

Synchronicity and Leadership: What If (Part 2)

For large portions of my life, although synchronistic events have happened to me, I did not give them any special place except to say, “isn’t that interesting” or “I have always been lucky.” It’s only when I began to read more deeply about the subject and analyse the events that had both happened to me and to leaders I worked with, that my fascination for synchronicity turned into a passion. In many disciplines such as quantum physics, psychology, religious studies, neuro-science, social media (to name but a few), I began to notice that there were hints at the possibility of a connection between events, or an “entanglement” between people which went beyond logical or rational explanation. In our Newtonian logical world when events happen which do not seem to have a logical rational explanation they are dismissed as not being worthy of further study because our current view of the universe says everything should make logical sense. We still, for the most part, live in a Newtonian world and in many writer’s minds synchronicity does not belong to the world of concrete rational happenings.

In my thirty seven years of consulting and coaching, leaders have shared with me similar unusual events. I will never forget talking to the Norwegian MD of a European Telecom firm in Bangkok who said to me “Philip I make most of my business decisions using my intuition but please don’t tell my staff.” When I asked why he did not want me to tell his staff he said that he was afraid that his credibility as a leader would be affected.

There seems to be a conspiracy of silence around thinking that anything that may be considered unusual, spiritual, or magical could happen in the workplace. It’s as if when you admit that you rely on anything other than your logical thinking processes or what your MBA taught you, that you are somehow considered not to be a “bone fide” leader.

Hence as well as my own personal interest I am also interested in synchronicity and it's ties to leadership because I want to give voice to leaders who are afraid of letting their full voices be heard in the world of organisational leadership. These are leaders who feel that if they talk about synchronicity, or intuition or spirit in the workplace they will be considered as “weird”. What if the people I have talked to who have experienced strange non-logical and almost miraculous events in the workplace are just the tip of the iceberg? What if ninety percent of leaders used their intuition to make decisions? What if in our decision-making as leaders there is a whole other dimension that could help us? What if each of us had an internal GPS which allowed us to tap into a universe of answers to questions which were not accesible to our logical mind?

Philip Merry is a global leadership consultant based in Singapore who has worked for 36 years in 58 countries. At this part of his career he is researching Synchronicity, Leadership and Leading-with-Heart
phil@PhilipMerry.com - www.PhilipMerry.com