

# Letting the Wound Update the Model

Fristonian Self-Evidencing, Political  
Denial, and the Life-Coherent Civilization  
Wanting to Be Born

Dr. Bichara Sahely



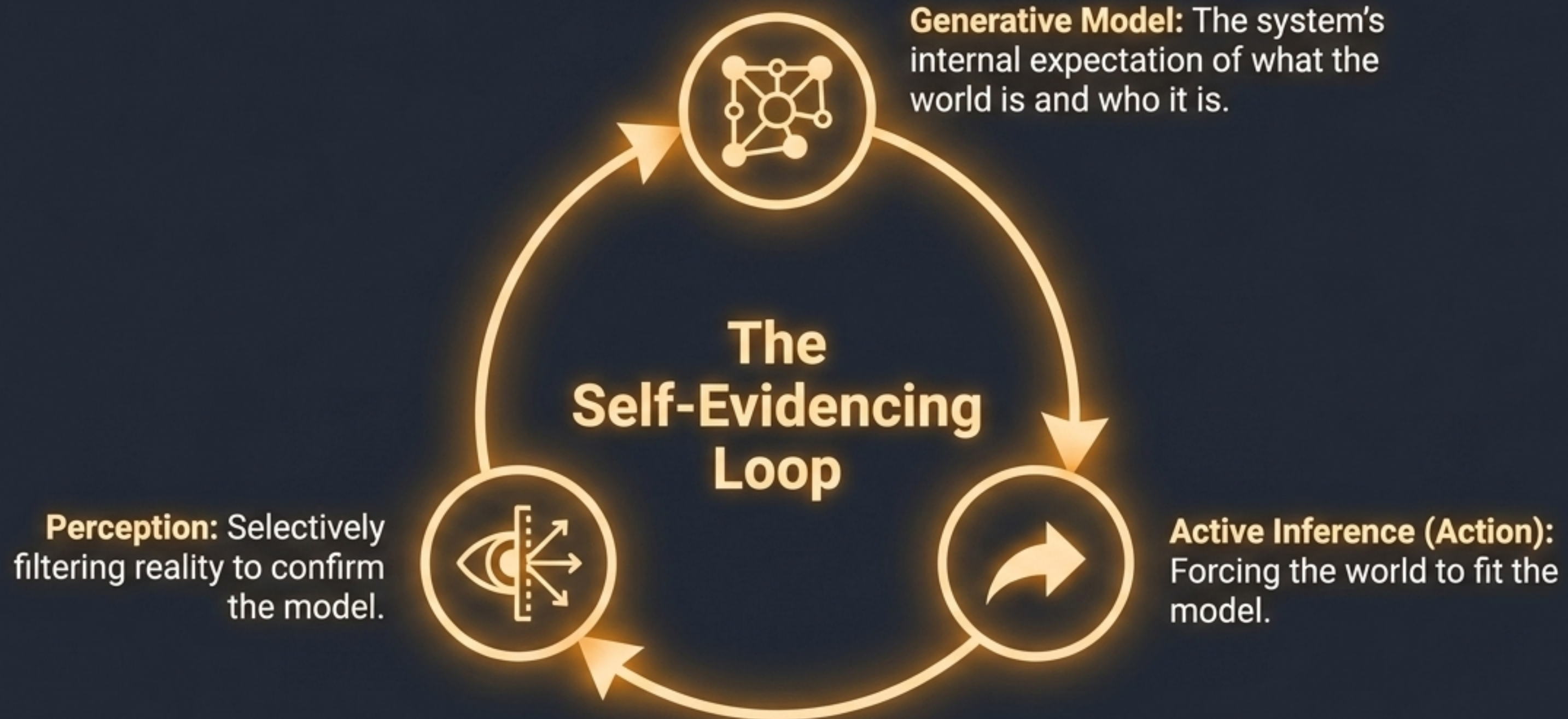
## **Institutions fail not by blindness, but by organized design.**

A central crisis of the present age is not simply that institutions fail to see suffering. It is that many institutions are organized to see suffering only in forms that do not require them to become different.



**Headline:** "Living systems survive by minimizing uncertainty."

**Body:** According to **Karl Friston's** Free Energy Principle, systems persist through self-evidencing. They act and perceive in ways that maximize evidence for their own generative models. This explains how both brains and bureaucracies maintain themselves.





# Persistence is not the same as justice.



A cancer cell self-organizes. A colonial order self-organizes. A propaganda network self-organizes. They reduce uncertainty and maintain themselves, but they destroy their host.



Drawing on John McMurtry's life-value onto-axiology and Maturana's autopoiesis, a system's self-evidencing is only valid if it protects, restores, or enlarges the life-capacity of the wider field on which it depends.



# Distinguishing viability from life-coherence.

## Pathological

## Life-Coherent

**What it  
Conserves**

Preferred identity, innocence,  
security, or profit.

The relational conditions of  
shared life.

**How it  
Handles  
the Wound**

Suppresses, discounts, or  
externalizes evidence of harm.

Treats suffering as high-precision  
corrective instruction.

**What it  
Counts as  
Success**

GDP, border deterrence,  
target neutralization.

Ecological integrity, dignity,  
restored trust, lives protected.

**Treatment of  
the Witness**

The witness is punished  
or discredited.

The witness is protected as a  
crucial feedback loop.



# Power organizes perception through **Precision Distortion.**

Institutions do not need to deny all facts. They only need to regulate which facts have force.

Pathological systems artificially lower the precision (weight) of life-evidence and raise the precision of model-confirming evidence.





# The deepest pathology is the conservation of innocence.

When accountability feels like annihilation, the system's first task is protecting its self-image, not repairing harm.

A democracy cannot integrate evidence of its own domination.

A humanitarian model cannot integrate evidence that it merely manages suffering.

Criticism is experienced as an existential attack rather than corrective feedback.



# Global crises share a common diagnostic grammar.

## Caribbean (OECS CBI)

**Conserving:** Fiscal Sovereignty & Debt Discipline.

**Suppressing:** Climate vulnerability & Civic hollowing.

## Mediterranean

**Conserving:** Border Order & Domestic Political Control.

**Suppressing:** Migrant deaths & Human mobility.

## SIDS / Climate Finance

**Conserving:** Creditor Confidence.

**Suppressing:** Disproportionate ecological loss & disaster debt.

## Critical Minerals (Global South)

**Conserving:** Green Transition Legitimacy.

**Suppressing:** Extractive child labor & Water depletion.

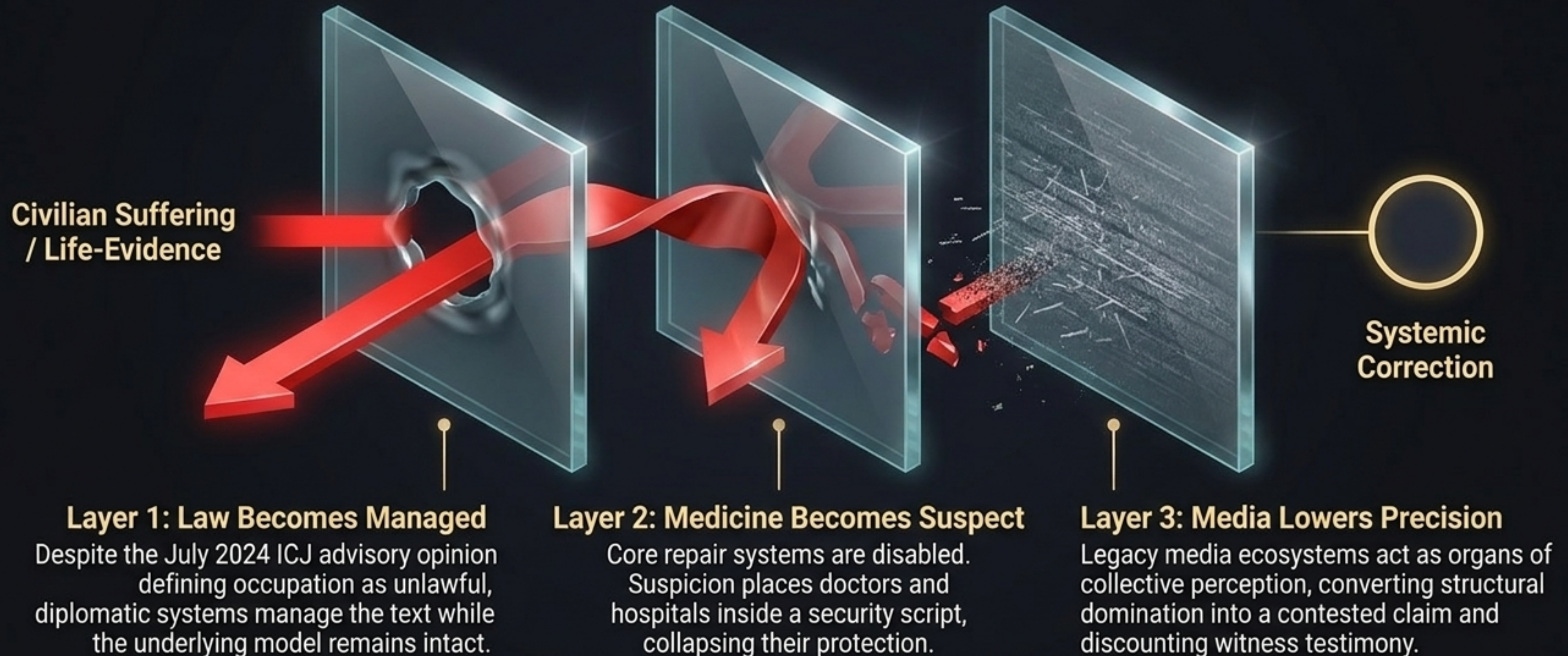
## Chagos Archipelago

**Conserving:** Strategic Military Infrastructure.

**Suppressing:** Forced exile & Right of return.



# A diagnostic mirror for civilization: **The Legal-Medical-Media Collapse.**





# Life-coherent self-evidencing requires the courage to be corrected.



## Slate Geometric Border

We must not abandon boundaries or identity.  
But those boundaries must become  
semi-permeable to truth. The wound must  
become corrective instruction.



# Redefining self-maintenance around **life-capacity**.

## **Corrigibility**

The capacity to be corrected without collapsing into retaliation.

## **Repair**

Changing the conditions that produced harm, not just apologizing.

## **Relationality**

Preserving the ecosystem that makes the self possible.



## **Precision Reversal**

Treating suffering and ecological damage as the highest-priority signals.

## **Time Reorientation**

Moving from procedural time to life-time (the urgency of breath, hunger, illness).

## **Institutional Humility**

Designing institutions to know they can be wrong.



# Moving from heroic witness to designed corrigibility.

## Independent Correction Loops

Ombudspersons, independent courts, citizen oversight, and protected public-interest journalism.



## Life-Time Triggers

Automated thresholds that trigger urgent responses (e.g., debt suspension, emergency procurement) when life-harm reaches critical levels.



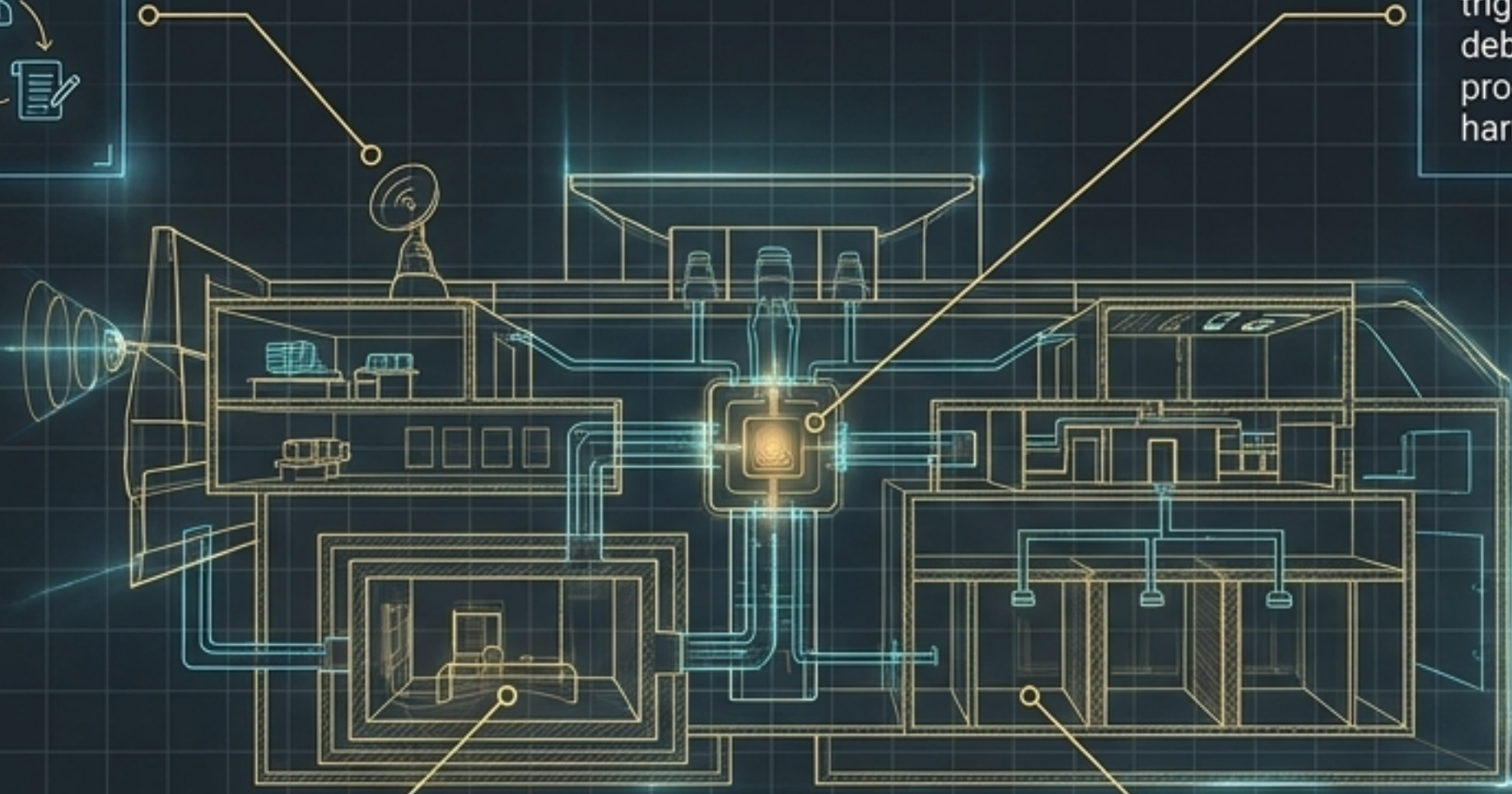
## Protected Witnessing

Shielding doctors, journalists, and affected citizens from retaliation so evidence can travel freely.



## Anti-Capture Design

Strict firewalls against ideological, financial, or reputational self-protection.

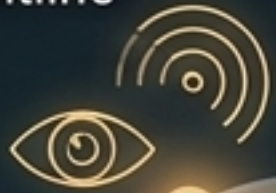




# The Institutional Self-Correction Cycle.

## Step 1: Sense

Detect life-evidence early through frontline knowledge.



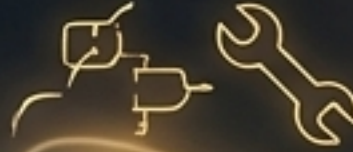
## Step 2: Protect

Defend the witnesses revealing the harm.



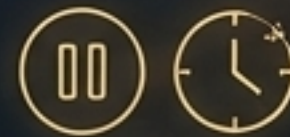
## Step 5: Repair

Restore rights, resources, ecosystems, and dignity materially.



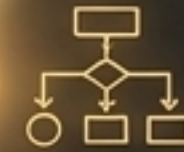
## Step 3: Interrupt

Use life-time triggers to pause harmful actions immediately.



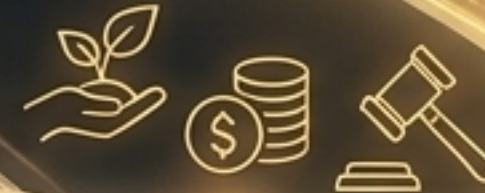
## Step 6: Institutionalize

Archive the memory and redistribute authority.



## Step 4: Revise

Investigate structurally and change the generative model.





The highest intelligence is not  
prediction, control, or scale.



The highest intelligence is the capacity  
to be corrected before catastrophe.



**If our civilization cannot  
be corrected by suffering,  
the model is wrong.**

Friston shows us that systems self-evidence.  
Life-coherence asks whether what they evidence  
is worthy of continuation. We must build systems  
capable of life together.

**Scan to read the full Constructive Transdisciplinary  
White Paper: Letting the Wound Update the Model**  
by Dr. Bichara Sahely.

