

Inquiry as a Portal for Collective Insight, Wisdom and Innovation

In2:InThinking Network Forum
June 2014

?Succeed with Inquiry?

What meaning did you make?

“succeed at what?”

“what would success be?”

“is inquiry a tool?” I - It

“is inquiry a relationship?” I – Thou

What shifts in how you think about this conference when you begin to consider these questions?

Inquiry ≠ Question

a *portal*: a door, gate, or entrance

a *stance*: posture; attitude

That changes our world...

Questions – where do they come from?

A yearning to –

- Go where we have not gone before –
“Take us out, Scotty.” Captain James T. Kirk
- Expand possibility –
“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.” Marcel Proust
- Discover ways to structure reality –
“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.” Albert Einstein

A universal principle...

In-Forms

Science: question – hypothesize – test

Quality: a cycle of questions – P – D – S – A

Buddhism: question – debate – learn

Council Process: a question & eight lenses

...

Spiraling Inquiry

Offering a question

Breathing out - Letting go of knowing

Listening

Breathing in - Welcoming what arises

Speaking

Breathing out - Letting go of knowing

Listening

Breathing in - Welcoming what arises

Inquiry Spirals

- “Starter: Pick up “talking stone”, repeat the question and hand the stone to the person to your left.
- When you receive the stone pause and reflect. Listen for whatever response emerges. Let your intuition speak to you.
- Offer the response that emerges to the group.

Inquiry Spirals (cont.)

- When complete, pause and reflect again. Listen for the next question that wants to be asked.
(Note: from within you)
- State the question that emerges and pass it and the stone to the person on your left.
- Continue the pattern around the table.
- If you complete a round before you hear the chime, continue.

Questions

Questions

Reflection

At your tables:

What did you notice? about...

- how you listened
- the questions asked & responses offered
- the weaving of inquiry and listening
- ...

Reflection

Sharing with the large group:

- insights
- highlights
- learnings
- questions

*[We're] living just as the century
[begins].*

*A great leaf, that God and you and I
have covered with writing
turns now, overhead, in strange hands.*

We feel the sweep of it like a wind.

*We see the brightness of a new page
where everything yet can happen.*

--Rilke