Not Set In Stone – Nancy Kline

I think that when it comes to describing the Thinking Environment, the only thing we know for certain is that we don't know anything for certain. (I realise that pursuing that logic gets us dizzy after a few minutes, but it's worth the stagger.) And it is an issue, again, of paradox: we do well to get breath-takingly good at offering the questions and structures we have pieced together and tested for so many years; and it seems to be good to be ready to gasp at the beauty of the heretofore unseen thing that will work even better. Both.

I am interested in this because sometimes people marvel at how 'unfolding' the Thinking Environment is as a taught process. 'It is wonderful that it is not set in stone,' they say, 'that it is still developing and that even on this very day we might discover something new that would change the structure.'

Of course it is marvelous that they think that is marvelous. But in a way it is also sad, because it reflects, I think, the wide-spread experience of end-learning, end-product, end-model. And nothing, it seems to me, that truly helps people to do their own, fresh thinking has anything to do with end. It is all beginning. Ah, Eliot again.

So, I would like all human development and coaching processes and models to be regarded as 'ever-unfolding'. Stone, I think you would agree, does not think. Surely thinking processes should not be set in it. :--)