

Some questions I would like to explore are (this is pretty much freefall writing (with a few add ons the following day), the evening after returning from a 5 day Chan retreat):

- What does education for resilience look like? My education was the best money could buy yet hasn't prepared me for life. Joanna Macy teaches what she does so that that we might not kill each other when the shit hits the fan. Buddhist education ideas (one eg www.essential-education.org). Steiner/Montessori principles. Education through embodiment (words unnecessary or less is more). What can a university do? Thomas Berry's ideas on university – universe reflecting on itself. But could I make this action researchy? I have no positional power in the Uni, I am not an educator.
- My "life koan(*)" – what is it to be a woman in 21st century? What is it to be a female Buddhist? What about female desires? Ancient teachings don't help much....
- How can I work with love (this question doesn't have the energy it had). Just get yourself out of the way. I certainly can't work this out as I try in Paper 2, only through experiment
- I could train and work (occasionally) as a Zen cook from 2010. Do I want to do this? Cooking as practice? Feels very interesting but couldn't be everything (do need academic stuff too). Balance? How could I arrange my life to support this? One idea has been spinning around in my head for ages – a PhD? Is there any income from this at all (don't need much)? How would I avoid getting lonely and obsessive?
- If I did want to do a PhD, what's the ground work to discover what I wanted to look at? So many ideas, big questions. It would need to be a **real life question for me**. And would have to help others too (education for resilience?) (**Western women and Buddhism** (does that help all beings?). Science, the spirit, life **and me** coming together? So many real issues could be explored – relationships, work, motherhood (or not), activism. Feels integrated (as well as encompassing diverse perspectives) but how could enquiry be gendered yet not divisive? And dangers of it getting pompous and religious (again divisive) – remember one river many wells (and my tendency to pomposity!). Certainly an amazing and diverse range of people to talk to – Fiona, Jin Ho, Aoife, Christina Feldman, Martine Batchelor, Gail Aylward, Modgala. Endless opportunities for supportive cooperative enquiry. Bristol Buddhist Women's Group?? Could include non-buddhists? Or men?! 1st, 2nd, even 3rd person enquiry? Also lots of interesting stuff around female iconography and I could do some interesting textual stuff (yay) **Right now this feels very hot and full of energy! I feel like I should do something like this for the project, PhD or no PhD...**
- I do also want to explore practice of inhabiting different archetypes, or looking at people that do inhabit them, and their work in the world
 - Broken-hearted warrior – essential archetype for our time? (Joanna Macy Work that Reconnects, examples like David Ballard, Leonard Cohen)
 - The jester/fool/zen monk/clown/poet. Thomas Merton: "Are monks and hippies and poets relevant? No, we are deliberately irrelevant. We live with an ingrained irrelevance which is proper to every human being." Clowning workshops with Chris. Zen. Poetry. What have they got in common? Finding one's true nature? Playfulness. Creativity
 - What is the Guan Yin archetype for today?

* A koan is a paradoxical riddle that has no solution, used in Zen Buddhism to show limitations of logical reasoning.