

Cultivating the Understory

Building Resilient DAOs and Teams

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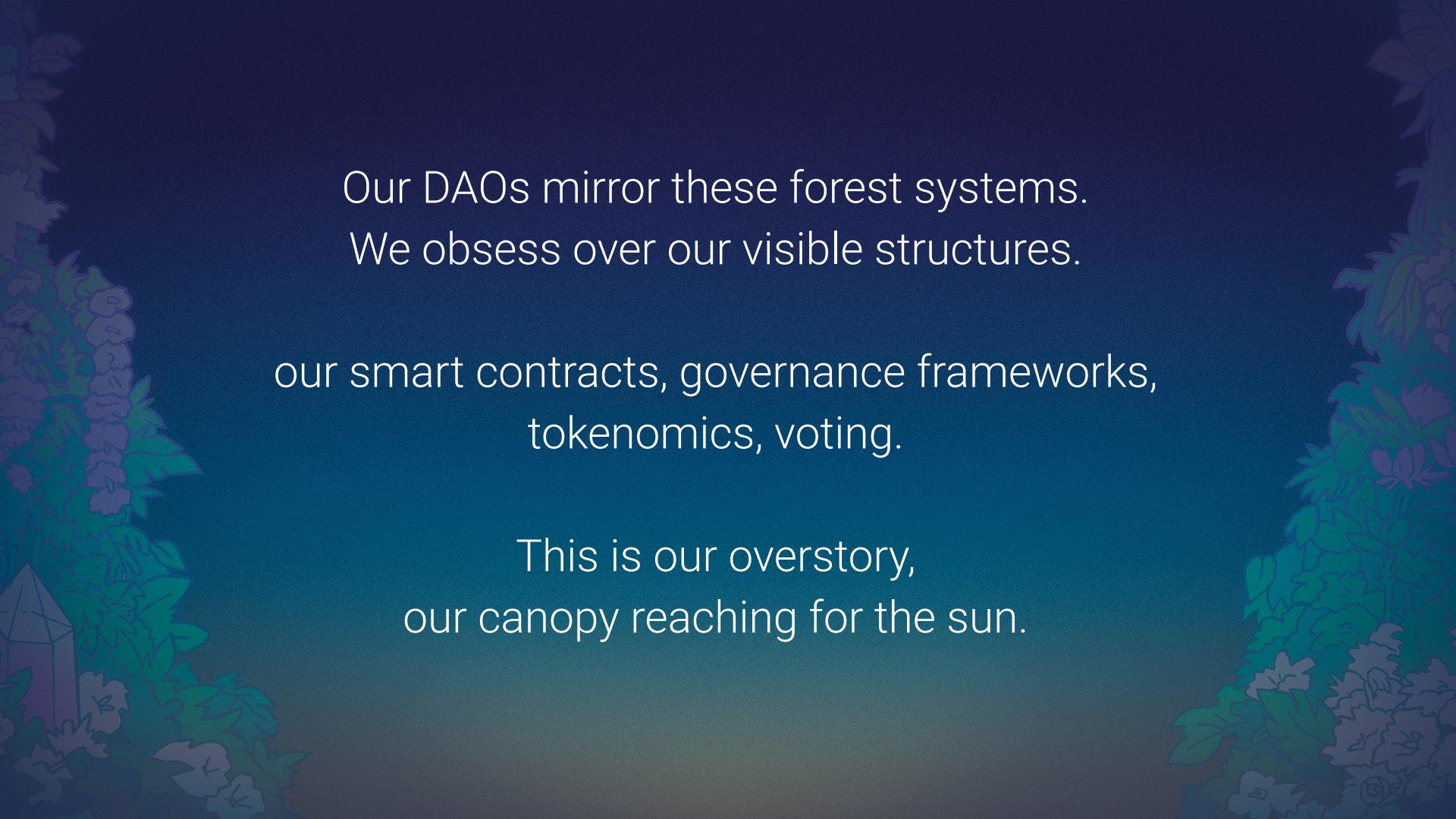


Understory vs Overstory

In a healthy forest...

Understory vs Overstory

What you see above ground - the towering trees, the canopy - is only half the story. Beneath lies an intricate network of roots, fungi, and soil organisms that make all life above possible. This understory isn't just supporting the forest; it is the forest's foundation.



Our DAOs mirror these forest systems.
We obsess over our visible structures.

our smart contracts, governance frameworks,
tokenomics, voting.

This is our overstory,
our canopy reaching for the sun.



But like that forest, our success
depends on something far less visible.

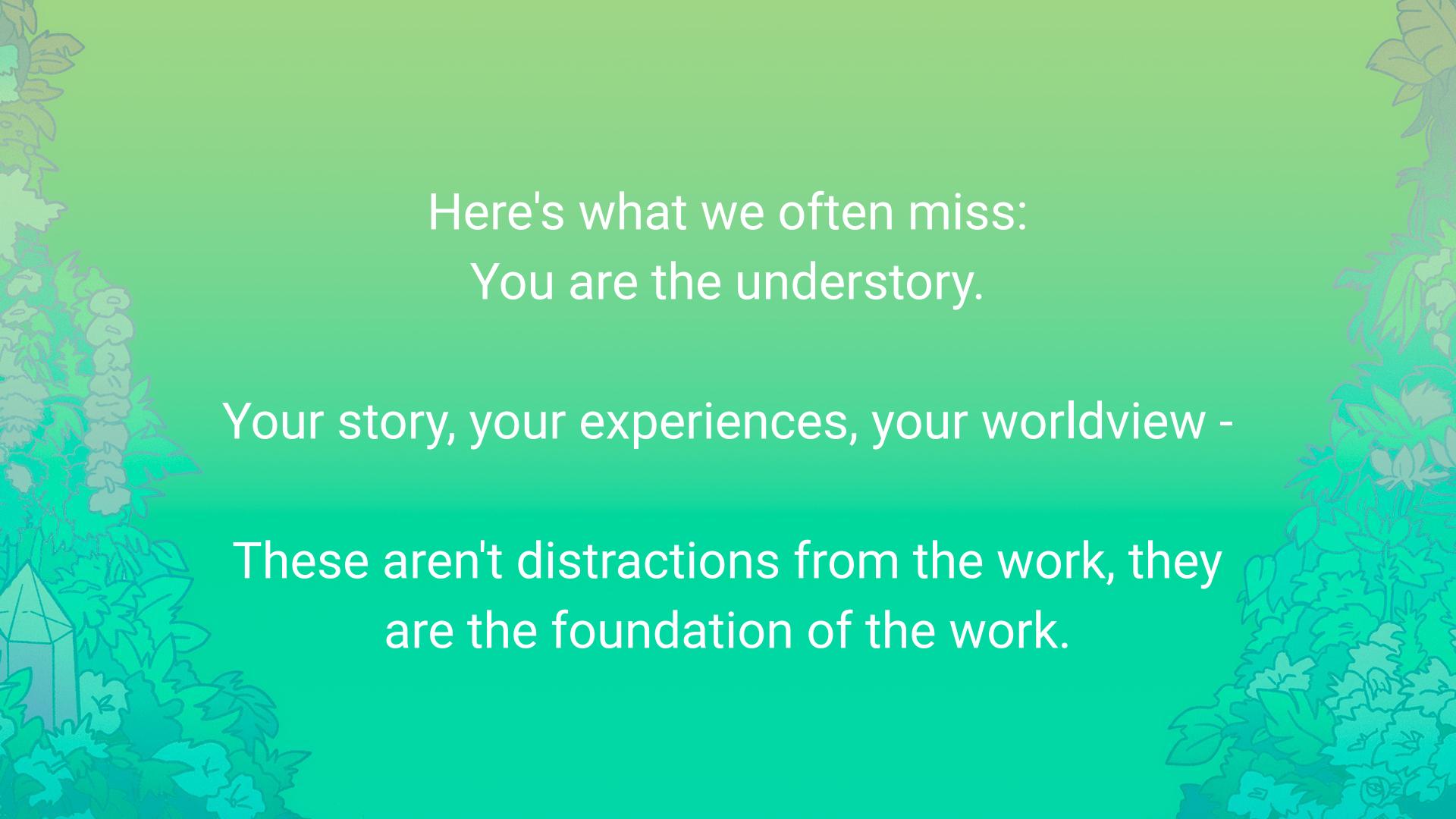
What is that?

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Cost of neglecting Understory

In DAOs, these challenges intensify because:

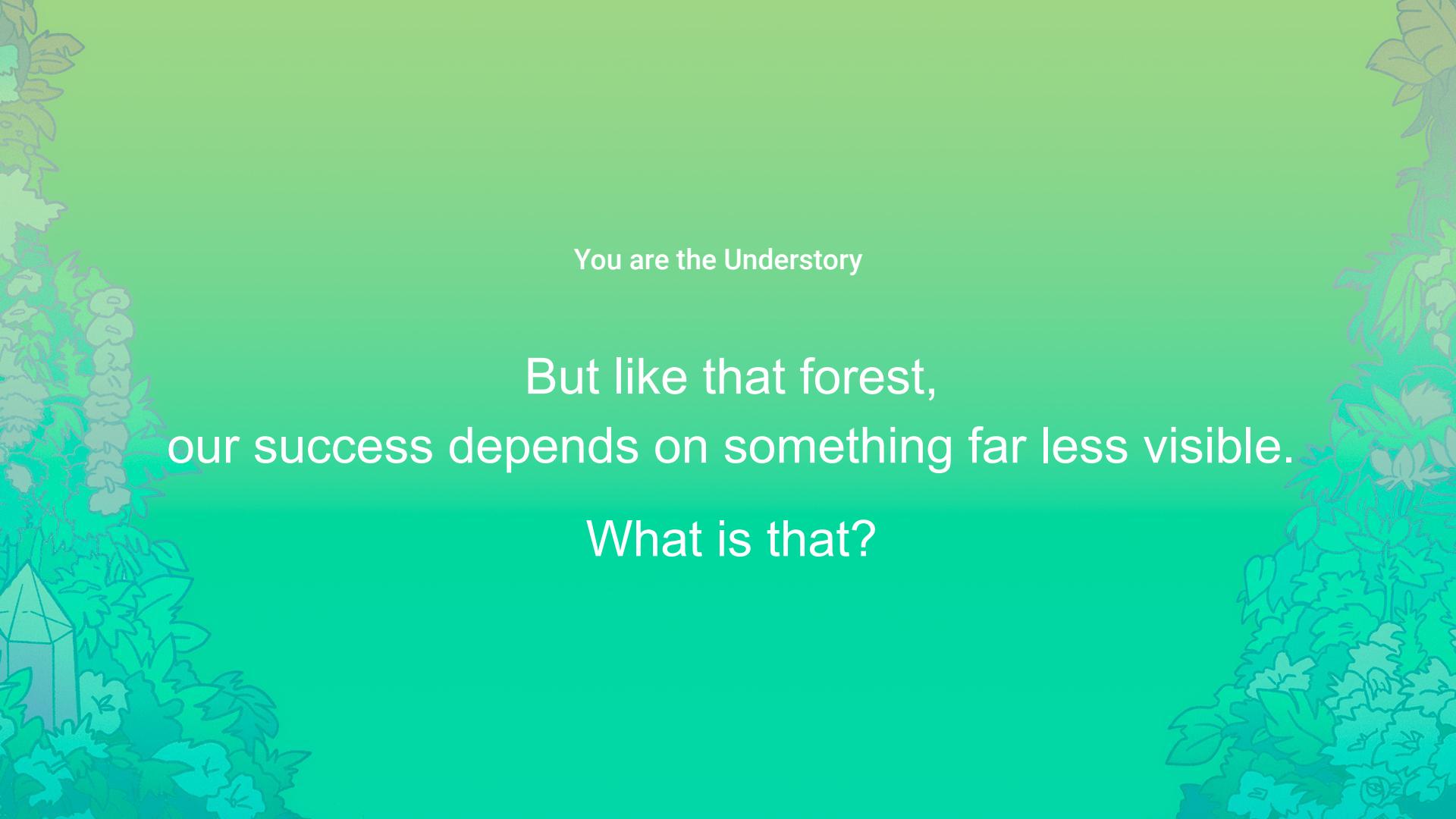
- Our work crosses time zones, cultures, and value systems
- Our governance tools often assume rational actors without emotions or context
- Our focus on trustless systems sometimes makes us forget the importance of trust



Here's what we often miss:
You are the understory.

Your story, your experiences, your worldview -

These aren't distractions from the work, they
are the foundation of the work.



You are the Understory

But like that forest,
our success depends on something far less visible.

What is that?

Cultivating the Understory

1 / Context: The Living Soil

"Everything begins with context - it's our soil composition."

- Like bedrock determines what forest can grow, our context shapes what's possible
- Each person brings unique minerals to our soil:
 - Their lived experiences
 - Cultural wisdom
 - Personal motivations
 - Hidden assumptions

2/ Communication: The First Networks

"Once we have rich soil, the first networks form - like fungi creating initial pathways through soil"

- Information begins flowing naturally
- Trust networks emerge
- Invisible connections form
- Stories and ideas find their paths

Cultivating the Understory

3/ Coordination: The Root Systems

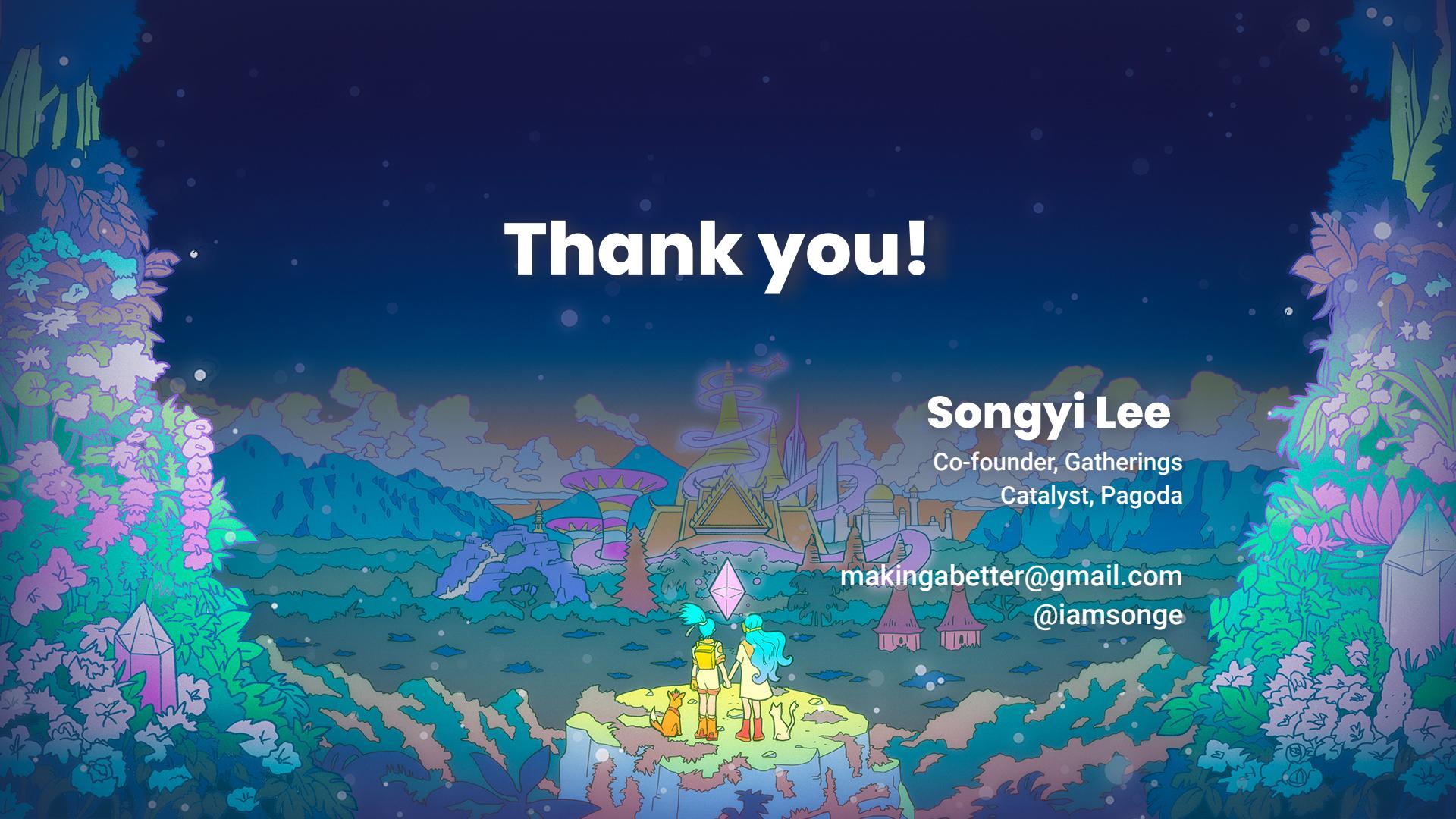
"With strong communication networks, coordination emerges naturally - like root systems intertwining."

- Resources flow where needed
- Support structures develop
- Natural leaders ('mother trees') emerge
- Mutual aid systems form

4/ Conflict: The Evolution Driver

"Finally, in healthy ecosystems, conflict becomes generative - like how forest fires release seeds waiting to grow."

- Tensions reveal where evolution is needed
- Disagreements create diversity
- Challenges strengthen resilience
- Problems become possibilities

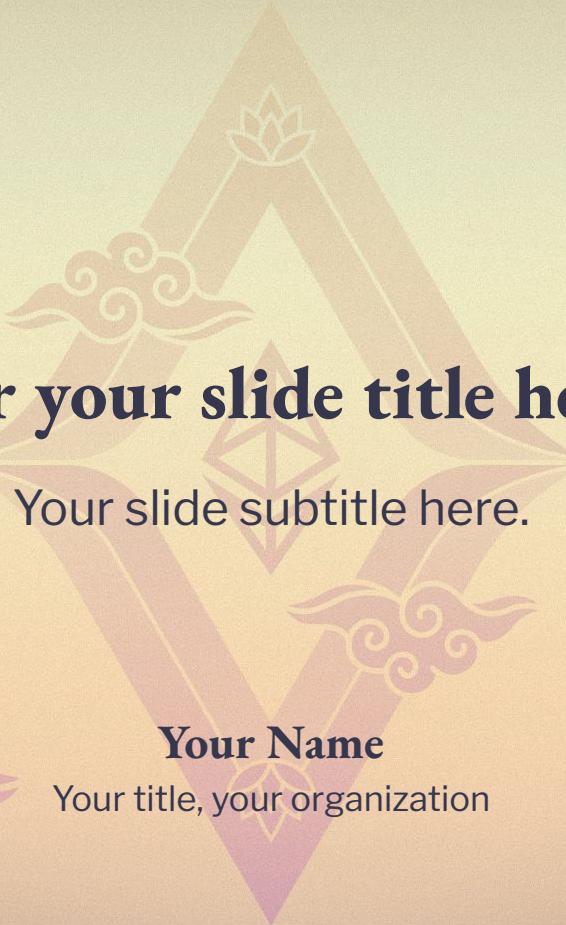


Thank you!

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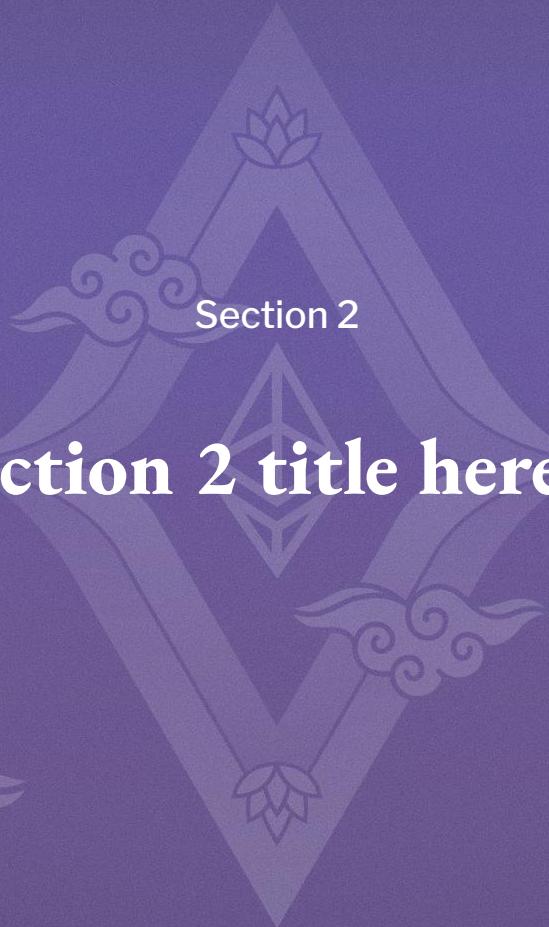
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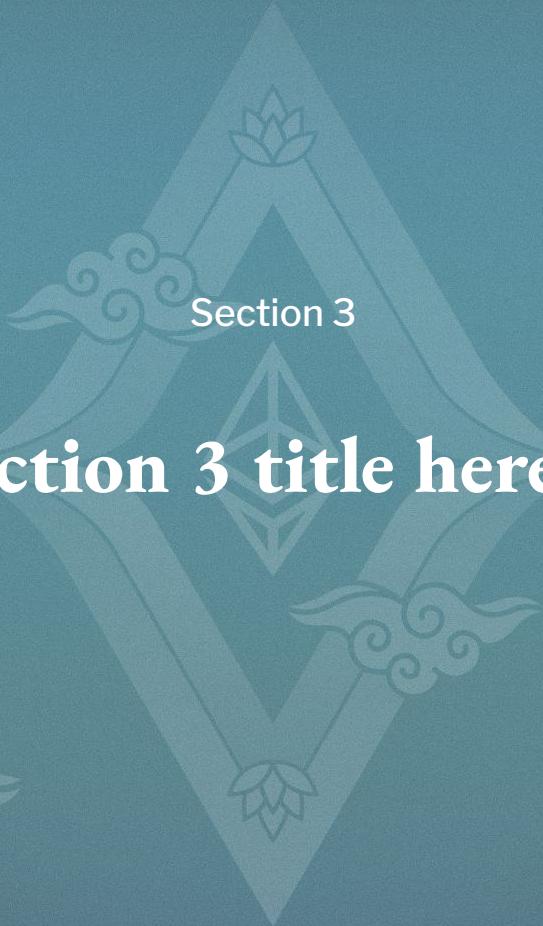




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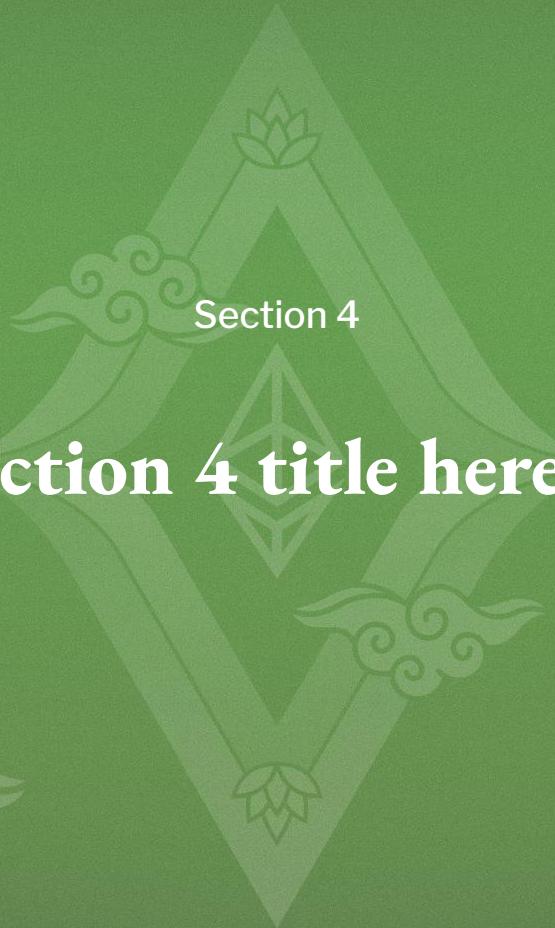
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Here's the timeline.

Event 1



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Event 2



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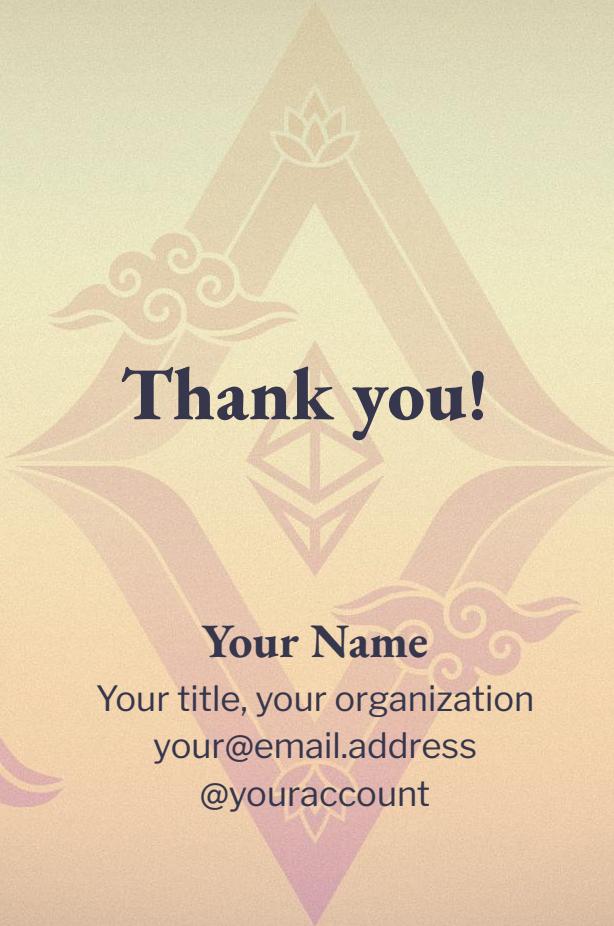


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“Number rules the universe.”

— Pythagoras





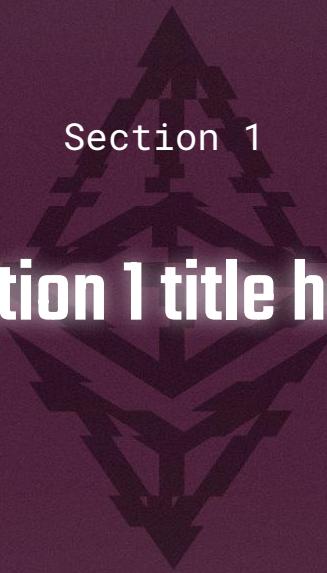


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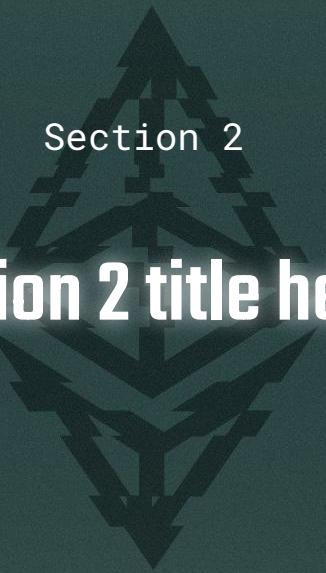
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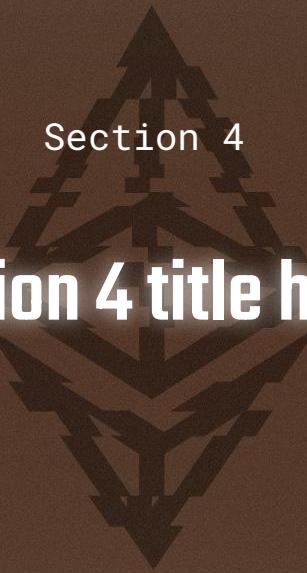
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Here's the timeline.

Event 1



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– Pythagoras



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