

All is Connected

April 12, 2002

It is April in North Carolina and not at all “the cruelest month,” but rather, the most beautiful. There is an exuberance of azalea blooms, white and pink dogwood, tulips and pansies and wispy new green leaves on oak trees. The beauty out there affects us all. That’s the theme of today’s journal: relationship.

All is connected. Biologists recognize symbiosis, defined as the state of living together of two dissimilar organisms in a mutually beneficial relationship. In a social setting, using a quantum perspective, we know how a violent event affects us all, how a loving gesture gentles us, how our showing respect for one person in a group makes all the others feel safe and courageous. Again, the human body offers excellent empirical evidence: physical health affects emotional well-being. Blood pressure rises and one’s face flushes as we feel frightened or angry. All is connected.

This week I had the joy of a chat with Peter Noteboom of Toronto, the Managing Director of Global Learning Partners, Inc. He told me of a decision by a major client to change the title of their former Training Department to Facilitating Learning Department. Such a change may seem minor. However, in the light of this quantum concept—all is connected—it is both a major indicator of their shift in perspective, and a sign of things to come.

This past week has been seen a global agony of concern about events in the mid-East. Since all is connected, those events affect us, each and every one. The poet John Donne wrote “no man is an island”... At the same time, our firm efforts at peace-building and working against racism of all sorts is equally felt around the globe, since all is connected. Next week we shall examine the last of the six quantum concepts featured in the revised edition of *Learning to Listen Learning to Teach* which is due to be published June 21st. That is called participation: the perceiver is part of what she perceives. We evoke the world we perceive. What an important assumption for an educator and for a learner.