

Epilogue

My story began with paradox and ends with it. As I conclude the revisions of this book, I am once again struck with overwhelming sorrow about the level of violence in our society, ironically, even in organizations whose mission it is to promote concepts of abundance, love, forgiveness, and avoiding self-deception. Even in the world of ideas where all humankind are free to roam and relish, competition and greed diminish the good that we could do. What more may we do to see our own inconsistencies and contradictions? Is there one thing to which we may focus our attention that would help us make more progress in our quest to “open the eyes of our eyes”? How may we know there is enough for all of us? How may we trust the universe to deliver to us that which we need without strife, without violence to the human spirit?

But I am also heartened by a shift in the moral tone of our nation since September 11. The blessing in the tragedy is a renewal of national unity and purpose. The eyes of our understanding are more open to the good within us. More people seem to be aware that there *is* enough for all of us: enough truth, enough love, enough courage in the respite of the peaks and valley of the heroes’ journey. One day harmony just creeps up on us in spite of ourselves and the adversity we face. Surprisingly, we’re at peace—not in the sense of being happy, but a serenity that comes because we can see just how blessed we really are. Our changed hearts are humble hearts, willing to embrace each day with resolve: to fear no one but God; to bear no ill will toward anyone; to suffer for truth, and to bear each others’ burdens. This is why we are here: to experience the goodness of God. We make firewood of our perches of superiority, knowing that we are all made equal in his image and are willing to give our all in service to his children. We resolve to put away childish things, trading up to a life of humility.

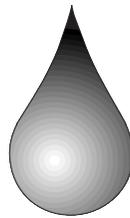
We can choose to pursue this life: one of more simplicity, less pomp and pandering for recognition and more things. True heroes never put themselves or anyone else on a pedestal—only God belongs there. They understand that His power is just as important for one as it is for legions. Armed with this wisdom, they know they *can* be the change they want to see, becoming a little bit better each day, and in so being, truly change the world.



*Myth # 20: We can transcend the pain in our worklife
through the philosophies of men.*

Henry David Thoreau observed: “There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil for everyone who is striking at the root.” The root of most of our problems is leaning on humankind to save us. Being the imperfect creatures that we are, there is great danger in this. At one time or another, we all have feet of clay. If we hang our hopes on men, we will also fall with them. By applying cosmetic remedies to our problems, our cures are often worse than the disease—we create an *illusion* that the problem is solved, lulling us into a *false* sense of security and neglect.

My prayer is that, individually and collectively, we will all step onto the hero path to curtail violence in our society by keeping our focus on the Almighty God as the only true antidote for what ails us. We have only begun to scratch the surface in finding creative alternatives to the new and frightening tradition of using force in all of its ugly faces to get what we want. May we all submit ourselves to the gentle restoration of divine truth as the buffing ingredient needed to repair the shine waiting to be rediscovered in our society. Rise up in loving indignation and say, “I’m not going to take this or be this anymore in my home, in my school, in my worklife.” In so doing, may we find joy in putting our own little drops in the ocean whenever and wherever we can. Our own drops are enough. Together *we will fill the ocean . . .*



The Hero’s Work Creed

I am the voice of a new workforce in America. I am intelligent; I am well trained; I have options. But I am not my job. I am committed to living an authentic life: to come to my full human maturity through responsibility to my basic nature—to fulfill the role destiny has assigned to me. No job is worth compromising my integrity. I am devoted to *being* not just doing: finding new ways of renewing relationships, of building community, of accepting and engendering responsibility and accountability for myself and others. I am committed to truth tempered with mercy. My passion is a *double* bottom line: making a profit balanced with caring. The most important thing about work is

to care, not just when it's easy but especially when the going gets rough. True, you can buy my back but not my heart. And my heart is what you need to compete in today's marketplace.

To have my heart, set a good example. What you do is far more important than what you say. Deal with me honestly and openly. Tell me what you expect and give me a chance to show you just how good I am. Hold me accountable. When I do well, tell me. When I make mistakes, I need to know that, too. Respectfully. And sometimes, allow me to ask "Why?" or "Why not?" This is how new ideas are born. And new ideas will make this business thrive. Be open to change. This one thing we can all count on.

I am a new breed in the American workforce. This what I believe, this is what I need.



Myth # 21: You'll never get a book like this published.

Amen.