

**thoughts no thinker**

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jason harding

*'this way'*

all that way

only to let it all go<sup>1, 2</sup>

is that true wisdom<sup>3, 4</sup>

not only let go of the self

but everything it has ever learned

steep curve

more full circle

shisui's japanese death poem brush stroke<sup>5, 6</sup>

is that where

and why

you and i        we

meet

the knower must ultimately go<sup>1</sup>

if i share this with you now would it change your approach if i

craft and deliver an inspired gathering story<sup>8</sup>

that touches everything you care about

tap into that        transformative power that

inner catalyst and match<sup>9</sup>

we keep scrambling        grasping

at normal

why i'm not sure

or convinced

seems backwards and

incapability        an unwillingness

to "*confront the cracks ...*" and to see and create

and "*hold alternatives*"<sup>10</sup>

its a fear thing<sup>11</sup>

let it go "no-

*thing*"<sup>1</sup>

detachment transcends

floats

lets you float

towards a new type of thinking

and a new way of looking at the world<sup>12, 13</sup>

beyond content beyond courses beyond degrees

so lean in<sup>14</sup>

its ok you don't have to always know

lean in to where that steep curve bends back and turns it back

on itself

and the rational mind in the process<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

kerouac's "*visionary tics* [begin to] *shiver inside* [your] *chest*"<sup>15</sup>

danielle celermajer's imagination and imaginaries grounded<sup>16</sup>

in ideas

that no longer touch or tread on

ground

octavia butler's "*what if*"

no tether whatsoever<sup>16</sup>

could you chase thoughts with no thinker<sup>2</sup>

could you chase "*a place behind yourself*"<sup>7</sup> ourselves

huxley's elegantly simple revelation clouded

by the "*pregnant prose*" and the "*pretence of [all] poets*"<sup>17</sup>

my teaching

and more than likely this poem

imagine following that curve to the end only to realise

something's off

and missing

imagine going all that way only to realise

it was all just "*a hustle*"<sup>1</sup>

i heard shisui's final poem was forced and

if you look closely  
his painted circle seems incomplete

bear witness<sup>18</sup> to that        and this  
now  
and to the moment and        to the other  
the others  
offer them your hand and your heart and your hope  
“*let that [self*  
and all its] *self-centred striving*  
*simply vanish*”<sup>19</sup>

and bear witness  
to jess scully’s “*not yet conscious*” and the “*not yet become*”<sup>16</sup>  
to possibility  
possibilities  
and to experience  
far beyond that of intellectual understanding<sup>2</sup>

to that increasingly lost        in the mist  
collective common cohen’s “*fundamental*”<sup>20</sup>  
ground  
listen to archie roach go beyond his “*flesh and blood*”<sup>21</sup> and  
bear witness to what lies beyond kirilly dawn’s “*handed down*” bones<sup>22</sup>  
embedded deep in  
nathan scolaro’s “*small details*”<sup>21</sup> and realisations realised through  
intimate conversations<sup>4, 10, 14</sup>  
parker palmer’s admission of inner entanglement and        the projection of his soul  
both light and dark  
his heart<sup>23</sup>  
coursing through and out of padraig ó tuama’s “*facts of life*”<sup>24</sup>  
like blood like flood  
you’ll find it  
beyond our minds  
and all our words  
“*unwilled, unleashed, unbound*”<sup>17</sup>

take your time

for we need honest and courageous independent thinkers

who can deal with the unknown not

those who can "*memorise the keys and formats to the tests*"<sup>25</sup>

you are here to lead

not be led

you are here and "*here now*"<sup>1</sup> to re-envision

reimagine

refashion

remake<sup>26</sup>

nipun mehta's man with no legs and the tulsi plants is proof

that you don't need anything

you can lead

with "*inner transformation first*"<sup>27</sup>

sense something larger and still create

solutions

become and be something larger

fuck

you are the solution

you can "*forget yourself*"<sup>7</sup> completely and still

lift

in fact you'll have to

is this where

and why

we you and i

dissolve<sup>7</sup>

thanks for your courage<sup>8</sup>

and for staying open

to mystery that "*unspeakable*

*trouble*"<sup>28</sup> and

for not running away

from it or me and thanks

for your failure

your failures

for if there was ever a place to fail and still be ok this should be it<sup>29, 30</sup>

and i'd like to thank you for your time

your energy

for you

for coming all this way

and for never once asking me what i am here to actually teach.

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## BIO

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