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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

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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