

Presencing Awareness

The Territory Beyond - Into Our Wilds!

Exploring Open Will Territory:
Telling (Prototyping) Soul-Stories to Our Future
U Lab Edinburgh College Hub
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The Territory Beyond

- Beyond (open) mind; beyond (open) heart... into (wide-open) will...
- Where you will what you will... intention crystallised
- At the heart of prototyping our contribution to the emerging future
- At the bottom of the U, at the core of You
- From a place deep inside You... your deep calling
- Let's call it our soul – in partnership with our mind and heart... the whole deal
- But how might we better connect with our soul especially?
- ... with 'The Territory Beyond'

The Territory Beyond: Pathway to Possibility

Pathways to Possibility ~ Transforming Our Relationship with Ourselves, Each Other and the World (Zander; Viking, 2016)

Ch. 26 ~ The Territory Beyond ~ You in Partnership (1 of 2)

“We’ve come to a new territory – the Territory Beyond – beyond what we know and expect of ourselves as human beings, beyond the norms of achievement or psychology, beyond our ordinary measures of happiness, and beyond what we picture as vitality. Let’s say that in this territory the distinction between what it is that **we** want and what **life** wants fades and ultimately disappears. We feel whole and in tune and easily imagine that we are resonating with the shimmering oscillations of the very energy fields of the earth itself. Grateful for Nature’s collaborative presence, we deem ourselves to be joyfully capable of all we can imagine” (189)

The Territory Beyond: Pathway to Possibility

Pathways to Possibility ~ Transforming Our Relationship with Ourselves, Each Other and the World (Zander; Viking, 2016)

Ch. 26 ~ The Territory Beyond ~ You in Partnership (2 of 2)

“You can’t get there all by yourself, because in truth there is no such thing as a human being by herself. We don’t exist alone. Having the thought of one other being, seeing one point of light on the opposite shore, remembering one song of love is enough to animate you and prepare you to dwell in the Territory. As you may have guessed, what we are calling the Territory Beyond is located inside **you** where all creation resides... (where) your every deed sends ripples throughout the cosmos... a deeper level of reality than we are familiar with... (where) friends know things about each other at a distance... (where) mind and matter are felt as one, which means that we will fare best if we are quite disciplined in what we say and intend” (189-190).

The Territory Beyond: Pathway to Possibility

Pathways to Possibility ~ Transforming Our Relationship with Ourselves, Each Other and the World (Rosamund Stone Zander; Viking, 2016)

- This is possibly ‘the territory beyond’ most folks’ ‘ken’ at the present time... (many of us might simply prefer not to ‘go there’)
- but it is ‘territory’ that is ripe for active exploration, and inhabitation, especially in U Lab prototyping contexts.
- It involves individuals actively contemplating themselves in partnership with others – beyond their normal sphere of relating and relations.
- ‘The Territory Beyond’ is a we-story of sorts, told to our collective future - the culminating chapter, in Part 3 (You in Partnership) of Rosamund Zander’s book.
- It is territory where ‘You can’t get there all by yourself...’.
- But first, you might need to go into your own wilds!

Into Our Wilds: A Pathway to Possibility?

- Try placing your soul... in your comparative wilds
- Where your wild self is likely to be skulking...
- Scary perhaps, but also potentially exhilarating – where/when you actually feel most alive
- Might we check-in with our wilds, our wild side (as part of our prototyping)?
- Consider these reflections from Parker Palmer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8PxnEILu8E>
on 'The Primacy of Soul'
- Notice the 'wild animal' metaphor – shy, cowering... and fierce, engaging;
- ... original, wild, natural, elemental (and primal?)
- Can we tap that part of ourselves? ... and give some primacy to our soul?

Into Our Wilds: Axioms for Wildness

*Alive to the thrill / Of the wild / Meet the dawn / On a mountain /
Wash your face / in the morning dew.*

*Feel the favour of the earth / Go out naked in the wind /
Your skin / Almost Aeolian.*

*With the music inside / Dance like there is no outside / Become subtle enough /
To hear a tree breathe.*

*Sleep by the ocean / Letting yourself unfurl / Like the reeds that swirl /
Gradually on the sea floor.*

*Try to watch a painting from within / How it holds what it never shows.
The mystery of your face / Showing what you never see.*

See your imagination dawn / Around the rim of your world.

*Feel the seamless silk of the ocean / Womb you in ancient buoyancy.
Feel the wild imprint of surprise / When you are taken in
by your lover's eyes.*

Succumb to warmth in the heart / Where divine fire glows.

John O'Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us*

Telling Our Soul-Story – From Our Wilds

- What are our own axioms, our self-evident truths and principles, that we always seek to live by, and live into?
- Could they be some lines in our soul-story, the story we might tell ourselves about our soul, to our soul?
- A sensing - a presencing - of the territory beyond... drawing us in, and pulling us forward... out of our ego-selves... into our possibility
- A self-transcending soul-story (beyond our ego-story)... about our soul-work-place

Ego-stories vis-à-vis Soul-stories

[Parker Palmer and Marcy Jackson, 2012 <http://couragetoleadnp.org/default.aspx>]

- Stories told for the sake of self-promotion, as when we apply for a job
- Focus on life's high spots, where we have been successful and affirmed
- Try to portray us as in control or in charge of our lives
- Often linear stories of continuity and consistency, stories that have a resolution
- Highly-crafted stories that leave out important things
- May ignore or falsify certain information by 'spinning' the facts
- Are always told in prose, and sometimes involve numbers
- Stories that do not sustain us in times of suffering
- Stories we tell at a party when someone asks, 'What do you do?'
- The story beneath the ego-story, with the thread of truth running through it
- Honour shadow as well as light, suffering as well as gladness
- Are often stories of twists and turns, when our best-laid plans were undone by the unexpected
- Allow us to integrate the fragments with the whole
- Are unafraid of change, fear, loss, failure and shame, or mystery, passion, ecstasy
- Are sometimes told in poetry, music or art
- Are stories that we can hold onto in the hardest of times
- Are the stories we want the people we love most to know
- Are the stories we are most likely to be reliving when we are awake at 3.00am or when we die.

Telling Our Soul-Story – From Our Wilds

- Venture into ‘the territory beyond’ your customary frames of reference
- Take a walk on your wild side, and notice what you notice coming up...
- Especially the partnering with others that you deeply yearn for...
- Apply your axioms for wildness – your self-evident truths... the principles you live by
- And begin to craft some possible lines of your soul-story...

[Journal on your own for ... minutes]

Presencing Our Soul-Story – From My Wilds

- An invitation to share – two rounds...
- Beginning with **individual noticing**:

My personal soul-story – emerging themes

[Offer some ‘I-statements’ of your own into the circle,
and listen deeply to the I-statements of others]

Presencing Our We-Story – The Wild Things that are Us

- Round 2: Sensing into our collective field – some **seemingly shared themes...**

**Our emerging we-story – our soul-work,
from our soul-place**

[Offer some sensed ‘We-statements’ into the circle,
for affirmation – and prototyping - consideration]