
LEADERSHIP, HISTORY, AND WOMEN

PART 2

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Regarding women, note:

Women are clearly not flawless, nor “the answer”, nor a “magic bullet”. Much of their current, emerging value regarding collaboration and connection is wired in by Mother Nature herself, and expanding greatly by what women are now creating beyond that “wiring”. That said, **their time has come** – that is all. And there may be/are real world consequences to either ignoring that or embracing that by **both men and women**.

Regarding men, note:

And, for all of men’s mis-steps, there is much to be learned from, and gained from, men: their action, their courage; their concern for freedom including (by golly) their sexual expression; there’s something to their creativity, their willingness to give their lives for something bigger than themselves on a moment’s notice. Their playfulness, their “craziness”, their humor, their honor, their “unstop-ability” ---- women may have these things to learn from, to develop further, and at least to appreciate, and account for, regarding men’s history.

Women, I suggest, are natural, rapid learners when focused;

especially when they learn from some of the best “attributes” of men (above), not their worst; i.e., aggression, “ego”, domination, short-sightedness, being “right”/stubborn, and too often, violent bullies. Women can learn from, teach and develop men, and perhaps now must, while at the same time **honoring, expressing, contributing and staying true to a uniquely feminine** perspective that is fundamentally:

1. **inclusive** not exclusive,
2. **collaborative** not exploitative,
3. **connected**, not estranged or disconnected, and
4. a perspective which fundamentally expresses a framework (a view) true to the whole of things and how things go together not just our historical context, that is, a view of life and “reality” that does the opposite, that constantly takes things apart, separates things, or blows things apart, into pieces, particles and details, like so much disconnected dust. Much of what science, left to itself, has shaped in us is a culture of knowing ourselves as separate, disconnected individual parts distinct from being connected, together, and **being part of a natural whole**. This “break-things-apart”/“leave-things-apart” view of ourselves can be catastrophic if it continues out of balance.

For mastery, in life and leadership, both perspectives – seeing the parts and pieces of something and seeing the whole of things, taken together, as a whole – are needed, and required, situation to situation.

Authentic leadership today requires precisely women’s “natural” abilities — — — inclusion, connection, collaboration, and a view and a commitment to the whole of things (i.e., to the globe and to life itself) — — — that women can definitely, and naturally, facilitate and enable in our world **if** women are in turn enabled by each other, and not reduced to being “male clones” – and are willing to, committed to, explicitly, openly, p-a-r-t-n-e-r, and collaborate, w-i-t-h men.

Examples of women who lead collaboratively is vividly expressed in the New York Times article, “[Senate Women Lead in Effort To Find Accord](#)”, (October 14th, 2013). It reports that Susan Collins (Maine) says,

“I don’t think it’s a coincidence that women were so heavily involved in trying to end this stalemate,” Ms. Collins said. “Although we span the ideological spectrum, we are used to working together in a collaborative way.”

Other examples amongst many women who are already in “the public eye”, who collaborate and make a difference, might include the First Lady, Michele Obama; Angelina Jolie; Merle Streep; Meg Whitman; Hilary Clinton; Oprah Winfrey; [Malala Yousafzai](#); amongst many, many, many others.

Re-claiming men: As allies, resources, partners, and champions is required, and required now. (Reclaiming from what? From the more-than-occasional view of the last 35 years that men are, have been, must be, in the way, the obstacle, or even, at times, the enemy. If they once were, men now can must and will move on, especially our male leaders). Today, 2013, we (men and women) get **to cause, intentionally, a shift** from exploitation to collaboration. How?

One conversation at a time whether with one person or millions!

Our culture is, quite literally, a network of conversations. Conversations give birth to, forward, shape all ideas and actions – always.

Every cultural shift, each and every new, innovative, technical, financial, educational **human reality and advancement has been born first as, spoken first as, a possibility**. Possibility comes from the Latin word “potere” – “to be able”, and “esse” – “to be”. Possibility literally means, from the Latin, “**able to be**”. All human realities are brought forth in thought, word and deed first as possibilities. That’s their birthplace. If we are to **give birth to a world of collaboration**, it must and does clearly stand on the shoulders of, and now moves clearly and decisively beyond the mind set of exploitation, domination and scarcity.

Collaboration can and does build upon and include healthy, innovative competition (what some of us now call “co-optition”). And, one needs to cause, generate, to invent and share this possibility, this conversation **Conversations, themselves, are the actions** to give birth to collaboration, to forward that, to develop that, to present that.

How does one do that?

One opens one’s mouth.

One speaks and listens, writes and reads; one communicates, one contributes. As you communicate, with yourself and the world, notice where you are coming from. **Ask yourself:** “**Is this conversation**, or thought I am in – right here, right now – fundamentally collaborative in nature? Or exploitive in nature? Or competitive in nature? --- Which is it?”

Ask yourself: “What am I committed to provide or to get in this conversation, right here, right now (including reading this article)?”

Ask your leaders: “What are you committed to?” Get straight with them, past the pretenses. **Get straight with yourself:** “What am I really up to with my life, my work, my love?”

Speculate/educate/communicate what actions, policies, structures, strategies would allow, favor, facilitate, grease the slide for, the shift to a collaborative framework, context, culture? where human beings contribute directly to each other (on-goingly), and are known to each other as such? How might **a fully collaborative planet** be distinct from and contrast with merely: competing with, dominating or exploiting each other and the Earth itself?

Leadership, history and women can work, now, in partnership with men. We are now educationally and culturally equipped to build and transform ourselves into what is now needed and wanted: **collaboration.**

If we fail in this endeavor perhaps, just perhaps the game called human being on planet Earth, is essentially over ... inside this century.

At bottom, you get and I get to say, as a matter of our word, our stand, our conversations

How is it gonna go?

And who gets to say?

References and Resources:

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5. [The Sterling Institute of Relationship](#)
6. [Michael Madden, One Feather](#)
7. [Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus – John Gray](#)
8. [The Hunger Project Source Document by Werner Erhard](#)
9. [Joseph Schumpeter, Creative Destruction](#)
10. [The Mermaid and the Minotaur, Dr. Dorothy Dinnerstein](#)
11. [The Clue Train Manifesto by Doc Searles, et al. \(Editors of Wired Magazine\)](#)
12. [How Malala Yousafzai's Courage Inspired a Nation: 'We Are No Longer Afraid'](#)