

Maureen Hancock

A FAIRY STORY (Part 2)

(In Self and Society Vol.XI, May/June 1983 I wrote "A Fairy Story?" and when I thought I had finished it, I wrote, "The End?". Well, as I suspected, the story had not finished; so here is the next part of the story!)

The girl who found her inner world in the Desolate Place continued to grow up. Her Desolate Place was indeed a place where she could be with herself. She could be happy and cared for. She looked after herself and became her own good parent. However, she realised that to retreat to the Desolate Place was a way of isolating herself. She did not have to retreat from others now that she was grown up and able to care for herself.

She began to look outside the Desolate Place. She peeped out and saw such rich and exciting people and activities. She noticed that she was experiencing anxiety as well as excitement, but she was determined to continue looking outwards. Yes, she was very determined. She'd learnt all about determination when she was a little girl. So she used this determination to continue searching for herself. What began to surprise her, as she looked outwards, was that she began to **see** properly. She looked hard and she really began to start seeing what and who was out there in the world she lived in.

As she travelled out into the world she realised she was not alone with her sadness and anger. She had, of course, to take the risk to tell someone, that although she was "successful" on the outside, she was really very scared on the "inside". The person she first decided to take the risk to trust, understood her frightened feelings. (She wasn't lucky in finding this first person; she'd chosen carefully, she had good "gut" knowledge – a talent for just knowing who was a caring person and who wasn't. She also thought that most people have this ability to assess situations and people by using their "gut" reaction but many people do not trust their "guts", their ability to know. She wished that people would trust themselves).

Now that the grown-up girl trusted herself, she began to explore her world. The first thing she discovered was that she was no longer a girl. She was a woman! That discovery brought her a lot of problems.

Men liked her. Men wanted to satisfy their sexual longings with her. She, at first, got very scared. Then she rediscovered her ability, from childhood, to say "no". She learned that she was being assertive, but she also learned that now she was grown up she had something called 'A Choice'. She could choose to say "yes" and she could choose to say "no".

Sometimes she said "no" and sometimes she said "yes". However she often didn't know what to say! At these times she checked with herself about what she wanted and she always, using this method, found a good answer.

One day she decided to join a group of other women who were setting up something called "A Women's Group". She was very, very scared. She thought, "Gosh, I'm frightened, because sometimes I don't feel like a woman, I feel like a little girl!" However, now that she was looking out instead of in all the time, her curiosity got the better of her and so she joined the Women's Group". At the first meeting she sat and stared a lot. She also listened a lot. She longed to say something but she wasn't quite sure what that something was. Because she wasn't sure, she stayed with this feeling of uncertainty and to her surprise she discovered that it was alright for her to be unsure!

Some of the women in the group were sure of what they wanted from the group. Some wanted to do something Therapeutic called "Work". Others, like the woman in this story, just wanted to be in the Group.

So the girl discovered she was a woman. She liked being a woman. She enjoyed the company of the other women. She enjoyed finding several ""mothers" for herself in the Group. She enjoyed discovering other women like herself. She found "sisters" and "friends" and also women who were, like her, still very much in touch with their own little girls.

The story of this little girl, who is now aware that she is also a woman, continues day by day. She is a happier person now. She is less sad and less angry. She is finding out that she is a valuable person. She enjoys being alive. Her story continues. She now knows that her story has no end. She is anxious, but she is also excited, so she continues growing.

Not, the end!
