you can be proud of and, over time, defining you the person and how you'll be remembered.

Begin with the End in Mind

All things are created twice. There's a mental or first creation, and a physical or second creation of all things. You have to make sure that the blueprint, the first creation, is really what you want, that you've thought everything through. Then you put it into bricks and mortar. Each day you go to the construction shed and pull out the blueprint to get marching orders for the day. You begin with the end in mind.

—Stephen Covey

Because all things return to their source, thinking 'in reverse' highlights the importance of beginning all undertakings with the end in mind. Why? Endings inherit the quality of their beginnings and so, by visualizing the end result, we gain a wider, broader, and start-to-finish perspective from which we can make better decisions today.

Thus, before making decisions, embarking on careers, initiating new projects, or starting a family, visualize and define the end first. Think about it; sketch it out; talk to a trusted soul. What do you see? Do you see something beautiful and virtuous awaiting you at the end of your journey? Is it full of goodness, kindness, beauty, and compassion—does it have a glowing heart making it, therefore, worth pursuing?

Having visualized the end result, work your way back to its starting point and list what it will take to build your glowing city. Lay out its core themes and guiding principles such that when you arrive at its grand finale, it will be inspired and great.

There's also a message for our generation here. When we look forward 50 years and consider what we leave behind, what do we see? A thriving and sustainable planet? A result of our treating every field, valley, plant, meadow and mountain with the utmost care and respect? Or do we see a polluted, scorched, and overly consumed landscape of lost species, collapsed eco-systems, and global calamity? If the latter outcome is

likely, the seeds of its destruction lie with our current and on-going overly consumptive mindset, actions, and national policies. Are we brave enough to face the future and make new choices in the way we do business as individuals and nations such that the end of our era is something magnificent, enduring, and worthy of our children's consideration?

Solve the Source

Look into the Eye of the Storm.

—Neil Peart

If you ever wonder why things are the way they are, you need look no further than their originating center to find the answer. In fact, no matter the creation under consideration—an atom, cell, bee, or Buccaneer—its reason for being here today is a result of an originating center.

Centers are indeed at the heart of all matters. They are the purpose and meaning 'behind' all things. They are where feuds and disagreements began and where secrets and mysteries reside. They are the goals, objectives, milestones, and deadlines that drive our lives and all of industry. Propelled by ancient centers of mind, they are also the reasons behind why we do what we do, including shopping, eating, sleeping, working, and seeking out the opposite sex.

Why this occurs is simply because centers are the start of all things. Quite literally 'the thing' would not exist without having an originating center. Not only, as the creation progresses forward through time it continues to be subject to, and shaped by the makeup and character of its originating point of inception. Centers are thus the fantastic little 'ultimate causes' giving rise to all creations and guiding all the elements of their subsequent journey—in our lives, on the planet, and ultimately throughout the entire universe.

Thus if you are uncertain or require guidance, find the core and you will understand why the condition exists and will have found what you seek. Put this great knowledge to work in your life toward better understanding the world but also toward uncovering and solving any struggles you might be experiencing in your own life.

CHAPTER TWO

The Power of Centers