

Han Rakels

This is a story about the unfolding of interconnected events in the World of Perspectivity. Once upon a time (way back in 2006), I trained a group of 11 passionate people (I called them the “world improvers”) in Future Search, one of my big passions in professional life and for this story you need to know that one of my most noteworthy Future Searches took place in Yemen (in 2004). During the evening breaks they were cutting and pasting a kind of game..... Anyway, I lost sight of them for a couple of years, till I reconnected some years later.

Meantime Herman (one of these “world improvers” and brains behind the game) had presented that game (we are talking summer 2008) to David Hone, Climate Change Advisor at Shell, who makes the connection to the Cambridge leadership Programme. Not much later (autumn of the same year) Herman plays the “Perspectivity Game” for the first time there. It becomes a recurring event and when Dharmesh – a colleague of Herman’s – facilitated the session in June 2010, Samir Saran is a participant. Samir is Vice President of the Observer research Foundation in India. He arranges that the game is played at the Asian Forum of Global Governance in October 2011 and Hein and Jaspreet – as two experienced game leaders – did a great job. One of the participants is Tony Lambino, Governance Specialist at the World Bank (he’s from the Philippines – where I happened to live for 4 years).

“When we try to pick anything out by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe” – John Muir

As I said, meantime I had reconnected. In fact, some years later the foundation and the enterprise had come together. And I learned all about the game! So when a request came from Tony to train gameleaders in Washington I saw not only an opportunity to play and teach the game, but to tell them something more about sustainable change. And this is what happened, when Sabine (who taught me much about the game earlier) and I went to the US in March 2012. One of the people in the training was Edourad Aldahdah, Senior Economist at the World Bank. He was about to leave his position and in his new job at the World Bank he told his colleague Arun Arya about Perspectivity. And in April 2013 I got a call:

“The World Bank has been asked by the Government of Yemen to help facilitate a National Dialogue for the Government of Yemen, involving 565 representatives from government, civil society, the tribes, the private sector, the clerics, the old regime, the army, etc, etc, with the objective to agreeing on a shared vision for the future of the country and writing a new constitution (including on agreeing on the process to do this). The stakes are huge, and it does not get more high profile and delicate than that (even for the World Bank). We thought of Future Search which means I thought about you.

This is where this story ends. For now at least.... is that Future Search ever going to take place? the future will tell! The clue of the story: Stay connected, you never know where it will bring you...! Or, as the next quote says it:

“Pull a thread here and you find it is connected to the rest of the world” – Nadeem Aslam