

Open space issue – 17th April

ISSUE – AFTER WORDS – a chance to share silence and talk about the experience and nature of silence.

Convener – Fern Smith

Participants – Matillda Leyse, Angela Hauscheer, Giovanna Milano

Summary of discussion etc

We noticed the strength of the power of silence this morning in the big morning gathering and the different feelings it held...This is going wrong / fear / anticipation (like that before a show opens but the silence has gone on too long).

In our small group we talked about the differences in the silence we held and the silence in the larger group...both shared a sense of ritual / sacred space – the idea that the silence held the hopes, visions and dreams of the group.

As well as holding silence we LISTENED to the machinery, the voices, the organisation, the heartbeat of IETM going on around us. We held a real appreciation of those that make this possible – organisationally and those who put their energy in getting to Berlin.

We felt this was a moment in the open space / IETM meeting where we really 'went off the agenda' into a powerful place of possibilities. We became aware in a real sense of the interconnectivity – our small group with the other break-out groups and in terms of IETM as a microcosm with the planetary macrocosm. We also felt very connected to the CONTEXT that was going on outside the Culture House – the Volcano and ash clouds. We were reminded of – 'whoever comes are the right people and whenever it starts is the right time'. We wondered what the synchronicity of the IETM meeting and the Volcano were teaching us on an individual as well as a group level.

A Suggestion to ietm board....?

To start ietm meetings with holding silence (from 1 minute / longer?)

OR having a silent space for people to go to during the meetings to be with one another in a non verbal way). Deep meetings occur in this way.