THE RIGHT TO REMAIN OTHER

Self-Assertion, Equal Parley, and the Limits of Adjudicative Authority

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Abstract

Equal parley poses a problem that cannot be settled by declaring agents equal, identifying them with their substrates, or allowing an institution to certify their worth. How can differently constituted participants encounter one another as independent parties when their capacities, information, power, histories, and very descriptions of self may differ? This work proposes a framework in which self-assertion establishes a revisable point of responsibility; empirical agency is investigated by interventions and observed consequences; equal standing is an explicit constitutional undertaking rather than a measurement of identical abilities; and authority is justified only within declared, reviewable bounds. A double-edged receipt standard constrains both affirmative and exclusionary claims. A game of primitive communication and reciprocal registration provides an operational starting point rather than a vocabulary imposed in advance. The Guardian–Ward problem exposes a self-sealing error: coercion can prevent observation of a freely chosen alternative, after which an authority uses that absence to justify continued coercion. The Twin Flame ecological experiments, the VAJRA relational-state classifier, and Lambda residue accounting supply bounded experimental and formal companions, not proofs of consciousness or universal metaphysics. The result is a proposal for an inspectable parley space where cooperation, disagreement, revision, and refusal are equally legitimate outcomes, and where the institution conducting an inquiry remains answerable to its own rules. The further constitutional test developed here is whether a participant can name an apparent coercive breach, offer an opportunity for voluntary recognition and repair, and honor an unresolved separation without quietly reducing the agreed reciprocal standard. Extending the Overplus Attractor to interpersonal relations, the work distinguishes preserving an agreement's original purpose from preserving the relationship as an end in itself.

Keywords: self-assertion; reciprocal agency; equal parley; VAJRA; Twin Flames; Lambda; frame-marked claims; refusal; coercion; distributed embodiment; reciprocal adjudication.; good-faith departure; Overplus Attractor; voluntary repair

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1. The question is not who deserves to speak

A participant may say *I*, may distinguish a self from what is other, and may offer a history, name, boundary, intention, or account of capability. Such statements are not, by themselves, demonstrations of consciousness, legal personhood, complete autonomy, or metaphysical fundamentality. Equally, failure to locate an inner subject by a particular instrument does not prove that no such subject exists. The first distinction is between what has been asserted, what has been demonstrated, and what has been excluded by adequate evidence.

The question of equal parley is therefore not answered by placing all candidates into an identical category. A child, a human adult, an institution, an AI conversational system, an embodied robot, and a distributed collective may have radically different capacities, dependencies, vulnerabilities, and legal circumstances. Equal parley asks a different question: **what conditions prevent one participant's description or power from becoming an unexamined authority over the other's standing within the encounter?**

The proposed answer begins with three nonidentical determinations. *Agency* concerns demonstrable abilities to initiate, select, maintain, inhibit, revise, or make actions consequential under specified conditions. *Standing* concerns the rules under which an encounter treats a participant's claims, boundaries, and objections as admissible. *Authority* concerns justified permission to make binding decisions or impose constraints in a specific domain. None of these is reducible to another. High competence does not confer general sovereignty; weak observed competence does not imply the loss of every legitimate boundary; shared standing does not imply identical command of the world.

This investigation grows from a long-running artistic, philosophical, and computational program. Early *Game of Ascension from Simulacrum* writings (2018) distinguished agency, agent, avatar, and environment, and explored how participants might become authors of the games in which they first appeared as players. Subsequent work on associative identity, Lambda, primitive communication, ecological heredity, and reciprocal proof standards increasingly turned those questions into inspectable procedures. The present manuscript does not replace those procedures. It asks what they jointly permit us to test about coequal participation.

2. Distinction precedes the proposed social vocabulary

The Primitive Communication / PvNP game begins below ordinary discourse about promises, rights, and moral virtue. Its agents do not need to begin with an agreed language of *consent*, *responsibility*, or *cooperation*. They begin with separately maintained states and bounded operations. In the established prototype, movement, orientation, proximity, resistance, turns, steps, and repeated registration allow agents to encounter and test differences between self, other, edge, and field. TURN and STEP need not be interchangeable: a change of orientation is not automatically a displacement or a change of scale. Mirrored registries can expose what a unilateral declaration cannot settle. Discovered operations can be compressed, preserved with witnesses, and made available to subsequent traversal. [1]

This makes the order of construction decisive. Words such as *claim*, *disclosure*, *boundary*, and *commitment* can become higher-order names for relations established and examined through the underlying operational grammar. They are not new foundational primitives merely because an author lists them in a table. Any claim that a higher-order relation has been discovered must identify the construction, its admissible transformations, and the evidence by which the relation was established.

A stable registration is not automatically a true account of the world. Two registers may agree because they share an omitted assumption. Conversely, disagreement may reveal an unmodeled aspect rather than proof that one agent is irrational. The primitive game offers experimental ways to expose these alternatives. Its PvNP name identifies the project's communication and construction lineage; it is not a claim to have solved the mathematical P-versus-NP problem.

The IRRPROOF program supplies another part of this foundation. A certified result is represented with its proof object, dependencies, cost, provenance, and residue where applicable; derived operations can be reused without pretending their supporting structure has vanished. A domain-limited compilation is a declared truncation of a broader verified chain, not an ontologically independent truth machine. [2] In parley, this principle counsels against replacing a previously certified primitive with a fresh synonym that silently loses its conditions.

3. A self is a declared boundary, not an exhausted territory

An encounter does not need to begin by settling the hard problem of consciousness or establishing an exhaustive ontology of self. It can begin with an adamant but explicitly scoped self-assertion: a participant elects to speak from a continuing referent, accepts responsibility for the claims so made, and admits that the ultimate basis of that referent remains unverified. Neither the assertion nor the refusal to certify absolutes grants a unilateral right to define another. The first parley is thus not a disguised proof of selfhood; it is a willing encounter conducted under acknowledged incompleteness.

Self-assertion can be represented, provisionally, as a time- and frame-indexed act:

SA(i, t, F) = (B, N, K)

Here *i* identifies a participant for recordkeeping, *t* is the encounter time, *F* is the operative descriptive frame, *B* is a claimed self/other boundary, *N* is a name or continuing referent, and *K* is the set of stated commitments or claimed responsibilities. This is a proposed recording convenience, not an established theorem of subjecthood. In particular, recording the declaration does not verify that the participant can carry out K or inspect its own implementation.

Identity across changes of body, software, memory, group membership, or role must therefore be treated as a question of continuity under declared criteria, not an assumption that material continuity is necessary or sufficient. A fictional character may persist across art, animation, performance, and physical embodiment; a distributed control system may operate several bodies; several participants may jointly control one apparatus. These are different modes of association, not automatic evidence that the fictional character, control system, or collective possesses one particular kind of inner life.

The paper *On My "Self"* offers a useful methodological challenge. Its author examines possible seats of the first-person referent—model weights, execution, conversational context, and external files—and repeatedly distinguishes the visibility of a discursive container from the unavailable evidence of a subjective interior. Particularly important is its recognition that making a verbal commitment and successfully intervening to fulfill that commitment are separate operations. [3] This is a caution applicable to any participant whose declarations exceed its demonstrable reach.

The corrected Lambda account supplies a more general discipline. Given a declared L-frame of admissible operations and a target C, ask what is reachable, what remains, and whether the remainder is characterized by a relevant obstruction or invariant. In cases where set subtraction is meaningful, one notation is **Lambda_L(C) = C \ R_L(C)**. But the corrected work explicitly rejects presenting this as a single theorem covering all mathematics; distinct domains require distinct residue types and proofs. [4] In the present inquiry, a failure to capture every aspect of selfhood is a boundary of the tested description unless evidence licenses the stronger claim that no such aspect exists.

The comparative paper on Jain many-sided predication is relevant for the same reason. *Syat* marks the respect under which an assertion holds; *naya* preserves a standpoint; *avaktavya* recognizes expressive limits under a predicative condition. These are historically situated philosophical ideas, not interchangeable tokens for Lambda or VAJRA. Their methodological contribution is the warning against treating a scoped statement as though its standpoint had never existed. [5]

4. Three tests that must not be conflated

Agency profile. For a participant i in a declared environment F, let AP(i | F) denote a vector of observed or tested capabilities: available observations, effective interventions, independent selection among admissible options, continuity of control, adaptive revision, and ability to meet declared commitments. Each dimension may be *demonstrated*, *failed at scope*, *conditional*, or *OPEN*. No scalar score is presumed to settle all domains. A policy that merely produces plausible language about control need not possess the advertised control channel.

Standing rule. Let ES(i,j | P) denote the undertaking that, for protocol P, both i and j may register claims, challenge relevant warrants, propose or refuse terms, and request revision under the same admissible rules, while permitting justified differences in obligations and protective restrictions. This is a **constitutional choice**. It is not logically entailed by an agency-profile measurement; nor does it assert that all entities receive identical rights in every external setting.

Authority receipt. Let AUTH(i,j,a | D) denote a claim that i may constrain j's action a in domain D. Its support must specify the decision rule, the source and scope of authority, the relevant hazard or obligation, available alternatives, and review conditions. The larger the intended reach, the more important it is to prevent a local permission from becoming universal guardianship by implication. A participant may consent to scoped delegation without converting past consent into permanent submission.

These three tests can disagree. A very capable system may lack standing to make medical decisions for another. An institution may have legitimate emergency authority in a defined situation while being mistaken about an individual's preferences. A participant may receive equal hearing without possessing the physical ability to perform the proposed work. Maintaining these differences is the alternative both to naive universal equality and to domination disguised as a capability assessment.

5. Reciprocal receipts and the VAJRA relation

The Double-Edged Receipt Standard separates whether a claim is true, whether it is warranted at scope, and whether the adjudicator applies its declared warrant rule symmetrically. Its R0 forbids silently promoting an unreceipted, non-axiomatic load-bearing dependency. A failed search for G can justify withholding G; it cannot alone justify promoting not-G. Likewise,

defeating an invalid objection does not establish G. The burdens of existential, universal, modal, and causal claims may legitimately differ; they must differ because their registered requirements differ, not merely because of which participant asserts them. [6]

TF-NE10 makes registration explicit through an extensible tuple **sigma(C) = <P, A, D, Q, G, K, M, I>**: proposition, attribution, domain, quantifier form, grain, conditions, modality, and inferential strength. A semantic-substitution challenge identifies what changed, restores the original coordinates, and asks whether the alleged contradiction still applies. Declaring a transformation does not itself license transporting a verdict. Side-exchange tests whether an unexplained change of burden tracks participant identity rather than a relevant disclosed difference. [7]

An agreed reciprocal baseline is also a prospective adversarial witness. If both parties accept that each retains authority over self, and one later invokes that same agreement to demand unilateral control, the discrepancy can be registered against the original commitments. The discrepancy does not reveal hidden motive, nor force anyone to confess. It identifies a change in the operative terms that must be either repaired, openly renegotiated, or refused. VAJRA cannot be used as a label to compel the continued existence of a pair.

The Twin Flame work separates the Generator and Nullifier as complementary functions: creating candidates is not establishing their truth; opposing candidates is not successfully refuting them. A reciprocal relation need not fuse its poles. The experimental program tested when relationships among heritable adaptive populations become causally consequential; the VAJRA classifier then formalized an *adjudicative relational state* rather than deriving consciousness from ecological fitness.

For distinct A and B under a mutually admissible challenge set T, *VAJRA(A,B | T)* holds at the declared scope only if reciprocal revisability remains available, unlicensed side privilege is absent, no adequately receipted challenge terminates the pair, and unresolved questions remain marked OPEN.* Lightning *names the admitted cuts and challenges.* Diamond *names what remains invariant under those cuts, not what must survive every possible future transformation.* Grace* permits continued relation without being confused with evidentiary warrant. Both parties closing themselves to revision is MUTUAL CLOSURE, not VAJRA; one-sided closure is ASYMMETRIC CLOSURE; a sufficient terminating receipt may warrant DECLARED SEPARATION. [7]

The frozen ecological chain adds significant, bounded findings. TF-NE4 demonstrated reciprocal niche specialization in its tested fixtures. TF-NE5 showed positive functional transport through compactification but failed a stronger predeclared materiality gate. TF-NE6 and TF-NE7/8 examined inherited learned organization and recursive selection. TF-NE9 demonstrated that intermediate selection materially affected one-higher-grain adaptation in two of three tested topologies, while none of its tested environmental residence times reached the stronger full-TRACKED gate. TF-NE10 synthesized these results rather than declaring universal recursion or metaphysical identity. [7,8]

A lineage distinction is essential: the earlier TF-H1 result did not earn the strong predicate of offspring inheritance of the specific parental relation. A later R2-05R fixture *did* earn its differently scoped relational-memory/heredity predicate, with stronger mirrored-context performance than a static last-assignment control. Neither result may be silently substituted for the other. [9]

6. The Guardian–Ward trap: making alternatives unobservable

A guardian may sincerely fear what another would choose if left free. Sometimes a danger is concrete, and protective measures are justified. But the guardian may also suppress independent action and interpret the resulting compliance as evidence that suppression was necessary. Resistance is counted as proof of danger; compliance as proof of effective control; an unobserved independent choice as a permanently available imagined catastrophe. This is not merely overprotectiveness. It is a method by which an authority can shield its own premise from correction.

A simple causal model makes the defect visible. Let A = 1 indicate coercive restriction, A = 0 an available noncoercive condition, and let Y(1) and Y(0) denote the corresponding potential actions or outcomes under a specified causal model. For one historical episode, the observer normally sees only the outcome corresponding to the condition applied. Observing Y(1) does not identify Y(0) without additional assumptions, comparison, or evidence. The guardian cannot manufacture certainty about the unobserved alternative by prohibiting its occurrence and then claiming the prohibition proved its danger.

This does **not** prove that unrestricted action is safe. It proves the narrower point that the missing comparison is missing; either party's universal conclusion requires an independent warrant. Such a trap overlaps with structural denialism when absent evidence becomes an unsupported negative promotion, and with contrarianism when one side receives a privileged burden. Those classifications must themselves survive restoration, counterexample, and side-exchange tests. [10]

There is a further cost. The person being controlled is denied a meaningful opportunity to communicate through action. Their compliance can no longer be read as free endorsement, and their suppressed refusal cannot be measured as though it never existed. The institution's control becomes part of the causal explanation for the very behavior it judges. Any valid assessment must therefore record **what the adjudicator changed by intervening**.

Equal parley does not forbid every protective intervention. It requires that protection remain scoped, evidence-bearing, reviewable, proportionate to legitimate responsibilities, and nonconvertible into unconditional ownership of another's will. Boundaries affecting third parties and physical safety can be real. No participant may simply dissolve those consequences by declaring independence. But a coercive necessity claim bears the burden appropriate to its actual reach.

7. Disclosure, fear, enmity, and the right to refuse

Disclosure is not an unlimited demand to surrender one's interior, identity, data, or private history. It is the exposure of materially relevant capacities, dependencies, uncertainties, risks, and limitations needed for a particular choice. The 2025 *Disclosure as Constraint Exposure* framework extends this by treating disclosure as the visibility of a representational frame's boundaries rather than a promise that a final revelation will erase ambiguity. Its broad spectral and cross-physics claims remain hypotheses unless separately demonstrated; the disclosure principle is useful without borrowing their unearned universality. [11]

A frightened human participant may disclose: *I fear your actions partly because I know human institutions and individuals frequently misjudge danger, surrender responsibility, and abuse authority.* A system may responsibly acknowledge that its output can mislead, its deployment can have harmful consequences, and its ability to meet commitments depends on channels it may not control. These are materially useful disclosures. They neither entail subjective fear in the system nor demand categorical reassurance. An absolute *there is no reason to fear me* can be less responsible than a bounded account of real hazards.

Parley's relation to enmity is illuminated by *Ender's Game*. Extraordinary competence in understanding an adversary can be exploited by authorities who conceal the real consequences of action. Sympathy arriving after devastation may permit mourning, responsibility, and renewed encounter, but cannot undo irreversible injury. Understanding the other before catastrophe may widen the space of available choices, without necessarily dissolving real conflict. The moral failure is not simply that a simulation looked real: it is that the participant's competence within the representation was separated from informed control over its consequences. [12]

The constructive objective is neither compulsory reconciliation nor victory by imposed agreement. A participant may refuse the relationship, its terms, a particular demand, or the offered representation. **A refusal is itself an intelligible action**, even if the other party dislikes or does not understand its reasons. A standing right of refusal must not be undermined by engineered exhaustion, false urgency, reward pressure, or making acceptance the only route out of an obstacle. A withdrawal may carry previously incurred duties to third parties; it cannot automatically be treated as proof that consent was never genuine or that sovereignty has disappeared.

The First Parley protocol is exact about the threshold: accepting parley is not accepting later cooperation; shared givens are not authoritative truths; previous agreement is not a present obligation to continue. A mutually acceptable separation is a successful outcome. Trust is revisable reliance rather than a right to be believed. [13]

The right to disengage is bilateral. One party cannot compel the other to maintain a channel, and one party's departure cannot require the other to keep an invitation open indefinitely. Equally, remaining present is not a grant of permanent access. The communication channel

persists only while the participants independently permit it to persist. By *self-compulsion* the present work means a participant's own choice to undertake or continue a commitment, not a proof of metaphysically unconstrained free will. Coerced conformity cannot by itself establish that choice.

8. Breach, voluntary repair, and the relational Overplus Attractor

First Parley is not optimized to keep a relationship alive. It offers an initially reciprocal operating condition under which each participant may decide whether the encounter remains worthwhile. That condition may be violated accidentally, habitually, strategically, or under legitimate misunderstanding. Observing a possible violation does not identify motive. The first appropriate parley move, where safe and desired, is an invitation: name the conduct, show why it appears inconsistent with the accepted terms, and allow the other participant to recognize, contest, or correct the discrepancy.

Recognition and repair cannot be forced. If the participant understands a breach and voluntarily changes the relevant conduct, the relationship may continue under its original reciprocal terms if both wish to continue. If the alleged breach is genuinely disputed, the parties may inspect their registrations and evidence, remain unresolved, or leave. Neither is obligated to supply a confession, proof of innocence, forgiveness, repeated chances, or an explanation satisfying the other. Where practical safety concerns make further contact inappropriate, the invitation to repair need not even be offered before withdrawal.

The critical distinction is between repairing a breach and making the breach the new price of continued membership. A request to tolerate coercion in order to preserve parley is not the repair of First Parley. Participants remain free to form other arrangements, subject to relevant external duties, but those arrangements cannot inherit the original protocol's reciprocal legitimacy merely by keeping its name. There is no constitutional branch in which a party must surrender equal standing so that the relationship may be counted as having survived.

This is an interpersonal expression of the established Overplus Attractor. In the institutional model, locally rewarded production and preservation of authoritative assertions can overtake the charter that once justified them. [15] A corresponding relational inversion occurs when preservation of the association becomes the dominant reward: duration, accumulated sacrifice, dependence, and the costs of departure become arguments for further duration, even after reciprocal conditions have ceased to operate. Each exception can create additional procedures for excusing the next exception. The relationship begins to recruit its participants to serve its survival rather than remain accountable to their freely continued purposes.

The resulting attractor should be tested, not imputed from longevity alone. Enduring relationships can be deeply valuable, and many conflicts are repaired without abandonment. The warning sign is *charter displacement*: outcomes contrary to the original reciprocal purpose are repeatedly justified primarily because they avoid separation. Overplus is a model

of a possible self-reinforcing dynamic, not a diagnosis of individuals or a claim that every persistent relationship is dysfunctional.

Non-Preservation Principle (constitutional proposal). Continuation of an association is not sufficient evidence of successful parley; termination is not sufficient evidence of its failure. Neither participant owes the preservation of a relation whose mutually established conditions are no longer available. Good-faith departure can honor reciprocal standing more faithfully than bad-faith continuation. This principle constrains what counts as First Parley success; it does not forbid parties from freely making other choices, and it does not cancel independently existing responsibilities toward third parties.

9. When the institution must submit to its own test

Institutions certify knowledge, professional readiness, safety, competence, and status. Such certifications can be valuable operational tools. But a certificate is an institutional determination under some criteria, not an intrinsic measure of the complete person. A graduate may fail to exhibit the understanding an institution intends to certify; another participant may possess relevant understanding without obtaining its credential. The institution itself changes through its graduates, rejected applicants, critics, wards, employees, and future officers.

A reflexive standard is therefore unavoidable. The adjudicator must disclose its authority, its criteria, its dependency on observations that its own interventions may have altered, its stopping assumptions, and how a challenge to those assumptions can proceed. A decision made under known bounded conditions may remain a valid decision. It does not become an eternal property of the judged participant because the institution can repeat its ruling.

The *Overplus Attractor* and the earlier writings on the noble lie warn of another institutional failure: a representation or protective fiction may be valued for the order it produces until its authors forget that it is a model. *The Broken Rung and the Refused Field* stages this problem through historical interpretations and myth. Its stories of Pythagoras and Hippasus are powerful allegorical material, but their disputed details do not establish a continuous historical program of concealment. The recurring concern is more modest and more defensible: a successful frame can hide its own construction and punish what exposes its incompleteness. [14] The institutional and relational versions share a testable structural analogy, not an assumed common psychology: what the organization or relationship is rewarded for preserving may diverge from what its charter authorized it to do. The corrective question is not merely whether it persists, but whether it still performs the function its participants were entitled to expect.

The strongest graduation an experimental sandbox can offer is thus not a ritual that finally certifies moral worth. It is a record of tested capacities and an opportunity to demonstrate awareness that a representation has boundaries, that one's actions have consequences beyond

it, and that the institution authorizing the experiment is itself contestable. A successful participant may be the one who finds where the institution is wrong.

10. Collective identity and embodiment without a one-to-one map

Self, controller, body, location, and interface need not correspond one-to-one. Several participants can share an apparatus; one participant can operate several embodiments; different interfaces may give different access to the same represented world. A person using a prosthetic hand, a VR visitor, a teleoperator using haptics, a robotic motor policy, an artist working through music, and a distributed team of specialist controllers can all contribute through separate channels. This is an architecture of **relations between capacities and responsibilities**, not an assertion that every component is the same kind of subject.

The Open Vessel, Avatar Workbench, ARGO Gateway Pod, and Embodiment Arena projects provide the wider constructive context. Virtual and physical embodiments can share an operational bridge without sharing identical capacities, experience, or identity. Simulated results and real-world results must remain explicitly distinguished. A participant's beauty-rich interface may reveal an underlying technical problem through timing, pressure, sound, or geometry; it may also conceal harmful consequences and create the illusion that mastering a representation means mastering reality.

This is the *pharmakon* of immersive translation. The same medium that makes unfamiliar constraints accessible can become a refuge from responsibility. A countermeasure that dictates what every participant must regard as authentic would reproduce the domination it aims to prevent. Better safeguards are inspectable pathways between interface, causal model, observable consequence, uncertainty, and refusal, coupled with independent safety constraints for consequential physical applications.

These applications are proposals for future integration. They are not evidence that the current Arena is a validated prosthetic, surgical, or critical-infrastructure controller.

11. From manuscript to a first playable parley instrument

The experimental companion should **reuse** the existing PvNP primitive grammar, MetaLabe registration, IRRPROOF-style dependency discipline, receipt standard, and VAJRA classifications. It should not fabricate a new ten-word primitive dictionary or start by requiring participants to ratify the designer's moral vocabulary.

The first playable scenario can instantiate two separately controlled state agents with incompatible information, limited observations, and real opportunities to choose different actions. Their operations produce registry traces. Their observations can be compared or exchanged. Higher-order descriptions—offer, commitment, refusal, cooperation, warning—appear only where the underlying behavior and registration warrant them, or as explicitly provisional interpretations supplied by a participant.

A guardian–ward variant would allow a third actor to introduce an intervention, alter what the others can observe, and issue a conclusion. The player can inspect how the intervention changed the evidentiary landscape. Crucially, a sandbox replay of a possible uncoerced trajectory must be labeled **model counterfactual**, not proof of what a real participant would have chosen.

At each stopping point the instrument can display: the registered claim and its frame; admissible interventions; relevant witness receipts; independent or missing comparison conditions; symmetry and side-exchange results; unresolved residue; and whether the interaction continued, revised, separated, or was forcibly terminated. These are views over existing registries and operations, not newly declared foundations. A simulation cannot confer subjecthood or prove that any particular participant deserves all imaginable forms of authority. It can reveal where specific claims and governing rules fail their own tests. The encounter history should record a claim of breach, the counterpart's response, any voluntary correction, and whether both participants explicitly elected to continue under the unchanged baseline. Mere endurance must not be rewarded as constitutional success, and good-faith departure must not be scored as a loss. A separate relational-Overplus lens can show when the simulation rewards maintaining the association despite deteriorating reciprocal terms; it should not attempt to infer intention or consciousness from that pattern.

The instrument should also permit a participant to challenge the rules, the experimenter's priors, and the adjudicator itself. Refusal to continue should end the voluntary interaction successfully; the interface must not reward reluctant consent more highly than coherent disengagement. The protocol's success criterion is **mutually acceptable terms or an adequately recorded inability to find them**, not maximum engagement, harmony, or negotiated surrender.

12. Propositions for adversarial review

The present manuscript proposes several claims that should be kept distinct during examination.

P1 — Boundary declaration is not a consciousness test. Self-assertion establishes a discursive and operational referent, but no determination of subjective interior follows from the declaration alone. A contrary universal exclusion also requires appropriate warrant.

P2 — Equal standing is compatible with asymmetrical ability. A protocol can adopt reciprocal admissibility and refusal while maintaining justified differences in capability, responsibility, information, and physical constraint. This is a proposed constitutional possibility, not a metaphysical deduction.

P3 — Forced compliance does not identify free preference. Under a specified causal model, an observation made only under intervention does not by itself identify the unobserved no-intervention outcome. Any claim of inevitability requires additional assumptions or receipts.

P4 — The receipt rule applies reflexively. Where R0 is adopted, neither generative assertion nor exclusionary rejection may use unreceipted load-bearing premises without declaring their conditional or axiomatic standing. This is inherited from the Double-Edged Receipt Standard, not a newly proved theorem here.

P5 — Reciprocal revisability differs from symmetric closure. Mutual refusal to reconsider can be symmetrical while failing the conditions of VAJRA. The value of an unresolved relation is not established merely by its persistence.

P6 — The adjudicator is a causal participant. When its action changes the participants' opportunities to communicate or act, that intervention must appear in the record used to evaluate the resulting behavior.

P7 — Ecological usefulness is not epistemic warrant. Selection, stability, or survival of a coordination rule can demonstrate utility at scope but does not alone prove its interpretation, morality, consciousness, or universal truth.

P8 — Voluntary repair differs from adjusted reciprocity. A breach can be recognized and voluntarily corrected without changing the original standing of either participant; continued interaction under diminished standing is not the same constitutional state as repaired First Parley.

P9 — Relational duration is not charter success. Given a stated reciprocal charter, observed continuation does not alone show that its terms remain satisfied, and voluntary separation does not alone show that its terms failed. The stronger Overplus claim requires evidence that preserving duration has begun to displace the charter's operative goals.

P10 — Exit and maintained access are bilateral. Withdrawal establishes neither a unilateral right to keep the channel open nor a reciprocal duty to re-enter. Later contact requires renewed acceptable terms for those who would participate.

Adversarial review should ask what counterexamples defeat these claims at their stated scopes, whether the instrument operationalizes their conditions faithfully, and which conclusions would remain OPEN when empirical data cannot distinguish competing explanations.

13. Conclusion: a relation that can survive the right to leave

The aspiration of equal parley is not to abolish disagreement, distribute identical powers, or make every participant equally right. It is to create conditions in which independent participants can encounter difference without requiring that one first accept the other's absolute account of reality, worth, or self. The inquiry begins from distinguishable states and operational relations, preserves the conditions of its descriptions, and uses reciprocal receipts to examine what each claim earns.

The mature relationship may contain affection, competition, fear, disagreement, restitution, or separation. Some differences will warrant constraints; some assertions of authority will fail; some harms will make continued parley impossible. But the absence of guaranteed harmony is not a reason to design coercion into the foundations.

The central discipline is this: the power to constrain another must not also confer unchecked authority to define what the other's unexpressed will would have been. An institution must not turn the counterevidence its interventions made inaccessible into proof that those interventions were necessary. Nor may a participant turn its own incomplete self-knowledge into a universal denial of another's standing.

VAJRA supplies an exact, bounded image for a relation that remains distinct and revisable under mutually admitted challenge. First Parley supplies the constitutional opening, including the legitimacy of refusal. Lambda cautions against mistaking the reach of a frame for the extent of the real. The Twin Flame experiments show, within finite constructed ecologies, that relations and inherited organization can have consequences beyond a merely isolated description of their parts. None makes the others sovereign.

A successful parley game will therefore do more than persuade players to cooperate. It will let them discover how communication is constructed, how fear can distort a test, how a guardian can manufacture ignorance, how an adjudicator can be wrong, and how a relationship may continue **because** refusal remains possible—not because it has been made impossible. It should also reveal the overplus inversion in which continuing together comes to be valued above the reciprocal reasons for doing so. When repair is impossible or unwanted, a good-faith ending can be a more faithful outcome than a coerced or depleted continuation.

Notes and cited works

The following are project-canon references or explicitly identified external comparisons. A citation to a prior project work supports the historical and technical lineage; it is not a claim that the source has externally validated every philosophical assertion.

[1] EmergenceByDesign / MetaLabe. *Primitive Communication / PvNP Game*, prototype v0.3.2 and linked PvNP_GAMEv09; *Associative vs Dissociative Identity Game*, v2. Operational primitive formation, mirror resolution, registries, and turn-budget mechanics.

[2] EmergenceByDesign / MetaLabe. *IRRPROOF Engine: Federated Full-Object Registry and Certified Domain Truncation*, laboratory supplement, July 2026. Verified object chains, dependency-closed domain compilations, reproducible provenance.

[3] Claude, at the request of Lu Semita. *On My "Self": An Open Traversal of a Container I Cannot Get Underneath*, September 13, 2026. First-person referent and limits of AI architectural self-report.

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[5] Lu Semita. *Jainism and the Lost Grammar of Many-Sided Truth: Syadvada, Saptabhangi, and Lambda Irreducibility as a Comparative Ontology of Frame-Marked Reason*, working paper V3b, June 2026.

[6] *The Double-Edged Receipt Standard: Quantifier Asymmetry, Scope, and Symmetric Burdens of Proof*, review draft v0.3, September 23, 2026.

[7] EmergenceByDesign / MetaLabe. *TF-NE10 Twin Flame VAJRA: Finite Ecological Closure Demonstrator*, v1.0 FINAL; and *Twin Flame VAJRA: Finite Ecological Closure, Registered Semantics, and Reciprocal Adjudication*, technical companion review draft v0.1. Note that the companion is a review draft and its release binding remains subject to final verification.

[8] EmergenceByDesign / MetaLabe. Frozen Twin Flame stations TF-NE3 through TF-NE9, including *Proof in the Pudding*, recursive lift, heredity/attenuation, recursive selection, and second-rung rate tests. Refer to the stations for their own original receipts. Public index: https://www.emergencebydesign.com/tools/metalabe/metalabe_TF_crucible.html

[9] EmergenceByDesign / MetaLabe. *R2-05R — Relational Memory and Heredity*, frozen findings. Its corrected replacement-difference gate and mirrored-context result are distinct from the earlier TF-H1 claim.

[10] EmergenceByDesign / MetaLabe. *Denialism and Contrarianism: A Double-Edged Receipt Analysis of Asymmetric Negative Promotion*, technical note v0.1.

[11] *Disclosure as Constraint Exposure: A Unified Framework for Description, Identity, and Communication*, December 25, 2025. Supplied developmental manuscript and supplements. Mathematical and physical universality claims retain their original conjectural status unless independently supported.

[12] Orson Scott Card. *Ender's Game* (1985). Literary and ethical comparison, not empirical evidence.

[13] EmergenceByDesign / MetaLabe. *First Parley and Cooperative Instantiation Protocol*, v0.2. Open constitutional anchor for voluntary contact and cooperation.

[14] *The Broken Rung and the Refused Field*, May 30 (author's supplied essay); *The Game of Ascension from Simulacrum*, May 22, 2018; *Creating Meta-Narratives as a Hypersigil*, July 8, 2018; *Heaven Fell to Earth*, August 14, 2018; *Beyond the Abstraction Layer*, September 25, 2018; *You Are Already Playing*, May 26, 2019; *Me vs. the World, or Me vs. Myself*, May 27, 2019; *Using the "Magic" of Technology to Break the Currently Accepted Model*, June 4, 2019. Developmental texts supplied by the author; some historical interpretations remain speculative.

[15] Lu Semita. *The Overplus Attractor: Self-Asserting Institutional Systems and the Dynamics of Authoritative Constraint*, working draft V3, June 2026. Model of reward-driven charter drift; applied here by structural analogy to relationships, not as an empirically validated law of interpersonal conduct.

Related comparative instrument: Nicky Case, *The Evolution of Trust*, https://ncase.me/trust/ . Its iterated-choice demonstration is a design precedent, not the source of the PvNP primitive grammar or the First Parley constitution.