

# DAVID WHYTE

## Presentations and Workshops

### **Solace: The Art of Asking The Beautiful Question**

Human beings cannot quite believe the depth, drama and even the disappearances involved in even the average human life. Each one of us grows almost against our will into a steadily unfolding story where the horizon gets broader and more mysterious, the understanding of loss and mortality more keen, the sense of time more fleeting and the understanding of our own mistakes and omissions more apparent. In the midst of this deepening we have to make a life that makes sense: there is no other life than the one that involves this constant beckoning, this invitation to the fiercer aspects of existence.

This will be a day spent with David Whyte – through poetry and the insights of poetry – looking at the fruitful discipline of first finding, then asking, ever keener and more beautiful questions; questions that do not produce easy answers but which help us to re-imagine ourselves, our world and our part in it, and most especially, questions which work to reshape our identities, helping us to become larger, more generous, more courageous; equal to the increasingly fierce invitations extended to us as we grow and mature.

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### **The Pilgrim Way: Setting Direction for a Future Life**

Join us for a weekend with David Whyte looking at the great questions of human life through the eyes of the pilgrim: someone passing through relatively quickly, someone looking for the biggest context they can find or imagine, someone dependent on friendship, hospitality and help from friends and strangers alike, someone who has to ask for visible and invisible help; someone for whom the nature of the destination changes step by step as the end of the path approaches, and someone subject to the vagaries of wind and weather along the way. A pilgrim is someone up for adventure and good company.

One of the central themes of the weekend will be internal resilience, the necessity for following a certain star not seen or perceived by anyone else, an internal migration, a path running parallel to the outer road keeping any outward journey in the world relevant and true. We will look at the necessity for hardiness, for shelter, for risk, for companionship, for vulnerability; for creating a more beautiful mind and the absolute need to ask for help at transition points combined with an ability to recognize when it is being offered and the humor, humility and open hands necessary to receive it.

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### **What to Remember When Waking: Disciplines that Transform Everyday Life**

Most of us have talents and qualities that live in isolation from the world, never finding a proper outlet or focus. This can lead to a sense of aimless, endless adaptation, rather than a growing feeling of belonging and generosity. There are ways of building this sense of belonging – disciplines that develop real maturity in a human being. It is important to

recognize that what we look for is not untrammelled happiness, but an enlarging conversation that can encompass even the most harrowing losses. This conversation is not a Pollyanna search for a hidden key to happiness, but a profound ability to make ourselves large enough, brave enough and generous enough for the triumphs and profound difficulties needed to live even the most ordinary human life.

Join celebrated writer and teacher David Whyte to explore the cyclical, conversational nature of reality and the disciplines that can create an identity robust enough to meet its gifts and demands.

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### **Making the Invitation: The Essence of Conversational Leadership**

One of the abiding dynamics of leadership, whether it is leading others in public or leading our personal lives with both private and public courage is the necessity for visibility: the willingness to step out from behind a clouded or confusing identity into the clear air of commitment and articulation.

We commit to others and to a direction we wish to take most effectively through making three invitations, firstly by identifying the horizon to which we wish to go, then by articulating the ground on which we now stand and then by asking others to join us in the endeavor of getting from here to there.

This will be a time for looking at the milestones and adventures that occur along the way when we try to make a real invitation: to ourselves, to others and to the future, to come together in one emboldening conversation.