

Being A Contribution

In the next practice of the Art of Possibility, the Zanders describe what it is to be a contribution.

Do note, it is not about *making* a contribution but *being* one. Here's how Ben describes it :

"I settled on a game called *I am a contribution*. Unlike success and failure, *contribution* has no other side. It is not arrived at by comparison. All at once I found that the fearful question, 'Is it enough?' and the even more fearful question, 'Am I loved for who I am, or for what I have accomplished?' could both be replaced by the joyful question, 'How will I be a *contribution* today?'

...

As a conductor, I often drove the players and the administrators to realise my ambition, and no matter how much support I received, I still found myself distrustful. The game I was in was a competitive one, and in this game you can make alliances with people who are on your side, whose objectives are the same as yours; but you cannot rely on anyone who is aiming toward anything else, lest it detract from what you want for yourself.

When I began playing the game of *contribution*, on the other hand, I found there was no better orchestra than the one I was conducting, no better person to be with than the one I was with; in fact, there was no 'better'. In the game of *contribution*, you wake up each day and bask in the notion that you are a gift to others."

So the Zanders propose that you throw yourself into life as someone who makes a difference, accepting that you may not understand how or why. Remember, when you make yourself a contribution or a gift to others, you need not be good enough according to anyone's standard. It is for the recipient to make use of the contribution he has received.

The stories in this section are wonderful. You have to read them for yourselves.