

# // 8: Upward Spiral //

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It's all too easy to imagine lifelong learning as an upward trajectory, neatly curving upwards to the upper-right of the grid, perhaps with a crooked little dip or two along the way. This idea could represent a person's journey along their own *Electric Holy Road*, a path of understanding, personal growth and fulfilment paved with writing and digitally-mediated self-expression.

The road is endless. We will never reach the 'upper-right-hand corner of the grid'. No one ever reaches the end of their *Electric Holy Road*, and they shouldn't, because that would lead to finality, stasis, death. Instead, we constantly walk up and up a spiralling path to the tip of a holy mountain with each new lesson learned and experience gained. We might see the peak of this holy mountain at points, we might even be within touching distance, and in those moments we feel absolute relief and bliss. But, without a doubt, the Universe will always throw some new challenge in our way and expand the hypothetical mountain by another few metres, another few rocks worth. This unravels the infinite trail that winds its way up to the peak. At this point, we are still ahead of our previous position — we have still grown, but we are a little further from the peak. We are always hiking, always moving. Though it can be painful to face the challenges that add stones to the mountain, it is worth it to, at times, look out from the edge where we stand and see the magnificent view; a view only available to us through walking, writing, suffering and climbing no matter what.

