



The Chreod to Homeorhesis

Some words are useful. These two are. They're central concepts to understanding systems. So central that it's enough just to define them. Then, like acidophilus, they'll colonize your mind.

Chreod = essential path

Regarding the pronunciation of Chreod, [William Livingston writes](#):

" ... an H sound where you breathe hard out while pronouncing it. The C is essentially silent. Don't worry nobody else knows how to pronounce it either, including the Greeks."

The essential path is important because it identifies the path or movement as primary, as distinct from the basic Western notion of the path's origin and end points, points determined by one's *state*. *State* as in "state of mind", "the state of things", "government by the state", "enemy of the state" or "a stable state."



The "essential path" focuses on the movement or the journey, and not the destination. It gets away from the notion of *structure*, *cycle*, *frequency*, *pattern* or *goal*. Western thinking is obsessed with states, structures, patterns and goals. They are the obsession of religion, philosophy, culture, and our lives: obsessions of state of mind or body. Even non-materialism obsesses with the materialism of absence.

The myopia of chreod, of ignoring all contexts and preconceptions, allows us to distinguish the **essential** path from all of those paths that exist to our preconceived goals. To admit a path without a destination is to allow chaos.

Think of a desolate, irregular landscape stretching to the horizon in all directions. Within it, far apart and separated by barren hills and dark valleys, are oases of varied perfection. Some are better, all are different. There is no clear path between them. They are independent yet connected in complicated and difficult ways.

Paths starting within each oasis, with destinations within that oasis, are



homeostatic. They lead back to the state in which they began.
They are not paths to new states.

To evolve is to explore this landscape of the possible beyond the known. The path from one oasis to the next, from today's state to tomorrow's, is the chreod.

"There are things to be done, there's danger, there's excitement, there are errors, and there are people who get hurt, and there are people who don't come back. But it's in those ages that great things are built..."

-- [George Plotkin](#)

Homeorhesis = restore flow

Wikipedia says hemeorhesis is "the tendency of developing or changing organisms to continue development or change towards a given state, even if disturbed in development."

Homorhesis is the hyperopic partner of chreod. It focuses not on the destination but on the sustainability of the journey, of the journey as the whole. It recasts the notion of *destination* as the whole of all paths. The fool's destination -- not recognized as a destination -- is a journey that does not end but is nevertheless a whole, in which one is always changing but intact.

The [Encyclopedia Britannica](#) says:

hemeorhesis "...is a regulation not back to an initial stable equilibrium, as in homeostasis, but to some future stretch of the time trajectory. ... homeorhesis ... means the restoration of a flow."



strange attractor

A *Strange Attractor* is a point in the grand scheme of things around which a system seems to move in a chaotic fashion. It is *strange* because the system does not seem connected to this place and moves erratically in relation to it. It is an *attractor* because the system seems tethered to that place, never

straying too far from it, yet never stabilizing at it.

Strange attractors are organizing principles in chaotic systems. The notion of *utopia* is a strange attractor for the evolution of society, as is *enlightenment* in the evolution of ourselves. Chaos is not randomness, though it looks like it.

Homeostasis is reason, homeorhesis is magic. Experience before understanding. Intuition.

Lame Deer

"They don't use the knowledge the spirit has put into every one of them; ... and so they stumble along blindly on the road to nowhere — a paved highway which they themselves bulldoze and make smooth so that they can get faster to the big empty hole which they'll find at the end."

— [Lame Deer, Lakota Shaman](#)



Lame Deer

See:

- § **Dreaming the End of the World, Apocalypse as a Rite of Passage**, by [Michael Ortiz Hill](#), which you can [purchase on Amazon](#) or [download for free](#).
- § *Apocalyptic Dreaming: Visions, revelations and discussions of the apocalypse, dreams of the end of the world*, at [apocalyptic.org](#).
- § "[American Indian Prophecies](#) (are) not about the end of the world but, rather, a change of worlds ..." -- Ira Kennedy

"Very, very few people today dare to go near this topic ..."

-- Ram Dass



The journey from this state to the next leads through chaos, an underworld entered through the big empty hole at the end of the road to nowhere. We all go there. The question is how much useful life will you have left in you when you get there?

What will you teach the others?

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