




WEAVING THE STRANDS


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The metaphor of weaving through living and dying

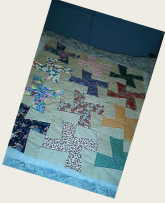



- The Universe...and our place in it
- Bound to our bodies with fragile threads
- Creating the unified out of opposites
- Our need to weave structure around us for safety, security and love
- Hands as the instrument of the work of weaving – the wisdom of the *Ceili De*





A patchwork quilt?

A COMMUNITY OF CRITICAL FRIENDS
DIVERSE SHAPES, SIZES AND COLOURS
AGREE PERSPECTIVES AND COMPETENCIES
CREATIVITY
MANAGING THE 'MESSINESS'
ADAPTING AND EXTENDING SKILLS

Key aspects of the pattern

- Compassion
- Commitment
- Confidence
- Communication
- Collaboration

'The real presence of another person is a place of security' (Saunders C, 1976)

'Slack' tension is critical to success

there is direct proportionality of the yarn tension to the shed opening angle. That tension or load may be determined either by dividing the base warp tension at closed shed by the cosine of the appropriate opening angle or it may be found by using the [Pythagorean theorem](#) to find the yarn extension during opening.

[Weave, Slack Tension - Dictionary definition of Weave, Slack Tension | Encyclopedia.com: FREE online dictionary](#)






McSherry (2009) Definition of Spirituality


- Spirituality is universal, deeply personal and individual; it goes beyond formal notions of ritual or religious practice to encompass the unique capacity of each individual. It is at the core and essence of who we are, that spark which permeates the entire fabric of the person and demands that we are all worthy of dignity and respect. It transcends intellectual capability, elevating the status of all of humanity.
- McSherry, W. Smith, J (2012 p 118) Spiritual Care In McSherry, W., McSherry, R., Watson, R. (Eds) (2012) Care in Nursing Principles values and skills Oxford University Press, Oxford

A message for palliative care?


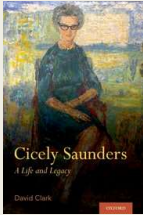





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'Love and Steel'....




- The Jacquard Loom. Complexity for creativity
- Strength to create the pattern
- Fluidity of movement


“You matter because you are you and you matter to the last day of your life. We will do everything we can to help you die peacefully and to live until you die”.


Total Pain





The deep and rich fabric of people's lives



- ' Presence is a time and place where we can tell stories of our life' Martina Corrigan
- The veil of the Madonna



The reconstruction of broken lives

The silent voices of grieving



- Suffering cannot be treated unless recognized
- Having the courage to ask
- Having the strength to wait



A journey through suffering



'Time was when love and I were well acquainted,
Time was when we walked ever hand in hand' (Gilbert and Sullivan, 'The Sorcerer')

■ *'Just when I think I'm too old for these late nights without sleep, a person in all their rawness, vulnerability and pain lays before me...and my heart cracks open again.*

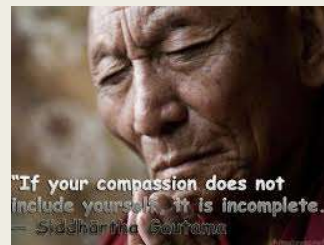
■ (Gary Pasternak, MD)

Who am I who cares?

Reciprocity – both WARP and WEFT



And if that care fails...



"If your compassion does not include yourself, it is incomplete."
— Siddhartha Gautama

In order to have compassion for others, we need to have compassion for ourselves'
Pema Chödrön

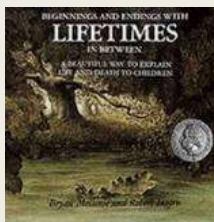
Listening to the still small voice



In conclusion

'Ar scáth a chéile a Mhairimid'
We live in the shadow of each other

Beginnings.... Endings... Lifetimes...



Nurse by Ned Crosby



After the months in bed,
Those Sundays to Fridays, Waiting for the morphine
After the days and weeks of the kept-up face For
her sisters and brother
After the last words to her daughter and son, Nurse
came to lay her out.
At the loneliest moment, she sings a fragile lullaby,
each note a petal of comfort.
She was then mother of the world, rocking her
baby to sleep, after the pain that was prayer

A final thought

*Dealaichidh sinne ris an t-saoghal,
Is dealaichidh an saoghal ruinn,
Ach leanaidh am breabadair ris a gharman,
Is leanaidh an t-armadh ris an t-slinn.'*

*Carmina Gaelica
Hymns and Incantations
Ortha Nan Gaidheal
Volume II
by Alexander Carmichael
[1900]*

*We shall part from the world,
And the world shall part from us,
But the weaver shall cleave to his beam,
And the dressing shall cleave to the sleay.*

