

A Hidden Wholeness

By Parker Palmer

Unfortunately,
community in our culture
too often means
a group of people
who go crashing through
the woods together,
scaring
the soul away.

In spaces ranging
from congregations to classrooms,
we preach and teach, assert and argue,
claim and proclaim, admonish and advise, and
generally behave in ways that drive everything
original
and
wild
into hiding.

Under these conditions,
the intellect, emotions, will and ego
may emerge,

but not the soul.
We scare off all soulful things,
like respectful relationships,
goodwill
and
hope.