

Contemporary Leaders are faced with a VUCA world (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous). To navigate successfully through this, we argue that there is an imperative that leaders appreciate the interiority of their own lives, as well as those they lead. The purpose of forum 1 is to introduce the inward and evolutionary nature of consciousness and the inner tools a leader needs to navigate through this in an organisational context.

It seems interesting that the concept of transpersonal leadership being beyond the self is in many eyes contradictory when one stresses the need for leaders to go within themselves to the true essence of who they really are.

The order once enjoyed in the external world environment is now unrecognisable and yet in the midst of the seeming turmoil is an opportunity waiting to emerge. From Sardar's (2010) description of where we are; "an in between period where old orthodoxies are dying, new ones have not yet emerged, and nothing really makes sense." (p.435) presents an opportunity for the growth and development of new leaders beyond past patterns which have proven fallible.

Senge (2004) says what's needed is a "spiritual revolution" defining spiritual practice in the context of "how to live with one another and with all the things around us" (p.3)

What is required is for the new contemporary leaders to be successful is to welcome a change in the normal way of knowing becoming more self aware, commit to embracing and expressing their own authenticity, while recognising and displaying their leadership by encouraging and inspiring creativity in themselves, those around them and in the world at large.

Braud (2011) refers to new ways of knowing referring to 10 spiralling stones representing "ten different modes of learning about and interacting with the world at large" in the context of "leaving our ordinary familiar reality and having a glimpse of other realms in which it is possible to see with different eyes."

For contemporary authentic leaders it begins with the inner self. Self-awareness was identified by the Stanford graduate school of business advisory council as the most important capability for leaders to develop. (George, Simms, McLean & Mayer, 2007. p.133)

Authentic leaders "frame their life stories in ways that allow them to see themselves not as passive observers of their lives but rather as individuals who can develop self-awareness from their experiences" (p.130)

In the vacuum from which the new paradigm is to emerge lies the potential for the new contemporary leaders to emerge and shape the future of mankind. Bauman (2005,2007,2008) writes that in the midst of a modern world of uncertainty, instability and

change human beings have developed skills of adaptability and flexibility and capable of working under conditions of extreme uncertainty. This ability to be more flexible and adaptable is intrinsically linked by Senge (2004) to us having “more awareness and more awareness actually requires slowing down” and becoming more aware of the present. (p.3)

The modern world as described by such protagonist as the US Army and Business world as “Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, ambiguous” and as “Fear, uncertainty, doubt” (Winograd & Hais, 2011) necessitates the application of our powers of creativity and imagination (Sardar, 2010).

From this competence combined with the human beings capacity to utilise imagination and creativity is what we as a race can embrace to evolve to ensure the emergence of a positive future. The fact that imagination creates our reality (Sardar, 2010, p.435) means that we can control our future reality by becoming cognisant of our imagination and ensuring our elected leaders possess a high quality of imaginational control and vision.

“As the old ways of thinking and doing are failing, creativity is as a vital resource to envision and develop alternatives whether technological, economic or social” (Montuory & Donnelly, 2013, p.48)

The shift which contemporary leaders need to facilitate is from a ruthless competitive “dominator” (Eisler 1987; Slater 2008) and “control “culture (Slater 1991,2008) to a culture of Universal co-creation and collaboration (Ceruti 2008; Davies 1989; Kaufman 2004; Peat 2000,2002; Swimme & Tucker 2011)

In the context of leadership Montuory & Donnelly (2013) highlight three main trends in modern creativity which have changed how we view and express creativity which is having a consequential changing effect to society. Described as a more networked collaborative process involving everyone and its articulation as a form of leadership suggests the contemporary leaders must accept the co-creative essence of creativity and express this collaborative creativity.

The success of Contemporary leaders will be determined by their ability to “account for and be responsible for the direction and application of human creativity” (p.51) This in conjunction with the shift in leadership and creativity from the individual “Great Man” on a pedestal to the “everyday, everywhere, everyone” model (Brafman & Beckstrom, 2006; Meindl,1995;Riggio, Chaleff and Lipman-Blumen, 2008) presents the opportunity for all to be creative leaders facilitating a global collective expression of modern creativity and leadership.

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