TRANSCENDENCE AND PASSING THROUGH THE GATE

DAVID WEST - INFOQ - NOVEMBER 2008

HOW DOES YOUR TEACHER INSTRUCT YOU IN ZEN?

- - -

OUR TEACHER TELLS US TO SHUT OUR EYES AND SEE NO EVIL THING; TO COVER OUR EARS AND HEAR NO EVIL SOUND; TO STOP THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR MINDS AND FORM NO WRONG IDEA.

- - -

I DO NOT ASK YOU TO COVER YOUR EYES, BUT YOU DO NOT SEE A THING. I DO NOT ASK YOU TO COVER YOUR EARS, BUT YOU DO NOT HEAR A SOUND. I DO NOT ASK YOU TO STOP THE ACTIVITIES OF YOUR MIND, BUT YOU DO NOT FORM ANY IDEA AT ALL.

KENSHO

FIRST GLIMPSE - AWAKENING

MOST EVERYONE HAS HAD MOMENTS OF ABSOLUTE CLARITY, UNDENIABLE INSIGHT, PERFECT ACTION.

THIS IS KENSHO.

Perhaps it was experienced as an action - riding the perfect wave.

Perhaps it was emotive - first connection with your soul mate.

Perhaps it was intellectual - that error free, elegant, and correct program that you wrote in a burst of non-conscious oneness with the code.

SATORI

ENLIGHTENMENT

I-THOU / PART-WHOLE / SELF-UNIVERSE BOUNDARY IS ELIMINATED

OMNISCIENCE, PERFECT KNOWLEDGE OF THE MOMENT

RIGHT ACTION

SERENITY

WISDOM
PERFECTION
UNDERSTANDING

My words are very easy to know, and
very easy to practice; but there is no
one in the world who is able to know,
and able to practice them.

Tao Te Ching

ZEN PRACTICE

YOU SAY THAT EVERYWHERE THERE IS TRAINING AND THERE IS REALIZATION. DO NOT BE DECEIVED. THOUGH SOMETHING CAN BE ATTAINED BY TRAINING, IT ONLY CREATES THE KARMA OF BIRTH AND DEATH.

YOU SAY YOU TRAIN IN THE SIX PERFECTIONS AND THE TEN THOUSAND PRACTICES - THEY ARE ALL PRODUCTIONS OF KARMA.

———

TELL ME THEN, WHAT DHARMA IS TO BE REALIZED, WHAT WAY IS TO BE PRACTICED? AT THIS MOMENT, WHAT DO YOU LACK FOR YOUR FUNCTIONING? AND WHAT DO YOU NEED TO RESTORE BY YOUR TRAINING?

———

HOW DOES THE ENLIGHTENED ONE LIVE? WHEN HUNGRY, EAT; WHEN SLEEPY, SLEEP; WHEN THIRSTY, DRINK.

EN-AGILE-MENT

ADVOCATES

THERE ARE THREE STAGES OF XP: OUT OF THE BOX, ADAPTATION, TRANSCENDENCE.

Kent Beck

———

TO SEEK THE TIMELESS WAY WE MUST FIRST KNOW THE QUALITY WITHOUT A NAME.

TO REACH THE QUALITY WITHOUT A NAME WE MUST BUILD A LIVING PATTERN LANGUAGE AS A GATE.

ONCE WE HAVE BUILT THE GATE, WE CAN PASS THROUGH IT TO THE PRACTICE OF THE TIMELESS WAY.

AND YET THE TIMELESS WAY IS NOT COMPLETE, AND WILL NOT FULLY GENERATE THE QUALITY WITHOUT A NAME, UNTIL WE LEAVE THE GATE BEHIND.

Christopher Alexander

———

THE HARDEST PART OF SOFTWARE IS THE CONCEPTUAL CONSTRUCT.

Fred Brooks

WHY

SURVIVAL

WHY

PREREQUISITE FOR KEEPING PACE

PROFESSIONALISM

PATH TO BECOMING A "GREAT DESIGNER"

PREREQUISITE FOR AGILE TEAM MEMBERSHIP

CEASE BEING A COMMODITY

ONLY WAY TO AVOID THE DEATH OF AGILE

BEING AGILE

RIGHT SEEING

PHYSICAL CLARITY CANNOT BE ACHIEVED UNTIL THERE IS CLARITY IN THE DESIGNER'S MIND AND ACTIVITIES.   C. Alexander

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PERCEIVING AND BRINGING TOGETHER UNDER ONE IDEA THE SCATTERED PARTICULARS SO THAT ONE MAKES CLEAR THE THING WHICH HE WISHES TO DO

SEPARATION OF THE IDEA INTO CLASSES, BY DIVIDING WHERE THE NATURAL JOINTS ARE, AND NOT TRYING TO BREAK ANY PART, AFTER THE MANNER OF A BAD CARVER

I LOVE THESE PROCESSES OF DIVISION AND BRINGING TOGETHER; AND IF I THINK ANY OTHER MAN IS ABLE TO SEE THINGS THAT CAN NATURALLY BE COLLECTED INTO ONE AND DIVIDED INTO MANY, HIM I WILL FOLLOW AS IF HE WERE A GOD.   Plato

Right Action

Painted by the aged Toyo Sesshu, who formerly held the first seat at Tendo Temple, on a peaceful day in his sixty-seventh year, or the eighteenth year of Bummei.

RIGHT RESULTS

SIMPLICITY

FIT

ALIVENESS

BEING AGILE

THE PATH TO AGILE BEING

SEARCHING

SOFTWARE CRISIS - 1968 [C. ALEXANDER]

RATIONAL DESIGN [D. PARNAS]

SILVER BULLETS [F. BROOKS]

THEORY BUILDING [P. NAUR]

OO [A. KAY]

AGILITY [K. BECK]

FOOTPRINTS

"ORDER OF MAGNITUDE IMPROVEMENT"

SMALLTALK (LOC, TIME, COMPLEXITY)

OBJECT METAPHOR (SIMPLICITY)

TDD (QUALITY)

PERCEIVING

THE PRACTICES CONSCIOUSLY

CATCHING

PRACTICES NON-CONSCIOUSLY

TAMING

SYNTHESIS

SCR-AGIL-EAN

RIDING HOME

ENCULTURATION

BULL TRANSCENDED
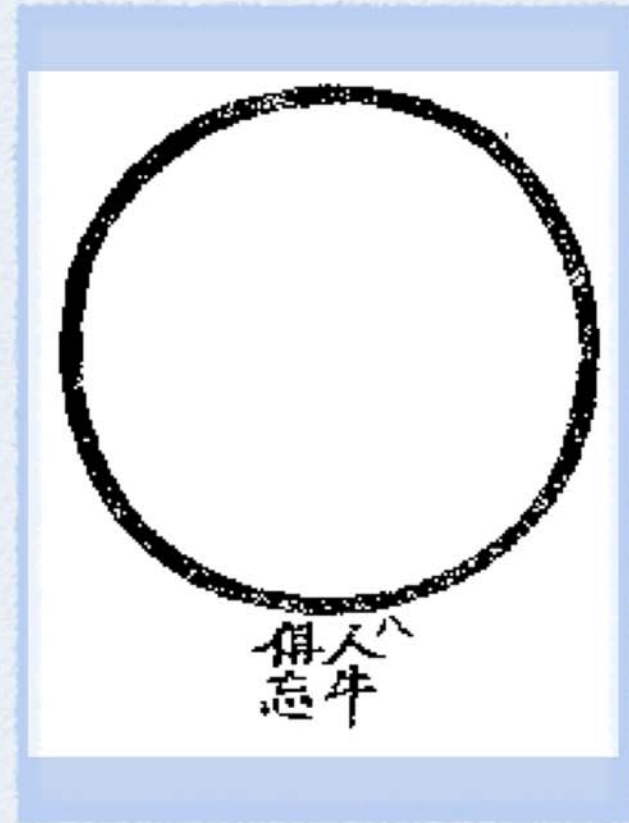
SIMPLICITY

COMMUNICATION

ONENESS (FEEDBACK)

COURAGE

Both Boy and Bull Transcended

NON-ATTACHED ACTION

SATORI GROUNDED INSIGHT

Reaching the Source

YDD
(theorY Driven Development)

COMPLEX ADAPTIVE SYSTEMS

EACH TO ITS OWN SELF TRUE

IN THE WORLD

WORKING SOFTWARE

SIMPLEST THING THAT COULD
POSSIBLY WORK

CONTEXT, PROBLEM, SOLUTION ARE
ONE THING