

CHOICE POINT

STEP 18: ENGAGE WISDOM

“Do not go where the path may lead,

Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

Scilla Elworthy:

“I had the great privilege in working with Peter Gabriel and Richard Branson in setting up The Elders, which is a gathering of experienced, wise, older people who were brought together under Nelson Mandela's leadership to give the world the benefit of their experience, particularly as regards the prevention and resolution of conflict.”

Barbara Hubbard:

"The key right now is crisis is causing transformation. Where we are at is there are choice points being made in every sector of human society and every field. The key to make the shift would be to identify the choice points, to see where the positive choices are being made, to connect those choice point, and communicate so the average person sees it is possible for us to have this kind of future and then for each person to find I've got some part in that. No matter what level I am, if I have a simple life, I have the possibility to be a part of a planetary shift by doing better what I already do."

Harry Massey:

"You've got two choices here. You can e either let go, and that becomes much easier when you enter a new cycle and transform yourself. Or you can hold onto that pattern and if you actually try and hold onto that pattern reality will strip it away much more harshly and it will almost completely and utterly destroy yourself in the process. But there is some good news here, some great people like Ghandi, Mandela and Luther King have all been through great destructive cycles and been in jail many years. But is only because of those extreme experiences that they actually gained all the humility and wisdom for them in a later cycle."

James Caan:

"I think, I do sometimes wonder I wish if started this earlier but the truth of the matter is everything happens for a reason, everything happens at a time, and I think for me I didn't have the same passion that I've got today, I'm think I'm also probably a little bit older, I've probably experienced life a bit more and I think I've probably got more maturity in terms of giving and in being part of that. I think when I was a lot younger I was so much more driven about my business, my priorities were different. But also I think from being a parent and I think that changes you."

“Every man is a damn fool for at least five minutes every day;

Wisdom consists in not exceeding that limit.” Elbert Hubbard

Brett Moran:

“By looking inside myself and understanding that beauty that was within me, and the background that I had, from being a drug addict, a crack head, living on a council estate, not having a brilliant education. I understood that beauty inside could completely vastly change my life, if I just started to believe in it.”

Larry Dossey:

“At some point I think we have to just back off and acknowledge there are deeper sources of wisdom than we possess, just don't be too serious about the results, as long as we try to micro manage the universe through our own decision making processes I think we are going to continue to make pretty much a mess of things.”

Richard Branson:

“I think that if you go back to The Elders, one of the main attributes of a good elder is to be able to listen to other people not to always be pushing your own ideas. Nelson Mandela agreed to be the founding elder and Graca Machel, his wife, also agreed to work alongside him. And he appointed 12 people of high moral authority who were no longer involved in politics and they have been working as a group trying to resolve conflicts in the world.”

Scilla Elworthy:

“Mandela also set up a university on Robben island, in that a number of the fellow prisoners had been well schooled and understood mathematic, or language or knew about chemistry. And what they used to do was in the quarry when they were doing hard labour all day, and they weren't allowed to talk to each other, they would assemble in small groups to work together, and if you wanted to learn mathematics you went in this group, and if you wanted to learn French you went in that group. And in whispers the one who knew how to teach would teach the others. And gradually over an 8 yr period they got all the prisoners literate, and many of them with skills in chemistry or science. And then they did university degrees by correspondence and they noticed that the wardens were peering over their shoulders so they asked the warders if they would also like learn, realising they were almost illiterate. So the prisoners taught the warders. And they learnt to constantly turn this treatment round and treat their tormentors with generosity, respect and patience. And that to me is training in humanity to Olympic standards. But he was also training himself and his fellow prisoners to an Olympic standard of wisdom and compassion and tolerance. Which became invaluable in preventing civil war when he came out.”

Richard Branson:

“I'm using my entrepreneurial skills to look at some of the seemingly intractable problems in the world and seeing can those problems be addressed in a better way.”

Tony Benn:

“If you come up with a good idea like for example votes for women, to begin with they were ignored by society. Then the suffragettes went on and they were told they were made. Then they went on again and they were imprisoned. And then there was a pause. Then you couldn't find anyone at the top who didn't claim to have thought of it in the first place. And that is how progress is made. So my Dad said to me when I was very young, say what you mean, mean what you say and do what you said you could do if you have a chance and don't attack individuals. And those four

principles I think are very sound advice as in the end if you look at leaders who have significance they are people you trust. And trust is not something you can buy; trust is something you earn by what you do. Gandhi, Mandela and Tutu are three great moral leaders of my life time. None of them white, none of them European but all of them were trusted and generally when they succeed the establishment recognised the importance that they had. .”

Richard Branson:

“Of all the places in the world that needs a centre for disease control the only place that doesn’t have one is Africa. And again we will set it up, just like we would set up a business except that it will be set up to try and resolve a problem in an entrepreneurial way rather than to make money.

“If you are trying to achieve there will be roadblocks

I’ve had them; everybody has had them

But obstacles don’t have to stop you

If you run into a wall don’t turn around and give up

Figure out how to climb it, go through it or work around it.”

-Michael Jordan

Brett Moran:

“The reason why I got into helping others is because I went through some dark years in my early sort of teenager years of my life. In my early twenties I was severely addicted to crack cocaine, using cannabis and drinking to pass out and black out. I was emotionally unstable, low self esteem myself, very negative self destructive sort of thought process. For me helping others move forward in their life has completely changed my life dramatically. I see a new world from the ears that I look out of, it's full of bliss, happiness, joy, love, connection. It's absolutely great, it really builds my vibration, it lifts my spirits, for me personally its built all my connections with like family and friends, I've completely changed my world from this dark sort of world into a completely light coloured world with beautiful people in it, great hobbies and activities going on and I feel that by like helping others it really helps me and it helps the overall, the bigger picture connecting with others and moving forward. The way I look at it I think that everybody's got many different possibilities in the future, everybody's got a different destiny if they want to tune into it. My destiny back then was not to be in prison, I didn't want a normal life, I wanted to feel good, I wanted to connect with others, but I was just completely lost. And I believe that by having opportunities by not going to prison for 10 yrs and only having small sentences it give me that chance to grasp that opportunity and run with life. It was up to me if I wanted to take it and I did. So in a way I sort of, the destiny is planned but then I also changed it. ”

Gregg Bradden:

“So my question as a scientist recognising that we as the human species are now facing the greatest challenges and the greatest threats to our existence in 5000 yrs of recorded human history, my question is what would happen if we marry the best science of our time with the wisdom and the principles of our past. If we marry these two ways of knowing that have been believed to be mutually exclusive in the past, what if we marry them into a wisdom today that's greater than the science can be by itself, is greater than the spirituality by itself, where would that lead us? And the answer to that question is giving us new insights into our relationship with our bodies, with the physical world around us, with the potential and the power we have to change this world in real concrete tangible ways the world out there,

by changing what or who we are inside. This is no longer just a philosophical principle it is a scientific fact. It is a scientific fact that we influence the stuff our universe is made of by being aware and observing that stuff. That's a fact.

“By three methods we may learn wisdom:

First, by reflection, which is noblest;

Second, by imitation, which is easiest;

And third, by experience, which is the bitterest.” –Confucius

Wisdom begins in wonder....

And now you are ready to

Be The Change