



COBOLVER

The Awakening

Zone: The Wake

Document 13 of 13

OD9 PROGRESSION SYSTEM



You Made It

You've completed the Observer tier.

That's not nothing. You've absorbed some heavy material - cosmic timescales, extinction risks, coordination failures, civilizational stakes. Most people don't engage with this stuff at all. You did.

Before we move forward, let's take a breath. Let's land.



The end of one phase. The beginning of another.

The Weight of What You've Learned

If you've really sat with these ideas, they carry weight.

The Fermi Paradox. The Great Filter. The window closing. The possibility that intelligent life might be vanishingly rare - that we might be it, or close to it. The stakes couldn't be higher.

That's a lot to hold.

Some people process this as anxiety. Some as despair. Some as a strange kind of exhilaration. Some feel numb. All of these responses are valid. The material is genuinely heavy.

What matters isn't which emotion you feel. What matters is that you don't let any single emotion become the whole story.



The weight is real.

The Preciousness of What Is

Here's something worth sitting with:

Another potential solution to the Fermi Paradox, known as the Rare Earth Hypothesis, suggests that the conditions for intelligent life like ours might be extraordinarily uncommon. The precise combination of factors - the right kind of star, the right distance, the right moon stabilizing rotation, the right magnetic field, the right chemistry, the right evolutionary path - might be so improbable that we're among the only ones who made it.

If that's true - and we don't know for certain either way - then every conscious being, every moment of awareness, every act of love or creativity or understanding, is precious beyond measure.

Not precious in a sentimental way. Precious in a cosmic sense. Rare. Irreplaceable. Possibly unique in the observable universe.

You are one of those beings. So is everyone you know. So is everyone you'll never meet.

This isn't about feeling special. It's about recognizing what might actually be true about what exists.

The Butterfly Effect Is Real

We mentioned compound effects in the last document. Let's go deeper.

The Butterfly Effect isn't just a metaphor. It's a feature of complex systems. Small inputs can cascade into enormous outputs. A single decision, a single conversation, a single action can be the catalyst for transformative change.

This works in both directions. Small harms compound. Small goods compound too.

Synergy - the total being greater than the sum of the parts - emerges when the right elements come together at the right time. Twenty people working interdependently can accomplish what a hundred working separately cannot.

This is why every step matters. Not because any single step is decisive on its own, but because steps accumulate, interact, amplify.



Small ripples become cosmic waves.

Proof of Concept: It Can Be Done

Here's something that matters: **it's been done before.**

Wolf-PAC Illinois. Maybe 20+ volunteers - not well-funded, not well-connected, just committed fans of The Young Turks who believed in what they were pushing for. Phonebanking, canvassing, lobbying. The uncomfortable work. My homie Deeze was the Illinois State Leader & Membership Outreach Coordinator for Wolf-PAC IL, motivating us and coaching us every step of the way.

Imagine calling someone on the other side of the state you've never met, trying to convince them to take time out of their day to do something they weren't planning to do that might make them uncomfortable - calling their local state rep's office, leaving a message, or setting up an in-person meeting to support a bill aimed at getting money out of politics. It's basically sales. And like sales, everything is a numbers game.

We called every house. We knocked on every door. We met with well-established politicians who had all kinds of people and groups and lobbyists vying for their attention, time, and resources.

Some of the numbers didn't work. Some call recipients and homeowners were rude as fuck. Some completely disagreed with what we were doing. Some didn't want to support the representatives who supported us for various reasons - wedge issues, property taxes, whatever.

But we kept going. Because we were confident. We were having fun. We weren't delusional about the odds - we knew working within an obviously corrupt system would be difficult. We fully expected this to take years, maybe decades. But at the very least, the ball needed to get rolling.

And then it worked.

SJR42 passed. A supermajority was achieved - barely, by the skin of our teeth. We needed something like 60% of the vote, and we JUST got that. Every signature we collected, every person we convinced to call or meet with their local state rep, every politician we lobbied - **every single step mattered** because we got the necessary votes by the narrowest margin.

It took us all by such surprise that we were literally left wondering what the fuck we were gonna do after that.

That's not theory. That's documented history. TYT did a video about it. (<https://youtu.be/qGh6qE4UZfQ?si=BLk4JldhLGkMfYX->) The receipts exist.



TYT covers SJR42 success

The highly improbable happens. Not because the universe is magical, but because people do the work. They show up. They make the calls. They knock on the doors. They don't assume failure before trying.



The proof exists.

Rare Things Happen All the Time

This sounds like a contradiction, but it's not.

ALS is rare. But millions have lost loved ones to it.

Winning the lottery is rare. But someone wins every week.

Becoming a billionaire is rare. But billionaires exist.

Every "rare" event happens to someone. The question isn't whether rare things happen - they do, constantly. The question is whether you'll be part of making the rare thing you want to see happen actually happen.

The odds against any particular success might be long. But long odds aren't zero odds. And long odds get shorter when capable people apply sustained, intelligent effort.

Why Optimism Is Rational

Given everything you've learned - the risks, the stakes, the closing window - optimism might seem naive.

It's not.

Optimism isn't the belief that everything will work out regardless of what we do. That's delusion.

Optimism is the recognition that outcomes aren't predetermined. That our actions affect probabilities. That difficult things have been accomplished before by people no more capable than us. That despair is a self-fulfilling prophecy while hope creates the conditions for its own fulfillment.

That's why, even while staying as aware as possible about existential risks and everything else, optimism remains the stance. Because we've seen firsthand how the highly improbable can happen. We've been to the conventions, the rallies, the state capitals. We've met the politicians, made the calls, walked the neighborhoods. We know - not as theory but as lived experience - that change is possible.

More than possible. Inevitable. The only question is what kind of change, and whether we'll be part of steering it.

The Work Has No Shortcuts

Here's something else you learned the hard way: there are no shortcuts.

You can't skip the uncomfortable parts. You can't avoid the calls that go badly, the doors that close in your face, the meetings that go nowhere. You can't automate your way around the human work of persuasion, connection, and persistence.

It's a numbers game. Every house, every door, every call. Some of them won't work. Some people will be rude. Some will fundamentally disagree. Some will have their attention elsewhere - wedge issues, property taxes, whatever.

But you keep going. Because the ones that do work add up. Because you need a supermajority and you get it by the skin of your teeth because every single yes mattered.

This is true for everything worth doing. The work is the work. There's no way around it, only through.



The work is the work.

Skin in the Game

Let's be clear about something: this isn't idle philosophizing. This isn't some pipe dream from some random online troll.

One of my earliest YouTube videos is from back in 2009, after I graduated from college that year, of a rally I attended for our current Illinois Secretary of State, Alexi Giannoulias in downtown Chicago - where I met former President Bill Clinton. The funny part? After everybody spoke, a bunch of people ran up to Bill Clinton to shake his hand. I just left and headed toward the Red Line to go home, but the way to the Red Line happened to be blocked because that's where Clinton would come out. I just happened to be right there when he walked past and shook his hand.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gb3LczcoLk>)



Meeting President Clinton (2009)

Since then, I've been across the country meeting with politicians, canvassing neighborhoods, phonebanking, working the polls, even walking to bring awareness to the issue of money in politics. I was at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia in 2016 with my VID team at the time, personally invited by Victor Tiffany, the organizer of the Bernie or Bust rally that happened there. Met numerous YouTube personalities and politicians, including Green Party Presidential candidate Jill Stein (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-POh91UNa4> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpXCkeLWbbY>).



Jill Stein shoutout



Bernie or Bust speech

I'm not just some internet personality talking about what I think. This is me telling you what I know from my intimate experience with the political system - not just as a wonk or commentator, but as someone with hella skin in the game. More than a lot of people can say.

And what I know is this: not only is change possible, but it's inevitable. It's been done. Repeatedly. By ordinary people like YOU who decided the fight was worth fighting and then did the work.

So who the fuck is gonna sit here and tell me that we CAN'T be successful when I've already been there and done that? Even if helping to pass SJR42 didn't get the most fanfare or hella media coverage, the fact is that it happened and it's documented. That means we can do THIS. So why the fuck not?

Why OD9

You might be wondering: Why this? Why now? Why you?

Here's the answer:

Because the work that was done before can inform the work that needs to be done now. Because the skills that passed SJR42 - coordination, persistence, showing up, doing the uncomfortable thing - are exactly the skills needed to navigate the window humanity is in.

Because if a small group of volunteers can achieve a supermajority against all odds in a state legislature known for being corrupt, then maybe - just maybe - a small group of dedicated, consciously developed people can contribute to humanity navigating its most dangerous century.

Not certainly. Not guaranteed. But possibly. And "possibly" is enough to justify trying.



Why this. Why now. Why you.

What You're Carrying Forward

As you complete Observer tier and prepare for what comes next, carry these things with you:

The weight: Yes, the stakes are real. Yes, the risks are serious. That weight is appropriate. Don't deny it.

The preciousness: Life might be cosmically rare. Each consciousness might be irreplaceable. Let that inform how you treat yourself and others.

The possibility: Rare things happen. Difficult things get accomplished. The improbable becomes actual when people do the work.

The proof: It's been done. I've seen it. I've been part of it. This isn't speculation - it's experience.

The work: There are no shortcuts. The uncomfortable things are unavoidable. Every step matters because they compound.

The optimism: Not naive hope, but grounded confidence that outcomes respond to effort, that history isn't predetermined, that we have agency.



Carry it forward. All of it.

A Personal Note

You're not alone in this. We're doing this together.

OD9 exists because I wanna survive. As dark as times can get, as difficult as things may seem, as low as I may get at times, as much pain as I may feel at times, even contemplating suicide at times, I don't actually WANT to die! I have an insatiable thirst for knowledge and understanding. I want to understand the cosmos, how we got here, how everything came to be, and how deep the rabbit hole goes. There's SOOOOO many gaps in our knowledge, yet we're barely scratching the surface in terms of developing the tools, capabilities, and coordination to truly fill those gaps. It would be such a huge wasted potential if we let it all go to waste.

OD9 exists because I love the world. As an American and a resident of southside Chicago, I've seen so many people suffering for basically no good reason at all. Worse still, too many children and young people suffering. They're the future. We are supposed to be arming them with the knowledge, tools, skills, and direction to pay it forward. Humanity has lost its way in recent history, but we collectively possess all the resources we need to become hyper-vigilant about our future.

Most importantly, OD9 exists because I love YOU! I might not know you and may never meet you in life, but you're a conscious being. That by itself means that in the grand scheme of the cosmos, you're an exceptional rarity with UNLIMITED potential! You might think that you're just some random, insignificant person, but you yourself could be the key to help make the future happen! I thought these ideas mattered enough to build a system around them, and you're here because something in you resonated with that.

The path forward - through Theorist, Architect, Pioneer - is designed to develop you into someone increasingly capable of contribution. Not just understanding the problems, but analyzing them, building solutions, and eventually leading others through the same development.

That's the vision. A network of capable people, working interdependently with synergy, contributing to humanity's navigation of its most critical period.

Will it work?

We don't know. But we know that not trying guarantees failure. And we know that trying has produced results before.

So we try. We try because we love ourselves, each other, and the world enough to know that failure is not an option, so not trying is NOT an option!

Landing

Take a moment.

Breathe.

You've completed something meaningful. The Observer tier isn't just information transfer - it's a reorientation. You now see things you couldn't see before, or at least see them more clearly.

That's not small. That's the foundation for everything that comes next.

When you're ready - not rushed, but ready - the Theorist tier awaits. There you'll learn to analyze, to apply these frameworks to real situations, to move from understanding to application.

But for now, land. Let what you've learned settle. Notice how it changes how you see things.

You're part of this now. Welcome to the work.

- The Ultimate Rage

Summary

- The material you've absorbed is heavy - acknowledge that
- The Rare Earth Hypothesis suggests life might be cosmically precious
- The Butterfly Effect is real - small actions compound into large effects
- Proof exists that small groups can accomplish improbable things (Wolf-PAC, SJR42)
- Rare things happen all the time - the question is whether you'll be part of making them happen
- Optimism is rational: outcomes respond to effort, despair is self-defeating
- There are no shortcuts - the work is the work
- OD9 builds on real experience, not just theory
- Carry forward the weight, the preciousness, the possibility, the proof, and the optimism
- You're part of this now

"We are not certain to succeed. We are certain that not trying guarantees failure. Failure is not an option, so not trying is not an option. We are certain that trying has worked before. We are certain that the work is worth doing regardless of outcome. And we are certain, now, that you understand why. Welcome. The work continues. LET'S MF GO!!!!!"

- The OD9 Manifesto
