

Complex Connections

Synchronicity

The many daily decisions we make may affect our own lives, our relationships, and have a ripple effect far beyond that.

By Tygo Lee

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We have to make countless decisions in our daily existence about a whole variety of potentially life-impacting issues. Big or small, major or trivial, can we ever be truly sure about what the short- or long-term consequences may be of the many decisions we make today? The apparent major thing may turn out to be minor, while the seemingly trivial thing may become a serious issue at a late time. Can you perhaps think of examples of both of these cases? I sure can.

To complicate this scenario even more, sometimes it's a *this-or-that* kind of deal that presents itself, but in other more challenging situations, there are *many options* that are not so clear-cut at all. If it's not a simple "yes-or-no" selection (which is not always "simple" either), then a troubling "maybe-this-or-maybe-that," multiple-option decision has to be reached. Are you still recalling examples of this?

There's an obvious difference between the two from the *initial* point of how many options we have to choose from. But curiously, *either* the clear-cut *or* the more complex process may end up truly being more difficult, depending on the circumstances.

For example, I remember some times when I had to make a clear-cut, yes-no decision and I wished that I had more options available because neither of the two lone choices were really desirable. Likewise, I can recall other times when I had to deal with a not-so-clear complex choosing of what to do and I desired a much simpler this-or-that situation. Am I doing okay describing this?

And it gets even more interesting...

As mentioned before, a seemingly harmless and insignificant decision made today will occasionally have an unexpected direct or indirect impact on many other aspects of our lives at some point in the future.

Furthermore, this same decision that I make for *my life* may affect *other* people that I know or that I don't know—but who are influenced in some way by what I myself do. And it may do so in a positive or negative manner.

Thus, many times I believe we may never truly know *how extensive the impact will be* of the many choices we make.

The decisions that we make can unexpectedly be intertwined somehow, at some point, and somewhere with others in a very direct or indirect complex web of connections. This is called *synchronicity*, and goes well beyond the simplified version I'm giving you here that only focuses on the interactions of our own species, and only on this planet.

Understanding that, we now might want to stop to consider from time to time how important our "being connected" is. These connections can be obvious, or not so obvious, in relation to our daily actions and

decisions, and they may have an impact on those that we care about the most. That sounds rather serious, don't you think? So...

How much personal responsibility should we assume for the impact that our own behavior has on others?

Is that a good question?

Do we have a good answer?

The reality is, when I make bad decisions and I lose, sometimes *we* lose, or *they* lose... because of *me*.

So, what can we learn from this, in terms of how we might deal with our decision-making a little better and more responsibly in the future? Hmmmm.

Do I affect you?

Do you affect me?

In one way or another,
do we all... affect each other?

And then?