

Mastering the Space

How to function
in the face of opposing parties

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Foreword:



This report is based on a single premise: that is, a truly transformed and mature human being cannot function in a vacuum or in safe places. What drives me to write this report is the theme of the International Youth Day 2018. The theme is how to create “Safe Spaces” for youth. This event is organized by The United Nations.

The concept of “safe spaces” is simply designating a space where like-minded individuals are safe from violence and harassment of those who are opposing and hostile to their views in life. Such a safety spot holds within the seed of separation and alienation of the other “unsafe” environment. Even worse, it prevents the “safe” group from testing their ideas in the real world. However, sense of immaturity and disunity is expected to be the outcome of this “safe” gathering.

To be evolved human being you have to run through a process of conflict and hardships. Nature gives us a viable lesson regarding the agony that you will run through till your final stage of evolution – your flowering. This lesson is derived from the Lotus flower.

The science of transformation can be traced back thousands of years ago to Ancient Egyptians. The word alchemy is derived from an Egyptian word, “chem” or “qem”, which means black – indicating the mud deposits bordering the Nile River. Out of this mud a beautiful lotus flower emerges. It is perennial, grows to 45 cm in height. Though lotus is emerging out of this mud, it is not attached to it; it is no longer part of the mud; still, it won't be able to grow without this mud. The lotus flower, according to Ancient Egyptians, is a symbol of rebirth and regeneration.

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This analogy illustrates how it is unavoidable to reach the final stage of your evolution without bearing the toil and trouble in the early stages. That is why I intend in this report to talk about three main points. The first point is **where are you now** in your stage of evolution and the context and changed circumstances that prevent you from taking charge and retreats you in this cocooning and "Safe space." The second point shows **parts of the problem** that prevents you from reaching the next step of your evolution. The third point is showing **parts of the solution**.

So this report is intended for everyone that aspires to be the best version of himself; for someone who is not willing to be defined by social norms and frameworks; for someone who trusts that the future holds the best for him.

Part One:

The Context of the Real World and how to Face it.

The context that we have been brought into can be traced back to around 2000 years where BELIEF is the center around everything in our life revolves. We have been conditioned into believing of hierarchy and power. To find a place in these antagonistic times we need to find someone or something to believe in.

Finding the thing to believe in is worth seeking. That thing could be a religion, a political ideology, a charismatic leader, work, etc. Upon following this icon, which might be a political figure, a sports figure or a religious figure, you let them guide you blindfolded. This creates a state of deep slumber – a sleep-walker human being.



That was your consciousness that you inherited subconsciously from your parents, political leaders, social reformers and religious men. You don't need to believe in anything outside of yourself. The mere survival and competition-based Darwinism is inherited and acted upon since Charles Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest. Your world as well as your parents and grandparents didn't change since the emergence of this theory over 140 years ago. That is how your world is colored by these powerful and iconic figures in this age of blind idolization. Your desire is to be attached to something outside of yourself. You borrow others strengths which will make you weaker by time. What follows is that you are not authentic; you are a copy and you know that in your heart of hearts. Sometimes you find it hard to confess that because you've been conditioned into "fake it until you make it." Those who instilled the beliefs into you have instructed you to believe in the power of perception over reality. And the outcome is that everyone is living in his own dreams and no one is living in the real life. We are all not conscious because everyone has his own separate reality while the few awakened and conscious individuals have one reality – life itself.

In consequence, our life undergoes a massive change both in our inner world as well as our outer world. In the last 4 decades there is a movement towards personal transformation that ranges from self-awareness to personal improvement to meditation to healthy well-being. On the other end of the spectrum, we find an increase in stress, anxiety, depression, retreating into a private world – known as “cocooning” among affluent and drug addiction among the poor.

Our outer world is undergoing sweeping changes from minority rights, civil rights, rise of terrorism, racism and fundamentalism. Such movements create an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty.

But the good news is that such challenges, both in our inner and outer worlds are bringing us closer to ourselves. As Charles Dickens once states that “these are the best of times, these are the worst of times.” He is right but it all depends on us. It is the best of times for those who no longer believe in idolization and place their faith instead in themselves and the enormous potential each one of us hold. It is the worst of times for those unwilling to let go of the barren beliefs brought up by their parents, ancestors and idolization icons.

This is the time for awakening and renewal. Those who are ready to undergo this painful process of renewal, that holds within giving up the old and installing the new, will thrive. Those, on the other hand, that are resisting and holding to the outdated beliefs will be left behind.



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Part Two:

Parts of The Problem

The-Larger-Than-Life Celebrities:

The myth of the superhero is deeply ingrained in our psyche. The days of Tarzan and superman where they are capable of everything is a daily idolatry of admirers. It is the sheer adulation of the great man. This encompasses every side of our lives from the sports hero to movies' stars to politicians and businessmen. This makes us losing the sense of community, of collective aspirations.

Media people bear a great deal of responsibility of such infatuation that makes those stars infallible. So mesmerized by the extraordinary gifts of those celebrities, people start to neglect their own talents that can make a difference in their life and the life of those closest to them.



The Decreasing Quality of Leaders around the World:

The quality of leadership has been decreased around the world in the last two decades. Leaders are the ones that show us the way and energized people towards moving to a common goal. But what we see now is bosses at the head of big corporations who are more in control than empowering. This pervades throughout many industries not just business. In this age of super connectivity, we are over-managed and under-led.

What makes management more in demand is the desire for keeping things as they are – the desire for maintaining the status-quo. The underlying affection for this complacency is more appealing than blazing new trails and galvanizing people towards a worthwhile vision. Leadership cannot be taught in classroom settings like management. It is not taught, it must be learned. That's why leaders are not born as many might contend, leaders are made. Actually, they are self-made. They are made by life's experiences and the burning desire to achieve worthwhile goals.

Short-Term Obsessions:

The wave of big business obsessions with short-term gains over long-term sustainability has swept all walks of our lives. To build something and gain the fruits of it takes time, vision and perseverance. I am not suggesting focusing solely on the long-term because that's impractical. What I suggest is a balanced approach of coupling the short-term with the long-term. To paraphrase the former CEO of General Electric, Jack Welch, words that you have to eat short-term in order to grow long term.

Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, stands in a sharp contrast to this short-term obsession. He is one of the few that practiced what he preached in terms of the necessity of having a vision and building for the long-term. He says once: "Build something for the long term, everything else is distraction." The thriving business model of the Facebook is due largely to balancing the urge of the short-term fuel with the long-term sustainability.

Underestimating the Human Capital:

The massive layoffs of employees in many corporations and in many industries are the result of the lack of vision. Automation and robotization have a part in such a problem but it is actually a minor part. Human capital has been relegated to the level of machinery due to deeply-rooted convictions. Despite many claims that employees are the primary asset, but reality is that they are viewed as a primary liability.

The acquisitions and mergers can be attributed to achieving profitability above all things. That's the bottom line. When things go bad it's not the economy but the careless employee who is draining the business. But if top management paid a close look they will find that they are losing grounds due to many reasons. One of the reasons might be the lack of vision; another probability is the interest in making money above making quality products. It is the human resource that is the questionable element above all other resources.



The Like-Minded Clones:

To function in the real world diversity is a must. Insulating yourself and surrounding yourself with people that share same viewpoints like yours is a recipe for disaster. A close scrutiny of the downfall of big empires throughout history is due largely to the leader's reliance on clones. The dictator leader, be he in charge of big organization, country or even small business, has a flair towards hiring and having men around him who are merely clones of himself. They won't be capable of telling him the truth and what needs to be changed.

The Linear Perspective:

There is a growing tendency towards embracing the "either or" approach. The view of embracing the extreme and refusing its counterpart are no longer viable in today's dynamic reality. The win-or-lose outlook that was initiated since beginning of time that was evident in war has become a norm. This outlook has tinged business and sports. The Darwinian economy that put faith in Darwin's theory of competition and survival of the fittest reached us to our current fix of linear outlook.

The Fantasy World of Perception:

We are distanced from reality and life experiences. We have been programmed into a world totally disconnected from what's really going on. We are told to be positive no matter what. Negatives must be excluded and neglected as if they never existed. So, we live in a fake world of our making.

What's our world? It is made up of our thoughts, beliefs, dreams that are manufactured by a global media operated by a computer-brain interface. Our consciousness is obliterated and brainwashed by the multi-dimensional spectrum of images, music. The manufactured material has invaded every fiber of our being. Our whole being is poisoned by the waves and a neurological fountain of brain chemicals initiated by GMO foods and chemicals added to our drinking water and air.

Part Three:

Parts of The Solution

The Need for Maniacs with a Mission:

The Godfather of modern management, Peter Drucker has once stated that: "Whenever anything is being done, I have learned, it was being done by a monomaniac with a mission." The quest for leaders that have vision for their people is more demanding than ever. People need anchors in their lives and without vision people perish.

Leader's passions and commitment is contagious. Leader's focus on energy begets more and permeates throughout his people. But the challenge leaders face is more daunting than ever as technology and automation is replacing the human force so much so that it's being said that factories in the coming years will be run by a man and a dog man's job will be to feed the dog and dog's job will be to keep the man from touching the equipment.



Mastering Chaos:

The state of flux the world is witnessing at the moment holds within potential opportunities. To paraphrase some of the sayings that these are hard times in which a genius would wish to live. These hard times holds both opportunities and problems, it depends on how you will look at them. These uncertain times call for adventure. By adventure I mean an inner excavation of our untapped potentials.

God never created copies. We do. We create copies of ourselves. Bill Gates was right when he says that whenever you copy someone else, you are insulting yourself. I go a step further and say: You betray yourself. Everyone is unique; a true masterpiece that was dusted by society and its conventions.

Creating a Space for Acceptance:

Upon accepting whatever life throws your way, rewards will be amazing. When you are readily accepting and receiving, the door of abundance will be opened. The law is ridiculously simple: you will receive the moment you give total acceptance. Your moment of transformation and flowering, as I would like to call it, is when your whole being shifts from resisting to accepting.

Acceptance is acknowledging your reality for what it is. It's liberating not suffocating. Resistance, on the other hand, is due to your denial of that reality with all its aspects. Your transformation is possible only through accepting unconditionally what ails you that will work as a fertilizer towards your final flowering.

When you feel grateful, you are unconsciously acting from a place of abundance; there are enough resources and gifts in the space and even within you. That's what you focus on; and **what you focus on expands**. When you complain, you unconsciously, act from a place of scarcity and lack and the result is more scarcity and suffering.

The Law is the Law.



Develop the Rainbow Perspective:

We tend to think in terms of black and white. Your ability to embrace the extremes will help you thrive in today's volatile environment. The opposing extremes are not wrong but rather complementing each other. It's not "either or" but rather "both and" perspective that should be embraced.

You got to stop condemning one opposite at the expense of the other one. There is no separation between the low and the high; the day and the night, the good and the evil: no part is good and the other is bad. As a human being, you are a composite of the material and spiritual; so, don't condemn the material and embrace the spiritual. Embrace both. How can you refuse to accept mud and like Lotus flower instead. Without this mud Lotus wouldn't grow and flower.