



**DAVID WHYTE**

## CROSSING THE UNKNOWN SEA: WORK AS A PILGRIMAGE OF IDENTITY

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Here are some questions from Whyte's book that you can ask yourself:

1. What kind of work do you really want to do in the wider world? What are your elemental waters? (Chapter V1, page 135)

2. In his chapter on powerlessness to participation (chapter 111,) Whyte warns us of the increasing possibilities of shipwrecks in our working lives due to the changing nature of the employment landscape. "...increasingly, there is less that resembles a steady career or straight career path...we must continually forge our identities through our endeavors." (Page 39).  
What emotions come to you as you read this? Relief? Excitement? Fear? Anxiety? Confusion? Don't analyze, just notice. Then either journal or talk through your responses with someone you trust.

3. The territory of success can be seductive and once attained, can also mean a loss of freedom and autonomy. Reflecting on this, Whyte offers the following as an antidote: "The pivotal questions to ask ourselves in the mirror every morning, successful or no, are deep, uncompromising ones of personal identity. How much freedom of movement do we find now in our work, whatever the outward trappings? How much of the original person is

