

# BOOSTING INSPIRATION

**H**ave you ever had an experience of events turning up and happening in cycles, odd synchronicity and visible similarities somewhat clustered together in one undefined time lapse? When it finally dawns on us, we become suddenly aware that some urgent learning is trying to emerge so that life can move on. I am noticing similar lapses any time I start to work with several new clients (and yes, they, too, come in cycles). It is as if we all have some collective pattern we become entangled in and need to expose at synchronic times so that we are more resourceful and empowered to find our human solutions.

Like this thing called *motivation*. For last few weeks, that word hangs over me and follows me around wherever I go. It has an ability to transform itself into pretty powerful questions a lot of people around me try to find answers for: How do I *bring* people to put their heart into what they do? How do I *get* them more enthusiastic? How do I *engage* others? How do I *ignite* the flame in them? What else can I *do* if what I do is not working? ... Get the picture? Notice the verbs?

The more I participate in exploration of answers, the more curious I become about yet another question: is motivation (or our ability to inspire) really something we actually *do* to other people? Are we actually trying to discover some magic, noble way to *cause* other people feel and act in certain way? And: *what makes it so hard?*

Many brains have tried to come up with various truths around the topic. As much as I honor the effort, I have no space or intention to list them all here. Something tells me that if things seem to be very complex and very complicated, we tend to lose focus. What helps sometimes is to shift the paradigm. What if, for simplicity matter, motivating others was just merely impossible? What if having precisely that intention – no matter how noble – is actually causing us to fail? What if inspiration is not about finding the unknown magic button in another human being; what if it is simply about finding and pressing our own?

Going back to the odd synchronicity in our lives, while mulling this over, last few evenings brought me in touch with three very different characters: William Wallace, a legendary Scotsman who led an army of peasants and farmers into the battle with the mercenary army of an English king; Captain John H. Miller, a US army soldier who led his com-



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pany across the German occupied territory to complete a bizarre mission of saving one soldier's life; and Martin L. King, a man who had a dream. They all stood in front of other people, at some points in their lives, and magically touched hearts of all who listened. They all, without exception, did not seem to guess what other people needed to hear. They started from a place they knew best: themselves. They shared what motivated *them*: freedom over tyranny, returning to normal family life over becoming a war hero, power of their dream over the current reality of life. They connected with their own inner flame and simply let the others witness.

Where I am with this is that we often overcomplicate things. We often try too hard to know about others while all we really can do is be ourselves. And maybe we actually need to start understanding a simple principle: there is not much we can make others do, there is only who we are with them. /BW