

August 2017 XSKOOL SWEDEN - SOME READINGS on PLACE

from **Mountain Dialogues**, by Frank Waters

"Despite a common fecundity, every place on earth bespeaks its own rhythm of life. Each continent has its own spirit of place which it imparts to its distinctive species of plants and animals, its human races. So does every country, every locality. Even great cities impart their own special essence, apart from their architectural and cultural backgrounds. And within them, one runs into a barrio, a neighborhood, that seems to exude a sense of peace - or evil - without apparent cause. There is no accounting for the mysterious magnetism that draws and holds us to that one locality we know as our heart's home, whose karmic propensities or simple vibratory quality may coincide with our own"

on "story" by Pamela Mang in **Regenerative Development and Design**

"In a world that equates data with credibility, and sees the answer to every problem as more data, stories could seem frivolous. However, a growing body of research tells us that human memory is story-based, and that stories are fundamental to how people learn and organize what they know. Stories, which are ultimately about relationship, enable us to make complex wholes comprehensible and, even more important, meaningful. For millennia humans used stories as cross-generational guidebooks for harmonizing cultures and economies with their ecologies—capturing generations of accumulated wisdom about how to sustainably live and thrive in a place. While analysis is good for control and prediction, story-sensibility is good for understanding meaning and role.

"The present moment offers the potential, born of crisis, to transform the way humans inhabit Earth. To do so, we must learn to respond creatively to an increasingly unpredictable world. We must enable the places where we live and work to thrive, not just sustain a precarious balance. We must embrace the inherently beautiful complexity of life as a source of innovation and evolution. We must discover new ways to participate in a dynamic universe." <https://regenesismgroup.com/regenerative-development-and-design-a-framework-for-evolving-sustainability-available-now/>

Simone Weii

"Place is a doorway into caring. Rootedness in a place is the most important and least recognized need of the human soul. Love of place unleashes the personal and political will needed to make profound change. It can also unite people across diverse ideological spectra because place is what we all share: it is the commons that allows people to call themselves a community.

Caring about place is powerful motivation to take action locally, but caring about any living entity without understanding how it works can lead (and has led) to well intentioned but ultimately damaging interventions. Each particular place...is the continuously evolving expression of a highly complex set of forces—inanimate and living—which become integrated into an organic whole. Places are alive, characterised by all the fluid, dynamic and multi-level relationships that shape all living beings, and understanding them presents a special challenge.

https://www.schumachercollege.org.uk/blog/revealing-the-story-of-place#_edn1