

“Nature is the direct expression of the Divine imagination.” — Anam Cara

THE EIGHTH PRINCIPLE: Your Business Is Not Of This World

The Voice

The path to enlightenment is a guided journey beyond words and this world, which most of us will not complete in our lifetime. However, life and business can become easier, lighter and more enjoyable as we progress along the way. Many of us who are entrepreneurial sorts are often more driven than guided. Even when we know the answers to the most profound questions, we often do not live by them. Listening to that still, small voice within, which is our connection to our Source, takes us slowly and methodically away from a place in our ego (the place where we need to be in control) to a place of acceptance, approval and love. Thoughts of fear (e.g., panic, terror, uneasiness, vulnerability, anger, impatience, jealousy, and rage) become less predominant as we accept thoughts of courageousness (e.g., cheerfulness, happiness, optimism, peace, oneness, serenity, and fulfillment). The more we practice these or similar principles, the more our thoughts will turn toward greatness, where our Source provides for our every need, and away from littleness, where the ego would have you seek but not find.

Here are three examples of discovering the Power within. The first one, which comes from my booklet, “Insights for Applying Deepak Chopra’s *The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success* to the World of Business[®],” speaks of the collective consciousness we all share. The other two are also personal experiences.

1) Miracles Among Strangers

I used to belong to Al-Anon, which is a derivative of the AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) 12-Step program and is a “fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics.” Its principles are a means of surrender to a Power greater than ourselves, enabling millions to overcome their addictions. Its purpose is “to help families of alcoholics” by, among other things, teaching detachment with love from the alcoholic personality and behavior of a spouse or loved one. Although the 12-Step program was created to help alcoholics and their families, it is now applied by a variety of different groups seeking to eliminate dependence upon specific people, places, or things rather than alcohol, such as Overeaters, Narcotics, and Gamblers Anonymous. AA, as the origin for Al Anon, is an immense, worldwide organization that has no hierarchical organization, dues, budget or marketing program. It has grown strictly through the desire of people to help others. [*See Appendix*]

One evening, I stopped at an unfamiliar Al Anon meeting in Middletown, Connecticut, a large group of twenty to twenty-five members. I tried to get to know some of the people before we started. Most of the members I talked to seemed a bit rough around the edges, giving me the impression they had experienced a “hard-knock life.” I found it difficult to connect with anyone and thought we had nothing in common to share. I expected this meeting to be a total waste of time for me.

The process began with everyone sitting in a large circle. The facilitator of the group turned out to be the man I had judged to be the least qualified to lead the group. After an opening prayer and recital of the Principles of Al-Anon, the leader introduced the step we would be discussing that evening. As he began to talk about this step, a shift occurred: great wisdom came from the lips of this person that I had previously thought to be unqualified. As group members spoke, they shared a knowing higher than their worldly knowledge. I was

shocked and amazed. When it was my turn to speak, I told them how judgmental I had been and how completely overwhelmed I was with the power of our group consciousness and the shared wisdom. Of course, in twelve-step programs, feedback is not permitted. There is only loving acceptance of what you share; yet I had a knowing that others were also aware of the shift.

2) Matrimonial Grace

Early one fall, I attended an outside wedding at the Connecticut College Arboretum in New London. The ceremony was performed in front of a beautiful lily pond on a clear, warm day. The trees that surrounded the pond had begun to take on their autumn gowns of burnt orange, deep gold and fire red.

I was among the many guests waiting for the bride and groom to arrive. There was lots of chatter and noise. One of my friends, who is a bit hard of hearing, could be heard laughing a laugh so boisterous that it filled the glen. A harpist played next to the temporary altar, but most people were not paying attention to her melodic music.

Then the wedding march began. Heads turned to see the beautiful bride as she walked down the grassy aisle escorted by her proud father. Her smile and eyes sparkled as her happiness met our glances. At that very instant, a quiet solemnity filled the air. As the bride and groom joined hands in matrimony, a sacred presence surrounded our previously loud and irreverent group. A very special moment had arrived. Everyone seemed to have turned within to re-experience their marriage or the one they dreamed about.

At that moment we were not many, separate people, we were one. Sacred times of birth, marriage, ordination, graduation, or death bring us closer to that spirit within. We give these ceremonies special meaning for their ability to take us to a Holy place to meet our

Maker. This passage by Peggy Tabor Millin in *Mary's Way* explains the phenomenon of our oneness even more:

I was on a train on a rainy day. The train was slowing down to pull into a station. For some reason I became intent on watching the raindrops on the window. Two separate drops pushed by the wind, merged into one for a moment and then divided again – each carrying with it a part of the other. Simply by that momentary touching, neither was what it had been before. And as each one went on to touch other raindrops, it shared not only itself, but also what it had gleaned from the other. I realized then that we never touch people so lightly that we do not leave a trace. Our state of being matters to those around us, so we need to become conscious of what we unintentionally share so we can learn to share with intention.

3) **A Weekend of Bliss**

In the spring of 1992 I was at a conference in Massanetta, Virginia. We spent four days at a Presbyterian Retreat Center that had recently opened after being closed for many years. We were the first group to gather there since it had reopened. Although the forecast called for sunshine and warm temperatures, it was raining and cold. The rooms were Spartan. In my shared room, the plaster was falling off the walls, tattered shades hung from the windows and some of the bathroom fixtures did not work.

Everybody gathered each day in the dining hall for three rather mismanaged meals. I recall there were tables of six as well as tables of twelve. The tables of six received enough food for twelve, and the tables of twelve would receive enough food for six. One table would be finishing dessert while another was still waiting for the main course. Our young servers were really behind the eight ball because of many more participants than they had expected. I remember that we went around to the different tables on food hunts to bring back nourishment to our group.

As I mentioned before, the rooms were Spartan, the meals were disorganized and the

warm spring weather we expected never came. As a matter of fact, it was cold and rainy every day we were at Massanetta, except for the day we left—the sun finally came out to greet us for our trip home. Most of us spent the four days in ski jackets and gloves, yet a miraculous transformation occurred to everyone who attended that event. Spirit was with us and everyone had a phenomenal time.

After the last meal, the organizer asked the staff of Massanetta to come forward for some recognition. We gave them a standing ovation. They probably wondered what that was all about, but I knew. We did not find fault with them or the facilities. All we could see was the Light in them and all around us.

These examples are meant to cast light on our eternal spiritual power and how we can honor that within our business. The Hindu Sanskrit word “Namaste” as described by Deepak Chopra, means “I honor in you the divinity that I honor within myself and I know we are one.” It is a greeting and a farewell said in a prayer position, with the fingers pointed toward the one being honored. Acknowledging and honoring the Divine in each other and the light that we share enables us to take the focus away from our egotistical traits and redirects us to our spiritual truth. We all display the light and darkness; we have a choice of which we want to see in one another.

Finding God

The more I learn about the spiritual realm, the more I understand the simplicity of our natural being. We work so very hard to find the things that are right in front of us. We are searching for our Source, for our creation is where we will find life’s meaning and purpose. We attempt to define God in so many complexities, yet our Creator can be described only in the most uncomplicated terms. It is in this way that every individual can best define his or her

Creator on a very personal level. Each of us does have the ability to recognize this miraculous “Presence.” We just need to stop looking so hard.

“In a certain suburban neighborhood, there were two brothers, eight and ten years old, who were exceedingly mischievous. Whenever something went wrong in the neighborhood, it turned out they had a hand in it. Their parents were at their wits’ end trying to control them. Hearing about a minister nearby, who worked with delinquent boys, the mother suggested to the father that they ask the minister to talk with the boys. The father agreed.

The mother went to the minister and made her request. He agreed, but said he wanted to see the younger boy first and alone. So the mother sent him to the minister. The minister sat the boy down on the other side of his huge, impressive desk. For about five minutes they just sat and stared at each other.

Finally, the minister pointed his forefinger at the boy and asked, “Where is God?”

The boy looked under the desk, in the corners of the room, all around, but said nothing.

Again, louder, the minister pointed at the boy and asked, “Where is God?”

Again, the boy looked all around but said nothing.

A third time, in a louder, firmer voice, the minister leaned far across the desk and put his forefinger almost to the boy’s nose and asked, “Where is God?”

The boy panicked and ran all the way home. Finding his older brother, he dragged him upstairs to their room and into the closet, where they usually plotted their mischief. He finally said, “We are in B-I-I-G trouble now!”

The older boy asked, “What do you mean, B-I-I-G trouble?”

His brother replied, “God is missing and they think we did it.”

To find God, we must first define what God is. Defining God is not as foolish as it might seem. The definition of that Source in its simplest, yet most mystifying form, is that God *Is*. God is the birth of a child and the love that the newborn's parents share at the first sight of their co-creation. He is the transformation of the caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly and the flap of its wings in the still, moist morning air. God is the trillions of wings that move the air at any given moment throughout the universe and in our very thought of such a thing. We could go on like this forever and never run out of expressions that define our Creator, but we know our Mother/Father/God is there.

We search for the spirit that surrounds us in so many places. We think we have found God in the eyes of a lover, in the passion of a moment of ecstasy, or in the activities that we enjoy the most. I often feel that Presence when I am sailing my boat, *Miracles*, with the wind off my beam, the warm sun shining, and all three sails filled. The sun, the blue sky, the wind and the waves fill me with the song of the Universe.

Lessons Of The Masters

I have become a student of comparative religion. The volumes and volumes of scripture, testament and prose that have been written on theology are all dedicated to the search for our essence. I have begun to understand that our meaning, our Source, cannot be found "out there." What is out there is a projection of the ego. Our connection to the eternal is within our very soul.

There is a dark part of us that would have us seek happiness within the world, where it will never be found. We need not search the earth for our meaning, purpose, and source. The wisest teachers remind us that God *is* within. It is here that God urges His/Her children,

to accept their inheritance of unlimited potential. As we become more and more in touch with our internal Source, we become more at one with others.

We Are One

I often think that our great prophets, saints, and wise men and women were able to detect the light—the oneness of everyone they met—because they had connected with their own internal source. They saw a reflection of their own soul. They saw that light in others and not their darkness. And miraculous things occurred.

We have a choice in what we see within our own selves, our company, and our workforce. We can run our business with a ruthless dog-eat-dog attitude. We can see the scars and judge, criticize, or complain. Or we can see the stars and accept, appreciate, and encourage. We are all unique individuals while, at the same time, we are one. We are a droplet of seawater and the waves of the great ocean. We are a grain of sand and we are the endless beaches of the world. We are a white cloud floating in the summer sky and we are the Universe.

In our next chapter, we will share one of the most *powerful secrets for creating financial abundance in your business*.

Namasté.

“It is possible to climb life’s mountain from any side, but when the top is reached, the trails converge.” – Huston Smith

***“Man becomes great exactly in the degree to which he works
for the welfare of his fellow man.”***

— Mahatma Gandhi