



Creative Wordshops

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# Writing Letter

## May 2024

re-story, re-create, re-  
imagine you

for this letter, a weekly story  
and ongoing opportunities -  
[dorianhaarhoffblog.co.za](http://dorianhaarhoffblog.co.za)

Dear writer, storyteller, reader, lover of words, images, silences...

*We are all endowed as story-tellers. There is a mystic in every one of us.*  
(Matthew Fox)

### Terrapsychology

In the 1990s when researching *The Writer's Voice* on a Fulbright at Stanford, I visited the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) in San Francisco to converse with physicist Brian Swimme, author of *The Universe is a Green Dragon* and the *Universe Story*. This private university is light years ahead of many narrowly defined academic institutions. Their Department of Philosophy, Cosmology and Consciousness is "dedicated to reimagining the human species as a mutually enhancing member of the earth community." So it was with joy that I came across recently, located at CIIS, Terrapsychology - *terra* Latin for planet Earth.

The first time I heard the word *terra* was from a primary school teacher whose jokes were weaker than mine. Perhaps I inherited that tradition/affliction of perpetual punning from him? The pilot asks a man after his first flight, *Are you glad to be back on terra firma* (solid ground)? He responds with relief, *That, up there is terror. This, firmer.*

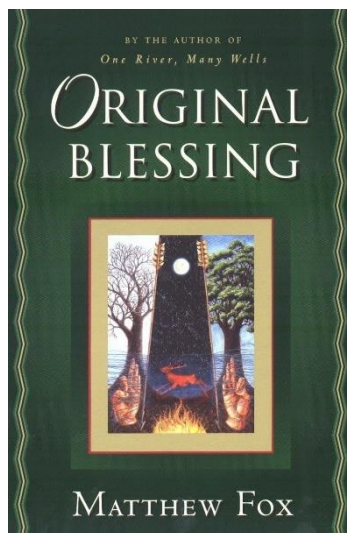


Terrapsychology reveals our connections with location, place, physical objects. Vague mysteries fall into place in this holistic field of inquiry. Craig Chalquist's video (faculty at CIIS) is peppered with the word story - the 'where' 'who' and 'why.' Here is his video clip:

<https://youtu.be/-PgkXAJ6GgI?si=5cOdCwsbX8N1k9qd>

This holistic psychology spirals into a universe story. It connects to First Nations beliefs, that all is animated with the life force of spirit. We don't write about nature. Nature participates as a co-author. This suggests why some places speak to us more clearly than others. We feel an instant déjà vu.

Terrapsychological Inquiry (TI) repositions us in the same way that the Creation Spirituality of Matthew Fox, renegade excommunicated Catholic Priest, relocates us in one of his earlier books, *Original Blessing* (1997). We are part of creation that hasn't messed up, located in a wider context, offered a macro lens. Fox draws much from mystic Meister Eckhard.

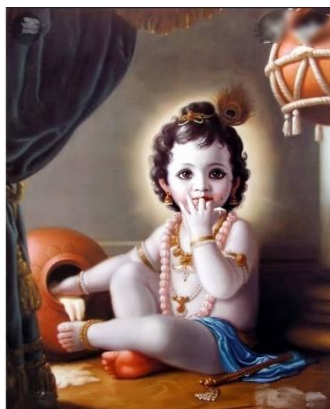


Here's part of a review: 'Fox lays out the ancient but often neglected (and sometimes condemned) creation spiritual tradition in *Original Blessing*. The sacredness of creation and of our role in it is a starting point—what the mystical tradition calls the Via Positiva, the path of joy and delight, awe and gratitude. The Via Negativa is the path of darkness and silence and also of suffering and of letting go and letting be. The Via Creativa is the path of creativity. And the Via Transformativa is the path of justice and compassion.'

For Fox, we are all mystics and prophets. Christianity once celebrated beauty, compassion, justice, and creativity and provided a path of ecstatic connection with all creation. As do the heart of all faiths.

<https://www.matthewfox.org/donation-store/original-blessing-a-primer-in-creation-spirituality>

All is within us, as in the Krishna myth I retold waybackwhen:



The Child God

once he played in the sand  
filling his head, hands and mouth  
with its grains, sticks and leaves.  
his mother prized open his lips  
to clean the grit from his teeth.

her mouth opened in wonder.  
she beheld in the great cave,

milky way and morning star.  
the tongue, a great whale,  
frolicked in the spittle tide  
that swirled round molar rocks.

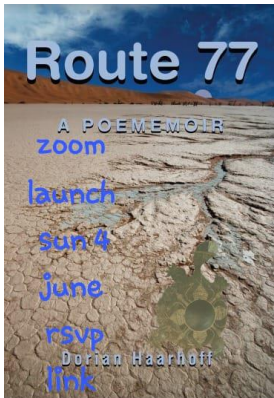
the earth rotated on its axis  
and the sun and moon balanced  
on inner lips and palate.  
an arch opened to the heavens.

and then the boy as gently  
placed his sandy hand across her lids  
and closed them, drawing blinds.  
and when she opened her eyes again  
she saw only spit and sand  
in a small boy's mouth.

Here's to a life through a terra-lens.

Dorian

PS Thank you for those who subscribe to the monthly letter (R240 per annum) I cherish your support. The letter remains open to all.



Igno van Niekerk and Tina Konstant (story mates) kindly recorded the zoom launch. Here tis.

[https://mega.nz/file/rg9xhDJa#TTfWT8w-HttuLtfFbUGH\\_in-8\\_LXl8fIBtzE3dDaJiI](https://mega.nz/file/rg9xhDJa#TTfWT8w-HttuLtfFbUGH_in-8_LXl8fIBtzE3dDaJiI)

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## Writing Retreat Radar Autumn 2024

detailed flyers on request

### 1. Magic Carpet Writers (Somerset West)

Our ongoing last Wed of the month writeaway

### 2 Word Brush and Being

#### a Creative Retreat for Poets, Writers and Painters

Fri 26 (17.30) - Mon 29 April (10.00) fully booked

### 3. Remember when...A Life Story Workshop

4 May 10.00 - 16.30

*It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards (Alice in Wonderland)*

### 4 a. ZenPen Retreat Writing, Being & Meditation (Groot Marico)

10 -12 May 2024 (Fri 17.00 - Sun 13.00)

<https://tararokpacentre.co.za> 014 503 8901

#### 4b.A Stream of Words

12 -15 May 2024 Sun 17.00 - Wed 13.00.

#### 5. Pringle Bay

#### Finding your Voice: from Public Squeaking to Public Speaking

Sat 1 June 2024 10.00 -16.00

Are you nervous when you speak in public? Swallow your voice? Forget your words?  
Then this day is for you.

#### 6. Irish eve sundowner @ The Pringle

Sun 2 June 17.00 ...

John Gnodde singer Dorian poet and  
story-teller



#### 7. Mentoring: ongoing one-on-one attention

*You help me to sound like myself (numerous clients)*

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