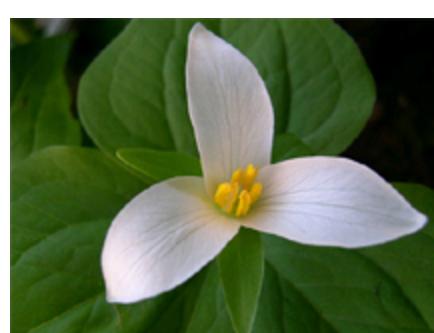




## Presencing Issue 62 Being Met, & Guided

### Stalking the Wild Persimmon I



**Not Knowing - the Summons:** Fall colors in the mountains above the Saku district of Nagano prefecture were amazing; crimson, magenta, plum, lemon, orange, lime, cedar, maple browns and bright reds... We had journeyed by train and by taxi for 6 hours to get to Midori no Mura retreat center with our group of students, mostly bodyworkers, and one doctor. We were to stay together for 4 days; each one of us, each in his/her own way in

order to go deeper into presencing, . We all realized that this time in nature and away from our usual environments would offer opportunities to directly follow our own predilections towards inner knowing using different presencing exercises. We also spent time in group meditation, sharings of personal experiences, noble silence, meal preparations, journaling, sharing bodywork sessions and experimenting with different approaches of tablework.

As we entered the grounds of the retreat center, I heard a voice inside: "Find the wild persimmon tree." During our first gathering of the group I shared what I had heard, saying: "I have no idea what this means."

**The Presencing Retreat:** Koito and I met with each retreatant as needed, separately in the beginning and at the end of our time in the mountains. We wanted to make sure that each person was feeling a deep connection with her own inner being. I call this inner connection: "being met." It is a very personal connection with our own primary relationship, in which we realize that we are always accompanied by our *inner being*, no matter what our internal or external experience. For some this inner relationship was a brand new experience; for others it offered an opportunity to share our inner relationships with others inviting us all into a startling realization that we are possibly all connecting with the same Being, bringing a hush of awe into our gatherings.



**Being Met:** Every day after lunch each person was to have 2 hours free time, to use in any way he/she felt drawn. I chose to wander into the forest. I had a certain leadership role to play and I needed time by myself. I felt an inner pull and I decided to go where I was being drawn. I knew nothing of the greater environs around the retreat center. As I walked I found a very old narrow road that wound steeply downhill with signs that it was rarely used. I followed that road, wondering about how it was used in the past. The woods around were dark green interlaced with dappled sunlight. After about 20 minutes I spotted a long wall and what appeared to be an old temple gate, quite large and heavy beamed construction. As I approached I could see that the gate was covered with quite ornate plaques and carvings. I felt a very mixed urge to connect with anyone inside, and strangely pulled to explore. Rather than ring the hanging bell I followed downhill along the wall until it came to an end. Behind the wall and gate all was silent, stirring my curiosity and sense of mystery.

**Oh Mystery:** At the end of the wall the road forked left steeply downhill; and right uphill at the corner of the wall. I choose to go right. There was no continuation of the wall uphill... only a short fallen fence. There appeared to be no one around so I tenuously started to surmise. I could see large temple buildings and some which appeared to be meditation halls. There was quite a lot of carved stone statuary. Some appeared familiar Japanese Buddhist, others were quite different. The buildings were quite large and well constructed with stone bases for the wooden pillars. I decided to observe from the road going uphill rather than risk disturbing anyone inside the temple grounds. The hillside I was ascending was forested and held many flowering plantings. A variety of winding footpaths led uphill from the temple buildings interspersed with stone statuary, stone lanterns, and small benches for sitting. I followed the road I was on to the top of the hill. It intersected another wider road which ran along the upper ridge of the hill. I followed that road and on my right I passed four large multi-storied dormitories for monks and retreatants. They were quite rundown and in decay. I could see a few remnants of curtains in some of the windows. Clearly there were no residents, but I did see signs of a caretaker and a number of cat dishes. The temple complex was old and deserted. Why?.

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**Jack Blackburn's Blog:** If you follow the link below you will be able to read many of my Presencing Newsletters. Some of them will give you advanced reading on end-of-life issues. Because of our current virus situation, I believe that it is very important to take the necessary precautions and make ourselves available where we can be truly helpful. Blessings.

[Link to Jack's Blog:](#)

Jack Blackburn, LMP, Master's in Theological Studies, Certified Spiritual Director, specializes in body centered spiritual growth and healing. He has been a Trager® practitioner since 1986. He has been a Trager tutor since 1993, has taught Trager electives classes since 1996, and teaches a variety of classes to caring giving professionals. He is a NCBTMB Approved Continuing Education Provider and AMTA National Presenter. He is a Focusing Trainer and teaches Bodywork Focusing classes for professionals. Jack is also a Reiki Master and teaches levels I, II, III and Advanced Reiki for Bodyworkers.

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