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## **Flying among the cedars of Lebanon: New conceptions of building research**

Who imposes  
Federal governments and agencies?  
Who imposes  
regulations and restrictions  
on qualitative inquiry  
on our learning  
on our teaching  
on our living?

A fox smells his own holes first, loudly protesting guilt  
conform to belong, normalize to equalize, measure mediocrity  
the ideal of assimilation  
tolerance of conformity?

Is hierarchy essential to hush  
crests of creativity?  
Press down, ground, form a controlled community?  
Can we reconceptualize, recreate the constructs of educational research?  
Reconform our shape without conforming  
from within, from without  
without control, compliance, complacency?

Reconstruct, grow wild, naturally

“The role of imagination is not to resolve, not to point the way, not to improve.  
It is to awaken, to disclose the ordinarily unseen, unheard and unexpected”

Are we postmodern to be kind?  
Open to all, never offend  
Hide behind multiplicity  
Watered down, bland and blasé

Banal pastels

Speak out, shout out with colour!  
Trust in vulnerability  
Cry out into the cacophony with birds in the canopy  
grown within, carried up by the cedar forests of Lebanon  
Eden Tree of Life  
Kabbalah Sephiroth Tree  
all growing high, flying into sky  
a phallic insertion of assertive voice  
connecting Earthmother to God, woman to man, body to head, imagination  
Sing aloud high and wide  
disrupt the artful silence with new songs resonating in hopeful symphony

Hear!  
Note the variations  
the profound details  
Joyous mystical world of pleasures  
Fly and see!

Strengthen views of qualitative inquiry by singing to and alighting on interpretative works  
open truth

"Therefore, I am always seeking readers who will attend to my words,  
not with a dismissive swipe, but with a willingness, even eagerness,  
to join in conversation".

Join in  
singing scaffolds to fresh understandings  
"...touch and twine... threads of different hues."  
airy entanglement of strength  
in and through the dappled light  
breathing with freedom and flight  
soar

weave through the critical mass  
encourage and promote  
songs of sweet dawn dew  
dancing oh so flirtatiously on all our  
unspoken and unheard

reimagine research  
not solid, sure, uniform bricks

building the Babel tower  
fresh never touching old  
planted, rooted in a pretense of power and control  
blocks, boxes, bricks  
in schools, in us  
in the Epic of Gilgamesh  
heartless king who wanted a brick wall to protect his kingdom  
a barrier borne of blood, his own people  
only to hide his heart

Restructure conceptions of research  
No need to replicate, eclipse  
Just start at points of intersection and r a d i a t e  
draw inspiration, entangle twines  
of position, ideology, conceptions welcome  
all heart work

Even Gilgamesh  
overcame, touched by his friend Enkido  
Synergy immortalized  
greatly loved

### **Flying among the cedars of Lebanon: New conceptions of building research**

The pressures of regulation and standardization on qualitative inquiry cannot be deterred only on the outside of the qualitative body. There is much to do inside. Prose writers are quickly quoted, integrated into new texts for building fresh understandings—revisiting and reinforcing traditional methods of research. Visual, performing and poetic researchers may be more tentative to layer on interpretive works, perhaps fearful to confine ambiguity or misread "truths". Developing a strong community and general construct of qualitative researchers requires new conceptions of how to: support and learn diversely, scaffold interpretive research, and build a lexicon for qualitative learning. The artist's path is intentionally silent. "One of the ways we can make our work less isolating is to expose and celebrate our collaborations" (Upitis, 1998, p. 476). In this session, see how collaboration takes on a new meaning in this framework, and how inspiration can entangle threads of

different hues by sharing points of intersection.

## Endnotes