



Can Origami Be a Path to Wisdom?

The Way of the Fold

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- It confronts us with error and repetition.
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Can origami be a path to wisdom?

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- More just in the way we create
- More just in the way we face difficulty
- More just in the way we relate to others

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Wisdom becomes visible in our hands, in our gestures, in what we create, in what we pass on, and in the way we move through difficulty.

How is wisdom acquired?

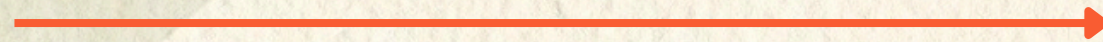
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How is wisdom acquired?

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By going through the trials that practice reveals.

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PRACTICE REVEALS

fear, impatience, pride,
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WHAT EMERGES

trust, listening, humility,
construction, unity

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Perhaps wisdom is built by going through what practice reveals and asks us to face.

Over time, origami brings us face to face with a number of trials.

The 7 trials

All lived through the hands, through the paper, and through others.

The same trials, but different faces:

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The same trials, but different faces:

- The **folder** encounters matter, error, and patience.
- The **creator** encounters doubt, solitude, and ego.
- The **teacher** encounters the relationship to others, recognition, authority, and sometimes the temptation of power.

1

FEAR

The fear of failing, of being judged, of not being up to the task.

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WHAT APPEARS

- The folder: fear of ruining a beautiful sheet, of not understanding.
- The creator: fear of having no ideas, of not being brilliant enough.
- The teacher: fear of not being infallible, of being questioned.

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HOW IT IS CROSSED

Fear is not overcome by comfort, but by committed action
The fearful mind looks for excuses not to begin.
An apprentice commits to the work, whatever the result.

- I can fold without already having mastered it.
- I can create without being brilliant.
- I can transmit without being infallible.

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WHAT OPENS

Trust: what happens can become learning rather than failure.

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**To move beyond fear
and discover trust**

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Once fear is crossed, we fold, we create, we move forward.
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- The teacher explains through their own logic and is surprised when the other does not understand.

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To truly listen is to be open:

- to the material,
- to others,
- to the unexpected,
- to what does not immediately fit within our usual framework

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This availability changes the entire practice.

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- The creator perceives rather than forcing.
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The practice becomes more just, more alive, and more relational.

**To move beyond the noise of the self
is to learn to listen.**

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Misunderstanding

We have learned to listen, to make space.

Now it is no longer enough to be available. We must enter into the other's logic.

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HOW IT IS CROSSED

- Suspend judgment
- Enter into the other's logic

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WHAT OPENS

A real place for the other:

- The folder opens to other approaches.
- The creator's models become more readable and more shareable.
- The teacher becomes more effective in teaching.

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The third trial begins when we see that the other is not there to confirm us.

**To move beyond misunderstanding
and truly understand the other**

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- The recognized creator is no longer surprised by their own work.
- The experienced teacher speaks more than listens.

In each case, the same shift occurs: one begins to see oneself as the source and waits to be recognized.

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Do I create, teach, and transmit in order to shine, or so that something may pass through me toward the other?

To understand that recognition does not place us above others.

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WHAT OPENS

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- The creator remains faithful to the work rather than to reputation.
- The teacher becomes clearer, simpler, and more just.

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The focus is no longer on oneself, but on what can be given to others.

**To move beyond vanity
to become a guide rather than an idol**

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Anger

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WHAT OPENS

A force that builds rather than destroys.

- The folder begins again.
- The creator finds another path.
- The teacher corrects without crushing.

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We do not become wiser by never feeling anger.

**To transform anger
into the strength to build**

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Power

A natural strength, authority, presence - and a subtle risk.

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WHAT APPEARS

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A just authority in the service of another's growth.

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**To receive strength without succumbing
to the desire for power**

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Fragmentation

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- Much knowledge, little coherence
- Many ideas, little form
- Projects left unfinished
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- Look for the deeper thread
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**To gather what is scattered
without succumbing to chaos**

7 Trials. 7 Transmutations.

Each trial names an obstacle and the gift it can open.

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- 1 Fear → Trust**
- 2 The Noise of the Self → Listening**
- 3 Misunderstanding → Understanding**
- 4 Vanity → Guidance**
- 5 Anger → Construction**
- 6 Power → Service**
- 7 Fragmentation → Unity**

Conclusion

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What changes, over time, is the way we go through them.

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