



Looking toward a new year

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LEARNING TO WALK

*Walked out this morning
into a broad green garden
with the rising sun in my eyes
and the first hint of the day's heat
touching my face,
feeling as broad as the garden
and young as the day
and soaking up the heat
in my black tee-shirt,
walked straight forward
out of the gate,
through the wood,
along the river,
toward the mountain
and thought of the future
I could make in the world
if I walked toward it
like this,
with my face toward the hills
and my eyes full of light
and the earth sure
and solid beneath me,
walking on
with a fierce anticipation,
and a faithful expectation,
with the sun and the rain
and the wind on my skin
and the old sense
I remember at twenty
of many paths
breaking from one path...*

*David Whyte
from River Flow: New & Selected Poems*

Many of you know of my appreciation for the way poet, David Whyte, expresses the challenges, diversions and dreams of the human spirit. 2009 has presented many challenges, much loss, and relative disappointment. "Part of the heartbreak is the sense that we might not be equal to the ecological, political and economic transitions that are necessary, that our own selfishness may be writ too deeply into our genes and that the future is therefore untenable and unreachable" (www.davidwhyte.com).

Selfishness sounds harsh and disagreeable at first, but when we sink into it and allow ourselves to consider the possibility we see it staring us in the face. There's an evolution of selfishness though, noted in a stage theory of morality from Carol Gilligan, which suggests movement from self care, to care on a larger social realm, to an even greater, post conventional, global care. I am sure there is a weaving back and forth through these stages as we develop and mature depending on the issues and context of what we're facing.

20th century philosopher, Wittgenstein, said we can't enter any world for which we do not have the language. I hope this note presents you with some of what it will take for you to enter a new world.

I have chosen a poem of David's (left margin) to provide greater imagery and language for what I sense is a need on the larger front ...a desire to learn to walk again. From the struggles, the paradox, the ambiguity comes the opportunity to learn, to grow and to become more than we could have without the challenges...rising up like a phoenix to take on a new day.

Midyear I moved my office to a new address with the number "2010"...I'm ready...actually, excited for a new year...to walk out and meet *the rising sun*. I look forward to meeting you on the path!

Happy New Year! *Janet*