

“At the very point of the vulnerability is where surrender takes place – that is where the God enters. The God comes through the wound.” — Marion Woodman

THE FOURTH PRINCIPLE: Let Spirit Drive

Intention And Desire

From the very beginning, I knew that Adams and Adams Building Services would be very successful. I never doubted for one minute that it would occur. I visualized hundreds of our members in sky-blue uniforms, cleaning huge office complexes and skyscrapers. My big oval office would overlook the cityscape. I also saw us as a national organization with myself and other leaders flying in our corporate jet to different parts of the country to build our business. I pictured myself with a beautiful, intelligent woman, the love of my life, in a heavenly relationship. I would have great freedom to use my creativity and ideas to build my dream. I became very attached to some parts of this vision, particularly the heavenly relationship with the woman of my dreams. That caused a lot of pain because I wanted it my way and would not listen to my Inner Guide when it warned me I was making a mistake. Letting go of that relationship was both emotionally and financially devastating and yet I still allowed my ego to choose my partners in romance. Fulfillment of our good intentions and desires will result when we let go of our attachment to the outcome.

Letting Go

Real freedom is found in letting go, not holding on. Our office did not overlook a cityscape. It was a suburban contract cleaning company. It was not national, and I did not fly around to our different headquarters. I did have a beautiful office, team, and staff to work

with. We were tremendously successful, and I did receive everything I had envisioned including the money that provided three homes and fancy cars, and I married the beautiful, youthful, exotic love of my life.

As Deepak Chopra says in his powerful little book, *The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success*, “Accept the present and intend the future. Both past and future are born in the imagination. Only the present, which is awareness, is real and eternal.” When we accept the present, even though it is not what we originally expected it to be, we release ourselves from unwanted fear of the future and regret of what is.

When we look back at our scars, very often we discover that they have miraculously been transformed into stars—an analogy I have borrowed from the Rev. Robert Schuler. Such was the story of my divorce from my second wife.

Marriage And Divorce

I met my second wife on a whale watch in Provincetown, Massachusetts. She was there with two local community college teachers. I was there with my daughter. While everyone else was watching for whales, I was watching Magdalena. She was young, beautiful and exotic. Educated in Warsaw, Poland, the authorities arrested her for putting up posters supporting the Solidarity Movement on the streets of the city. They gave her a choice, go to jail or leave Poland. She left for Paris where she attended the Sorbonne University. Magda spoke five languages and had an M.S. in chemical engineering. A pharmaceutical company in Groton, Connecticut scooped her up. That is how I was introduced to Mystic and where we fell in love. You will read more about my second marriage later in the book, and how it relates to the Principles of Upside-Down Thinking. Love and heartbreak in marriage is from

the soul. It does relate to and reflect our business performance and philosophy. Our marriage began in trust and love and ended in fear and contempt. I did learn some difficult lessons from my second divorce. I am still working to discover ways that I can be a better partner and friend in romance.

During his summation, the Judge presiding over the case described it as one of the most protracted divorce cases in the history of the Hartford courts. It consumed nine full days with two of Hartford's most expensive and flamboyant divorce sharks pitted against one another. One of the main reasons we were not able to reach an agreement out of court was our different perception of the worth of the company.

When we were married in 1985, my net worth was somewhere in the neighborhood of \$30,000. The economy was just taking off (remember "Reaganomics" and the accelerated depreciation on commercial real estate that created a building boom and later led to the savings and loan bust, and a glint of "see-through" vacant office buildings?). Adams and Adams Building Services also took off. But, by the time we reached the divorce courtroom in the summer of 1991, the economy was spiraling down, real estate ventures were going bankrupt and recession was setting in. It was at the trial that I discovered that not only could attorneys redefine the meaning of the truth, but so can accountants. An outside observer viewing the accounts of the prosecution (my wife) and the defense (me) would be seeing two entirely different stories. It was a very painful lesson on how we create the world we see. The accounting methods used to analyze the worth of our company were from two different planets. As witnessed most recently in the Enron debacle, accountants can create billions of dollars where there are none and make them disappear just as easily.

The arguments became intense, theatrical and, at times, comical. One morning, I arrived early with six small bud vases of flowers. I put one on the judge's bench, one on the prosecution's table, one at the defense table, one at the bailiff's place, and one at the stenographer's desk. The final one I gave to the lady at the concession stand in the lobby who rewarded me with a bottle of fruit juice. I did this in secret as a way to cut through the insanity of the whole affair—to put some focus on the true meaning of our collective being. After all, Magda and I were joined in marriage through a sacred sacrament based on love, not money.

The sanest participant in the trial was undoubtedly the judge, who was a wise, fatherly man and could see through all the theatrics to the core of the disagreement. At the final judgment, he stated he wished Magdalena and I could resolve our differences and stay together. He was a man of great wisdom and compassion. That does not mean that I agreed with his financial decision. As the judge warned, no one would be happy with the outcome. That is, no one except the two attorneys who lined their pockets from the case.

Our accountant valued our company at around \$380,000. The double-digit profit that we had realized when my wife and I were living together had evaporated. Her lawyer and staff valued the company at \$2.5M. The truth, of course, was somewhere in between—as was the truth presented by the lengthy arguments from both sides. When the final judgment was rendered, the gravity of it was so immense I considered letting go of the company, declaring bankruptcy and starting all over again. The entire settlement was somewhere in the neighborhood of half a million dollars, and I had no money in the bank. The company lived on its cash flow. A five-year payment to my new former wife was to be paid on a quarterly basis. It would have paid the salary and benefits of a top-notch, highly qualified operations

manager that we needed so desperately in the company. In addition, the attorney's fees were astronomical. Magda's attorney flew off to Paris after the trial to stay in his apartment there and gloat over the amount of money he had extracted from "performing" in this nine-day show.

My dream of being able to retire at forty-six (the age I would have retired if I had not been discharged from the FAA) was shattered. A three-year marriage had been extended to seven years by a four-year divorce process. Fortunately for me, my company vice president was not as devastated as I was by the outcome. In his typically frugal way, he developed a plan to pay my former wife off and grow the company, without hiring another key person. His courage, commitment, and tenacity encouraged me to go forward and strive to, as he said, "Put this all behind us." I looked forward to an extremely retracted lifestyle over the five-year obligation. Travel and any sense of luxury were certainly out of the question. But a miraculous surprise was in store for me.

The Silver Lining

During the divorce, I had become involved in *A Course in Miracles*®. Through that path, I was able to turn over my feelings of resentment, powerlessness and attack, in exchange for the belief that something wonderful was about to happen. And it did. Because of the course, I was able to travel extensively and meet some of the most wonderful people in the most exciting places. A new journey had begun. I became involved in the Miracles Community Network, which held conferences and seminars all over the United States, in fantastic lodges and retreat centers, like the Omega Center in Rhinebeck, New York, Estes Park, Colorado and Lake Arrowhead, California. I had the most marvelous time. I was

introduced to a new lifestyle through a fellowship that I would not have experienced if the divorce had not occurred. I moved to our Mystic house, made that my residence, and discovered for the first time in my life a place that I could truly call home. And, finally, I was able to buy my sailboat *Miracles* and sail her to Florida, the Bahamas, and Cuba—a dream come true.

In the spring of 1996, because we ran the company without hiring another key manager, and I had shared the equity of Adams and Adams with my vice president, he was able to buy me out. We paid off my former wife. A large part of the cash flow that had been used to pay her now reverted to buying me out, so that I could transition into a new career. Now, that money is actually going toward building *Life Without Limits* and to write this book. There truly can be a silver lining in every cloud if we trust, give up blaming others for our misery, and let go of the outcome.

The Victim

I have a friend who was going through a similar divorce situation at the same time I was. The judgment left him a bitter and angry man. He was a professional, and an entrepreneur who owned a group of office and apartment buildings. He refused to pay the court judgment. He fought it tooth and nail. At about the same time that we were paying my former wife her last installment, and when I was signing the agreement to sell the company to Rob, the IRS was re-possessing everything my angry, resistant friend owned. He lost it all. Now he is working a job for someone else. He is still angry, still resentful—a continual victim of the world he sees.

Lasting Miracles

Adams and Adams is now strong and growing. Rob has been able to pay me off three years earlier than agreed upon. When I truly listen to my Inner Guide, I can let go of my expectations, embrace true freedom and allow magnificent things to happen in my life.

Make a list of your intentions and desires; then release yourself from the outcome, by surrendering to your Higher Self and accepting responsibility for your current state of affairs. Doing so will take you to a place of infinite possibilities. Prosperity and abundance are a natural state when we are present, centered, and coming from unlimited potential. That means continually choosing love over fear.

Letting Spirit Drive reminds us that we are not in charge of our destiny. We are more powerful in business when we trust our Source and expect miracles to happen.

Next, we will see how our Higher Consciousness can enable us to build a lasting, soul-based business with depth and integrity.

“Your soul alone has a map of your future.” — Anam Cara

***“For what will it profit them if they gain the whole
but forfeit their life?”***

— Matthew 16:26