

“When you look at your society now, this may seem a difficult and hopeless time... But if you learn to look at the present from a broader evolutionary perspective, you will see the potential for a very different future. In fact, the present is really an unprecedented time of opportunity. Think of it as a stage between caterpillar and butterfly – a time of metamorphosis when an old unsustainable system fights to preserve itself as a new system struggles to be born.

“Caterpillars chew their way through ecosystems leaving a path of destruction as they get fatter and fatter. When they finally fall asleep and a chrysalis forms around them, tiny new **imaginal cells**, as biologists call them, begin to take form within their bodies. The caterpillar’s immune system fights these new cells as though they were foreign intruders, and only when they crop up in greater numbers and **link themselves together** are they strong enough to survive... The caterpillar is a necessary stage but becomes unsustainable once its job is done. Then the caterpillar’s immune system fails and its body dissolves into a nutritive soup which the new cells recycle into their developing butterfly.

“There is no point in being angry with it and there is no need to worry about defeating it. The task is to **focus on building the butterfly**, the success of which depends on **powerful positive and creative efforts in all aspects of society and alliances built among those engaged in them.**”

Elizabeth Sahtouris, PhD.