



Learning collectively with the power of place, nature, self and community

11 - 28 May 2009

Presence Retreat, 11 - 14 May

Art of Protection, 18 - 21 May

Art of Hosting Meaning in Place, 25 - 28 May

As our world shifts, we find ourselves in a level of complexity we have never faced before. What we have relied on, no longer works. Doing more of the same simply takes us deeper into confusion. We can no longer incrementally change - we need to shift the whole system. How do we do this? What is the action that will help us at this crucial time?

What if learning collectively is the action? A form of learning that cultivates new collective capacities that strengthen the possibility of shifting the system as a whole. Systemic learning that calls us to be curious together, to bring our gifts to contribute, to sit in the not knowing until collective clarity arises. A learning that awakens our wisdom to discover and act from our next level of humanity.

We, Maria Skordialou and Sarah Whiteley, are learners, collective inquirers and members of communities of practice that learn together. We are guardians of an extraordinary place, Axladitsa Avatakia in Pelion, Greece. We are hosts of conversations that matter in organisations and communities in different parts of the world. We wish to link the power and nature of this place, the art form of meaningful conversation and the practice of collective inquiry to create a new learning pattern that works at a systemic level. We know that this is a crucial fusion - we are calling this the *Axladitsa Immersion*.

We are inviting other learners - practitioners of the Art of Hosting Conversations that Matter and other social technologies, e.g., Open Space Technology, Appreciative Inquiry, Future Search, The World Café, etc. leaders in the public, non profit and private sectors, teachers, social workers, health care professionals, politicians, financiers, entrepreneurs, artists, storytellers, scientists, parents, young people, elders - to gather to learn over a three week period. We wish to link the learning of other places of power, retreat centres, networks, institutes and programmes so that we make visible the next level of consciousness that is showing up as a result of our collective explorations. Therefore, we invite people who are hosting and participating other learning opportunities to bring their wisdom and burning questions.

Three weeks! Yes - we are being called to slow down in order to speed up our human evolution and shift our systems, communities, organisations and the way we live and work.

The *Axladitsa Immersion* is made up of three collective inquiries, using a variety of practices that engage our wholeness - body, hands, heart, mind, will and spirit. Each collective inquiry - the Presence Retreat, Art of Protection and the Art of Hosting Meaning in Place, (see individuals invitation at <http://www.axladitsa.org/calendar.htm>) - will be four days long, guided by practiced hosts - inviting us all to offer what we practice, exploring what we do not know and learning together. After each inquiry, there will be a three day 'gathering after the gathering' period - when reflection, digestion, spontaneous conversation, swimming, walking, cooking will

take place. The invitation is to join the entire *Axladitsa Immersion*, or two weeks, or simply one inquiry.

We will be learning in a living systems rhythm - a balance of hospitality, hosting and self-organisation - so that we learn within an emergent container.