

In Mary Catherine Bateson's book *Peripheral Visions*, she writes about encounters in her life where she had to 'learn along the way'. In the first chapter of her book "Improvisation in a Persian Garden", Bateson writes about the slaughtering of a sheep, the Feast of Sacrifice. Knowing little about the ceremony, Bateson and her daughter, Vanni, had to learn from this experience by watching and observing others. The inquiry that Vanni must have had and questions to what was happening to the sheep must have been endless. Both Vanni and Bateson were able to learn the response of the culture by seeing the locals' reactions. Bateson writes how it could have been very alarming or scary for Vanni if not taught and talked about along the way. Vanni not knowing what response to take to this new experience was able to 'learn along the way' from her peers that were there and her mother talking to her. Although Bateson had to sit back and reflect to what was actually going on, a slaughtering, she too was learning. Her inquiry to Iranian culture by their rituals left her with a new experience to learn from. Bateson writes in her book, "a narrative which seems to fit into one category metamorphoses into another". This is what happened when Vanni and Bateson watch the Feast of Sacrifice. Although it was a sheep getting killed, it was much more than that, it was a look into the lives and culture of the Iranian people. It gave each of them a stepping stone into the inquiry of what was next.

In Bateson's chapter "Learning as Coming Home", questions were presented of how we learn. She speaks of the schools she has been affiliated with and how she brings knowledge from each of them to the next. The quote in her book, "trying to understand learning by studying schooling is rather like trying to understand sexuality by studying bordellos" says a lot about how Bateson learns. She is out there to learn by inquiry, by taking on a challenge and learning from new experiences. In this chapter, Bateson iterates that many of our new knowledge comes from what we have already learned at home. The example of going to school to learn proper speaking, where children at school already know how to speak, the language of home. In this chapter Bateson is learning along the way while integrating perviously known knowledge. She also states that "when schooling conflicts with previous learning on specifics, more general patterns may be disrupted and the sense of how knowledge is put together may be unraveled", shows us how deeply imbedded our base knowledge is and how much the inquiry of new knowledge goes back to the each persons home base.

Both of these chapters show us how Bateson "learned along the way" and exemplifies that learning along the way is a form of inquiry that is useful throughout life as a tool to obtain new knowledge.