



STORYTELLING, CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
& DEEP CONVERSATION
WITH IRIS CURTEIS

IN THE HUT OF A THOUSAND SUNS

Folktales teach us
Evil exists
so that we
creatively
transform it
& gain a greater
understanding
of ourselves

Vassillissa, Iris Curteis

Our insistence on belonging, community, and human connection is one of the greatest acts of courage and resistance in the face of oppression (O'Donohue).

A Two-day workshop; Times 9:30 - 3:30 daily

What is this workshop about?

Storytelling enhances two vital aspects of our humanity: community **and** individuality. Folktales reveal how and why loneliness and isolation attract Evil, why unused creative power, transgression and disrespect lack awareness and carry the potential of self-destruction. Folktales teach us: Evil exists so we wake up, transform it and move toward greater consciousness.

Folktales confront us with Paradox and we have never experienced greater than in our current time: the destruction of the Earth and ourselves, the escalation of A.I., the ever-increasing loss of human rights and freedom, while simultaneously facing the unprecedented opportunity to develop our spiritual consciousness, our understanding of interconnectedness, our individuation into free will - and we need to understand and learn to work with paradox is a Soul-truth, a living event, ever-changing, expansive, and ripe with potentiality.

... but it takes days of dark wandering where time is lost among the tangle of twig and branch, and drips in slow motion from damp moss to fall and decay in the leaf litter, before we see Baba Yaga's hut - or does it see us? It stands on a chicken leg or two, spins and stalks and turns its back. No matter. We're not ready to enter. First there is the morbid fence of human long-bones and the twelve skulls. Fires flicker from hollow eyes as darkness falls. All is still, brooding. Waiting for us to find the words that will turn the hut to us. Then we enter. Trembling.

Join me and experience the power of Story and storytelling, the importance of opening and closing story-space, and build valuable insight into the theme.

I am a Storyteller and Social Artist. My background includes studies in visual art, storytelling, speech formation, and dramatic art (Europe), B.A. and B.A. hon. in creative writing, and a Ph.D. on storytelling and community building (Australia). This workshop is 'experiential', interactive and practical. It offers space for deep conversations about how and why storytelling empowers our imagination, and the many ways creativity and creative thinking encourage us to appreciate our lives as works of art.

Day One 9:30 - 3:30

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME & THE POWER OF STORY

Part 1 : WHAT LIES BEFORE THE SEPARATION OF GOOD AND EVIL? THE ALL-ENCOMPASSING PRIMORDIAL-BOTH: Baba Yaga, Heart of the Forest

Day Two

Part 2: isolation and Loneliness invite the powers of the beyond - evil and good; The Cold-Hag in the Stone Boat

Part 3: UNUSED CREATIVE POWER, TRESPASS, TRANSGRESSION AND DISRESPECT CARRY THE POTENTIAL OF SELF-DESTRUCTION; John The Blacksmith

Early Bird \$300; Early Bird Couples \$500; Standard \$350; Couples \$600; Schools, Teams, Enterprises [min 3 p.p.] \$250

Morning and Afternoon teas supplied / BYO Lunch