



## Seeing True to Break Through

Thoughts from Ron Chapman

November 2009

Greetings!

If last month's feedback is any indicator, many of us do indeed settle into a kind of complacency ... accepting "the good" at the expense of never being propelled to find "the best." A point was also made from a reader that we likewise have a tendency to always be discontented with our current circumstances, always in search of "something more, something better, something different." Both can be true of course. What then are we to make of this idea from last month that "the good is the enemy of the best?"

More than likely the answer has to do with our own particular orientation. For those of us who are inclined toward complacent acceptance of the status quo, it may be necessary to examine the nature of the inertia that keeps us in a state of rest. And for those who tend to be constantly pushing, perhaps we should examine the nature of the inertia that keeps us in constant motion.

Ah ... all paths lead to a place of inquiry and curiosity! If we are to realize whatever may be our potential, we must look within, sometimes deeply.

Many years ago I met an older woman who was nothing short of exceptional. She had a sparkle in her eyes as well as a stillness that emanated from her. I was drawn to her, telling her she had what I wanted, though I couldn't name what that something might be. So we were drawn into dialogue.

Julia told me the story of her upward trajectory, during which came a terrible collapse of her career and her life. She had been deeply driven to perform. It almost killed her ... literally. After her psychic crash, and her reconstruction, she rejected that compelling need to perform and eventually arrived at a kind of lethargy. She had gone from propelled inertia to inertia at rest. And neither worked. She was forced yet again to dig into herself.

The most beautiful part of her tale emerged like an energy wave as she described it. She said, "Ron, life is not a safe haven. It is a launching pad." Julia proceeded to describe life as a catapult. No matter what state we arrive at, there is always another that lies ahead. If we are willing ... willing to examine any given state or circumstance ... willing to question anything and everything ... willing to look even if we dare not.

No matter where we may find ourselves in our trajectory as a leader or human being, there is always one next step to take, one next incarnation of who we are and what we do, one more opportunity.

I think back to a very pernicious thought I used to carry with me unconsciously. I really believed the purpose of life was to find a kind of steady state that continuously improved without upheaval. I have to laugh at that idea, as I'm sure you do as well. The nature of the entire universe is dynamic, and filled with seemingly random movement. So the only predictable future, whether a few moments or many years away, is something unlike this moment. Rest assured.

The only option comes in the ability to examine who we are now, acknowledge that which is effective and useful, and also that which is a hindrance. Take a deep breath, dive in, and see what emerges. Catapulted forward.

Progress, progress, progress ...

Ron

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