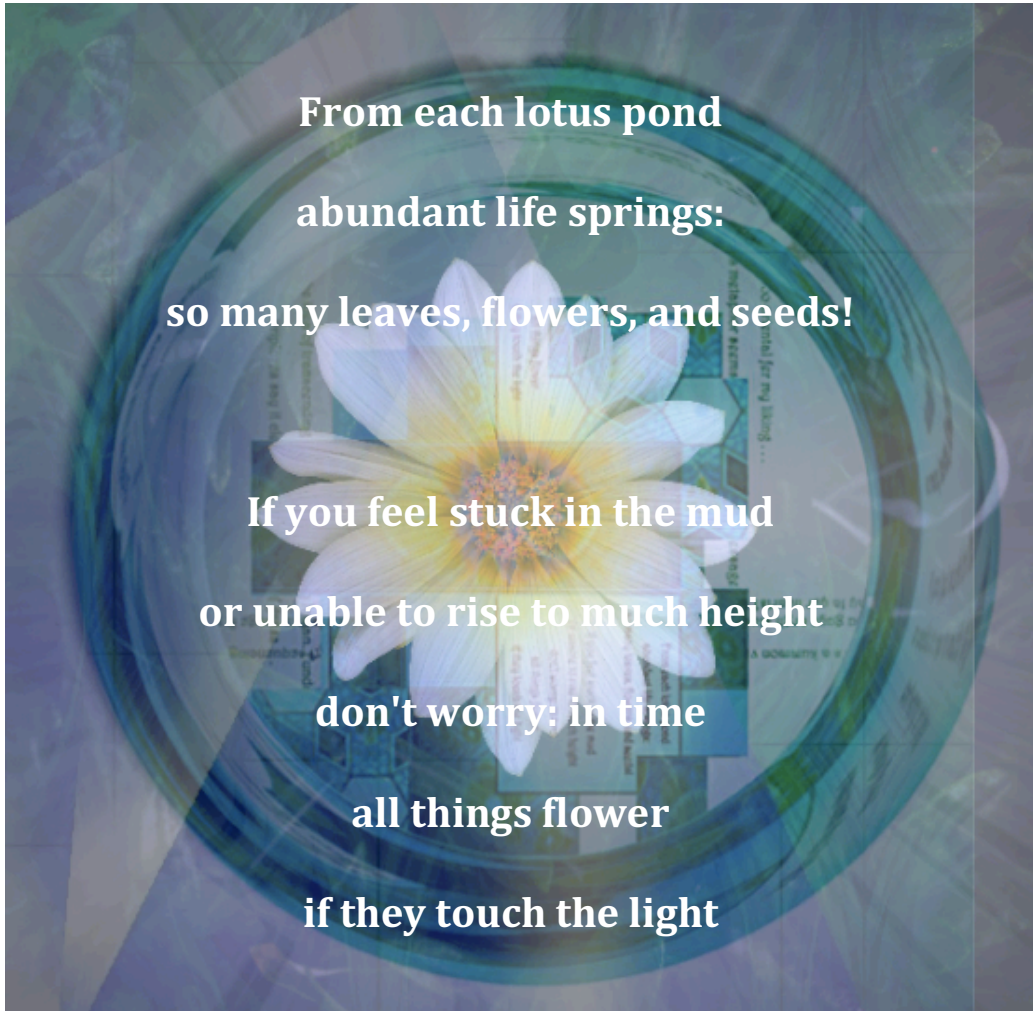


Let the waters be my witness: Messages about our watery world

# LOTUS:

An optimistic view of human development



*Andrzi:* How can we get out of the tiny ponds we are stuck in?

*Ellzsha:* We need to transcend . . .

*Andrzi:* Transcend - what's that about?

*Ellzsha:* It's about being without thinking.

*Andrzi:* Sounds like death to me . . .

**- T Newfields**

Begun: 2000 in Nagoya, Japan / Finished: 2017 in Yokohama, Japan



## Deeper in the image, this dialog is barely discernable . . . .

**Andrei:** (frowning) This guy iz too oriental fer my liking . . .

**Philyra:** The lotus metaphor seems oriental, but the basic message is universal.

**Andrei:** No - the idea of transcending ones own nature is very Indian.  
Fundamentally, however, it defies logic.

**Jules:** To me the scriptures say it clearly: we're just blades of grass . . .

**Andrei:** (slightly irritated by Jules) That's a kummon view. However, I prefer to zhink  
of zhe whole matter in terms of DNA sequencing & environment.

**Ellesha:** You guys argh stuck in yer heads. Art is primarily about feeling, not thinking.  
What's this image & poem actually say ta yer hearts?

**Philyra:** The image has nice colors - that's about it.

**Andrei:** (shrugging his shoulders) Uh, the poem is mildly encouraging if I don't think  
too deeply.