



# HOPE MYRSKY INSTANT THEATRE

## GIANT HOPE FULL EXPERIENCE - 12TH MAY 2009 - CREATION MYTH

### THE POWER OF HOPE

#### ***In the beginning there was...***

a big hot sauna and then there was a birth-giving.

It was a great Smoke Sauna and stood beside a very deep lake and both were surrounded by a rich and colourful rain forest of beech trees. One Friday in summer some fifteen years ago it was midnight-ish as time then and there wasn't like we know it now and here. So at some time between twelve and twelve thirty the sun was shining and the birth was about to take place. The process was in progress. And it was going to be painful.

There was a male Polar Bear in the Smoke Sauna and it was he that was in labour and terrible pain. The sauna was dark and hot inside with one small window to let in light and a doorway. It was filled with a special red smoke as this smoke sauna was made for non-smokers. The bear was experiencing terrible pains and screaming while a Rabbit mid-wife helped encourage him by giving him hope shaking her fists with the "thumbs up" in front of him.

#### ***When suddenly there came a knocking at the sauna door...***

Outside there was a diver hoping to come in. He was the ghost of a priest. The Holy Diver. He dived into the sauna through the rabbit hole at the bottom of the sauna door and announced to the room; "I have a reservation!"

The Polar Bear, through his terrible pain, offered The Holy Diver his bed as he felt he didn't need it anymore while outside The Rain Forest began whispering; "We can do it together." The bear decided to roll himself a joint hoping that smoking this would help ease the terrible pains but not realising, or perhaps forgetting, the sauna had been made for non-smokers. It soon caught fire and burned quickly to the ground leaving only a pile of ashes behind.

The sun disappeared and a storm began to rage as Matti Nykänen rose up from the smoking sauna ashes. He was pleasure personified and at that moment it became clear that there "may be" a way to combine the terrible pain and this newly present pleasure. They decided to get married and The Holy Diver acting as priest conducted their wedding in the depths of the lake beside the smoking remains of the Sauna.

The Polar Bear felt greatly relieved once the terrible pain had left him and decided to divorce himself from The Rabbit midwife as he didn't need her help, or hope, anymore and left immediately for The North Pole through the storm. The midwife remained in the remains of the non-smoking sauna surrounded by the rich rain forest of beech trees with time enough to reflect what had happened that day. She contemplated many things; The Polar Bears painful pregnancy, the timely intervention at the door, the reservation held by The Holy Diver, the joint that caused the sauna to burn, the rise of pleasure from ashes and its marriage with pain. The Rabbit wondered for a week all the things that had been made and learned in that great hot birth-giving sauna. Encouraged by the power of hope.

***THE END maybe...***

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT...KYSYVÄ EI TIELTÄ EKSY...MAYBE

***And the moral of this creation myth “maybe”?*** Is this how compassion is born? Conceived through discomfort and transformed by joy = joyful challenge? Is this what will happen whenever and wherever hope is offered instead of despair to those who labouring under false pretences or being consumed by their fears/desires? Is this a myth or is it a method for combining conflicting passions and encouraging cooperation? A way to find harmony, balance and calm. Was there an exchange of some kind during this story? What was created/born? Maybe it is an allegory showing what can happen if we make the effort to be more hope full than we are hope less... who or what then was the main character? And what could have happened if The Rabbit had given something other than hope to The Polar Bear? Do we appreciate or judge each other by what we receive or by what we give?

***Oma tupa, oma lupa.*** *Interpretation if this was a Group Dream:* If, for a moment, we imagine the collective story co-created during the HOPE mysy event was for example a group dream, what then might we find within its meaning and metaphors? Could there be a deeper experience that helped combine two days of hopeful exploration and many peoples life-long learning into a memorable moment that was both an escape from the norm and entertaining as well as an aesthetic space for escape and sharing education? Was this brief moment transformational?

A midwife is a practitioner. A guide. An enabler. Perhaps a useful analogy for a teacher... In a figurative sense midwifery actually means: to bring into being. So what “came to life” during this action? How did the bear get pregnant for example? We can use the concept of pregnancy to also describe being “full or filled” with something. Ideas perhaps? Pain and pleasure. Lake and water - are typical folklore symbol for the soul and the subconscious. A great place to bring opposites together. The sauna is hot and dark like a womb and creates the place and space for incubation. The smoke is cleansing not dirty (this is a place for non-smokers...) and the colour of passion, blood and rebirth. The way into the sauna is a door that is closed that divides the outside from the inside, but there is another, alternative way. A hole in the bottom of the door. One must dive-in or crawl. Erotic maybe, yet also practical and humbling as any endeavour demands an attitude to take risks, be respectful and give commitment. We need to participant and get “into” what we are doing. This is a common mythic trial or task and folklore symbol denoting the journey required for change and transformation. Visiting the underworld.

The weather. Sunshine and then storm clouds. Weather creates drama and changes the story. Heat and light help things to grow as does dark and the wet. These are different aspects of nurturing needs. As are pleasure and pain. Light and dark balanced in this story. A rain forest is an excellent metaphor for balance, harmony and constant change. An ecosystem exemplifies understanding there is a natural process for creativity and systems in nature. This myth travels the creative process as a spiral from beginning to end and then to continuation. Stepping into academic analysis out of play and via assimilation. There is sustainability and a sense of recycling and many useful concepts that drive transformation in all myths. Alone each has value yet together they create whole new surprises. Sometimes something needs to be lost, or painful, in order for something else to be found and bring pleasure. There are exchanges taking place in story-telling that are physical as well as mental. For example the ideas of marriage, divorce, reservation, hope-giving and birth-giving. We can interpret “I have a reservation” to quite different things. A person disagreeing as well as ordering or securing a place/space themselves.

Divorce is connected to the concept of diverting; to go a different, or other, way. Separating what was connected. Marriage is about uniting things; or bringing separate ideals together. It is very interesting that these two concepts appear in this story to compliment and combine with each other. Inclusion and exclusion. Cooperation and conflict. Yes AND no. This maybe a helpful encouragement for people to practice tolerance.

We could also explore the power of association with similar animal characters found in Fable for example or symbols used in other social contexts such as totem animals in tribal mythology. There is rich ground in such collective story for simply exploring meaning through comparing modern mental models with primitive storytelling archetypes and different world mythology. A beginning and an end...happy to be continued...hope fully...in anyway. Well wishes all. Nic :-)

