

2nd Tuesday

Dear Everybody,

At the end of last week I was bushed, wiped out, totally exhausted. During the work on Friday afternoon, during that sometimes very powerful writing exercise with the 20 questions and the short answers I was struggling to stay present. I desperately needed the week-end off (I had not had one for nearly a month).

When we came together again on Monday morning I was struck by changes in the ways we interacted. There felt to me to be much more freedom in the group and therefore much more genuine self-expression. It was as though we had moved out of group honeymoon into a stronger, more real stage and as though we had done this without the classical passage through a "storming phase".

Classical group dynamic theory suggests these stages:

honeymoon

storming

norming (the making of new rules , the entry into a new, stronger reality.)

Sometimes a group will enter the greater reality and autonomy of a post-honeymoon stage by smooth transition and without shouting and screaming.

I heard a distinct change of voice in several people this morning with people happy to be much more clearly themselves. There was more autonomy....eg the table by the door went on discussing their articles for a good ten minutes after I had given out my letter. This postponing of a tacit teacher request was brilliant... they had better things to do at that particular time.

I wonder how you felt about the work we did after lunch... I had to dash off to the photo-copier- it would be good to hear how you experienced that exercise. Personally I got quite involved with the self-perpetuation cycle of the bunch of cherries, with coping with the unbelievable transparency of the pane of glass, and with accusing the spaniel of living a hopelessly unrealistic fantasy in his relationship to his master.

I would love to one day have the chance to do that exercise with a group of professional writers. I guess they might come up with some really beautiful stuff, as we did too.

It will not have escaped you that many of these exercises we are doing are useful for mother tongue teaching.

When you finish reading this note, maybe we could have a general feedback on yesterday afternoon. Let's do this in the plenary.

Mario.

~~A Tailors wife and a shoemaker!~~
~~have~~ are

to A Shoemaker's wife and
a blacksmith's horse ~~as~~
~~never have shoes~~
~~shoes~~
never have shoes