

Postscript

It is with the messiness and complexities of being human in mind that I chose the story of “The Red Shoes” as metaphor for this study. I base my interpretation of the story on that of Estes (1992) as she describes how it can be used to empower women to find their own voice amongst the many voices of the societies within which they live. I still believe that, unless we are able to identify what we truly value (the girl’s first pair of shoes that she made herself) we will continue to be dominated by value systems that tempt us from outside and control our behaviour (the shiny red shoes from the shop). This is dangerous, because getting rid of controlling values asks for sacrifice and may leave us crippled if we do not recognise the power they have over us and balance this power with higher values.

The story seems to suggest, that these higher values are not as general as “love your neighbour as yourself”, but that they have an individual flavour for each person. While the workshop *Meeting at Maverick 463* produced many levels of new understanding for participants, I was unable to help them formulate something of their own unique highest values or elixirs, for their current life stories. Yet, I am determined to keep trying. The dramatic patterns articulated in this study and their applications such as in the kind of workshop suggested here, iterate, can help people make sense of the complexities of living, have the ability to adapt to anyone’s situation and are playful regarding the attitude with which they are applied. Yet, I have faith that such patterns, while they are playful, and perhaps because they are playful, have the power to make the lame walk.