

## CONTEMPLATION

Photo and poem by Lee Ann Eckhardt Smith



The outer path of this epic journey  
is a long loop  
a wide circle  
along which I stride joyfully  
strong and fast  
not inclined to pause,  
the expansive adventure its own reward.  
Plenty of time to try new things  
maybe hop on one foot  
or triple jump  
plenty of time on the long swing out towards the top of the circle  
then over  
onto the next ring.  
Oh! A change in direction.  
No problem, the circle is still wide in these outer paths.  
For several more rounds  
I travel out, then in towards the circle's top  
then around again.  
I navigate more direction changes  
slow my stride somewhat  
stop jumping around  
step more thoughtfully.  
Then at the next turn-around  
I pause and notice  
time running faster along these

inner loops  
the adventure less expansive  
more reflective somehow.  
And as I contemplate more  
with every turn around the circle,  
slowly I start to sense  
a destination  
an epicentre  
that draws me in with a gentle invitation.  
And now I understand.  
The goal all along was to  
home in  
ever closer to the centre  
that in the end is  
myself.

Lee Ann Eckhardt Smith is a professional writer from Richmond, who has been exploring the sites of the village and providing Richmond Hub readers with her photographs and the poems that these sites inspire her to write.

The Quiet Garden, opened in 2001 and tucked behind St. John's Anglican Church, is a village gem. It includes this labyrinth, open to anyone for contemplation.

You can contact Lee Ann here: [www.leeanneckhardtsmith.com](http://www.leeanneckhardtsmith.com)