

ARIADNE'S THREAD

$$S = \int \frac{1}{4} F^2 + \frac{1}{2} (D\theta)^2 = \int \frac{1}{4} F^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial\theta - HeA)^2 = \int \frac{1}{4} F^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial\theta - mA)^2$$

Biologists often need to kill the organism they are studying in order to gain access to the inner cells or genes they wish to explore. The map of this dead organism then becomes to the scientist, the reality of what they are exploring. It is then a total surprise in looking at living organisms, that the cells are not doing tidy little tasks in a mechanical way, but there is a messy freedom in how they combine to produce a coherent whole behaviour. It is this '**livingness**' of how things interact, communicate, cooperate which has been lost in the technologies and jargon that focus down to the minutest details of genes and cells as if they were the only and most important mechanical innards of life.

There is something in life which is not a property of all the dead components, but which indicates a subtlety of its own. Can we then read into scientific discoveries, evidence of this livingness? Take for instance the Higgs Boson, whose recent discovery was pointed to by mathematical reasoning such as the equation above. The Higgs boson, one might imagine from the press coverage, to be some static building block of the atom. But not at all- the Higgs boson has no existence of its own, but is the gateway of existence in the form of mass to the other particles. The principle of life in this case is the surrender of its own existence for the sake of the whole atom. There is no such thing as an isolated dead Higgs Boson, one finds a trace of it only in a living context.

The manifestation of the principle of the Higgs Boson to participatory dialogue is found in the way freedom is expressed by the particular. For instance at Spineto (*see article Journey School*), the initial uncertainty of people in their personal journeys and the doubt about what it is we are undertaking is reflected in the weather where a dark grey downpour resists showing any direction. At a certain moment on the second morning, a coherence enters into the process of the group. This builds up to the moment where Lubna Masarwa from Palestine gives voice to her own freedom, to see herself outside definition, in a struggle of this entity against this other entity, at the exact moment the sun finds to break through the clouds to fall into the centre of our circle.

The potential is broken by a choice that prefers a particular direction that leaves intact the tension of all the other ways we could have gone. Something is allowed to come into the potential that gives insight into that dynamic living flow that actually is what holds us together. From this moment, in other stories of the biology, physics and history all are held by this central understanding of how these other journeys come from the same source.

The first article by Shantena Sabbadini is based on the talk given in Spineto where this livingness is re-established as the foundational principle of science. That article leads into Adriana's invitation to go through a Magic Door, a Gate of Wonder, without reducing the world to a set of commonplace descriptions. .

This special, bumper issue then explores different paths of a living education - discovering along its banks, questioning communities, sprouting seeds, the experience of the earth, puzzling bees, exploring children and surprising woods. From the establishing of the primacy of experience, we re-engage with the flow out of our stuck-ness -from the example of Rajendra Singh regenerating rivers out of the desert, to experiments in education, Buddhist debate, Journey School, care of the elderly. Ways are explored for actively reinstating livingness back into our education.

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