BEING GIVEN BEING AND ACTION BY SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF
The Underlying Structure Of This Course – Part I: The Foundation

The Third of the Four Factors that Constitute the Foundation for Leader and Leadership

• Being a Person of Integrity

• Being Authentic

• Being Given Being and Action By Something Bigger than Oneself
  Source of the serene passion required to lead and to develop others as leaders, and the source of persistence when the path gets tough

• Being Cause in the Matter
The Strategy We Use to Get By With the Way We Wound Up Being

In our formative years virtually all of us begin to develop a certain strategy for avoiding failure that we continue to rely on as life unfolds.

The first half of the strategy is to attempt to avoid failing by simply staying away from situations that don’t fit with the way we wound up being (don’t fit our set repertoire for being and acting).

The other half of the strategy is to attempt to succeed by polishing that set repertoire for being and acting, and seeking out opportunities in which we can succeed by utilizing our set repertoire.

Given that leaders cannot choose the situations that require leadership, if you are to be a leader, this strategy won’t work.
The Strategy We Use to Get By With the Way We Wound Up Being

During the course, we will continue to provide you with opportunities to identify and remove (or at least substantially relax) those personal ontological perceptual and functional constraints that limit those ways of being and acting that are critical to being a leader and to the effective exercise of leadership in any situation.
The Strategy We Use to Get By With the Way We Wound Up Being

Having mastered a context that leaves you being a leader and effectively exercising leadership as your natural self-expression, what is left is to remove from the way you wound up being what limits or distorts your natural self-expression.

Most of us think that the way we wound up being and acting is our natural self-expression. However, as you will see, our natural self-expression is a virtually unconstrained freedom to be and to act. Unfortunately, that freedom is limited and distorted by certain ontological constraints that have become a part of “the way we wound up being” along with certain patterns of action.

As a result of these constraints on our freedom, each of us gets stuck with idiosyncratic personal ways of being and acting that allow us to succeed in some situations, but which leave us at best getting by in others, and unfortunately failing in yet others.
All True Leaders Are Heroes

Heroes are **ordinary** people who are given being and action by something bigger than themselves.

Does whatever your life is about, and whatever your career or schooling is about, and whatever your relationships are about, need you to be bigger than the way you “wound up being”?

What *is* your life about? And, what *is* your career or schooling about? And, what *are* your relationships about? Really!

Remember, all true leaders are heroes – and heroes are ordinary people who are given **being** and **action** by something bigger than the way they “wound up being”.

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Are Great Leaders Extraordinary People?

We learn about great leaders after they have gotten there. And, after they have gotten there they appear to be extraordinary people. However, when the whole story is told, every great leader was an ordinary person who was given being and action by something bigger than themselves.

To assume that great leaders started out extraordinary is to demean what it took for them to go beyond “who they wound up being”. More importantly, it conceals your access to being an extraordinary leader. If you think you need to be extraordinary to be a leader, that gives you no access to being a leader.
Are Great Leaders Extraordinary People?

The leaders you admire and respect are ordinary people. What makes them worthy of admiration and respect is that their being and action is given by something bigger than themselves – and that is what makes them extraordinary.

The question is: How do you create your life being about something bigger than yourself?
Being a Leader Requires that You Take a Stand for Something Bigger than Yourself

If you aspire to be a great leader, your life and your career or schooling and your relationships will have to be about something bigger than you, something bigger than your concerns for yourself – even bigger than the hopes, dreams, and grand ideas of the person you “wound up being”.

And that surely includes something bigger than your dreams about your personal fame, position, authority, or money. If that is what is giving you being and action, you can forget about being a leader.

Are you a stand for something beyond yourself – something you are willing to give your life to? Without that, for you there will be no chance of greatness.
EXERCISE

With a partner(s) discuss:

1. What are some ways you “wound up being” that limit your effectiveness as a leader?

2. What are the hopes, dreams, and grand ideas of the person you “wound up being”?
Each Person Must Choose for Themselves

Each of us must make the choice to be a hero or not – to be a leader or not. That is, each of us must make the choice for ourselves about going beyond the way we “wound up being”, about having the purpose of our lives and our careers or schooling and our relationships be about something bigger than ourselves.

Note: The people you are leading may well be committed to nothing more than their personal concerns, and you cannot be effective in leading them if you make that way of being wrong. When leading, you must start with the commitments of the people you are leading as they are, not the way you think they should be. Starting there, you can lead them to something greater.

Each of us gets to (has the right to) choose what our lives and our careers or schooling and our relationships are going to be about, and, while each choice has different consequences, no one choice is inherently more righteous than the other.
The Valley of the Shadow of Death

By the way, on their way to greatness, every great leader faces times of being so massively thwarted that they are left with a sense of hopelessness – a profound sense that they are inadequate for the task at hand. At these times, the world occurs as immovable, impossible, and they are left with nothing to give, nothing to draw on. No help, no way.

You too will have these times on your way to greatness.

In these “valley of the shadow of death” times (when giving up or quitting seems to be the only viable option), in order to generate the being and action required to get yourself through these tough times, you will need to have in place something bigger than yourself and your circumstances. Don’t wait until you find yourself in the “valley of the shadow of death” to get the purpose of your life and your career or schooling and your relationships to be about something bigger than yourself. That will be too late.
Access to Being a Hero – to Being a Leader

Remember, all true leaders are heroes. And, heroes are ordinary people who are given being and action by something bigger than themselves.

The first step to being a hero, and therefore your access to being a leader, is to answer the following questions:

- “Are you satisfied with the effectiveness and power of your current level of being and action?”

- “Are you given being and action by something bigger than the way you wound up being?”

- “What is your life about, and what is your career or schooling or relationships currently about – that is, what is your purpose in life, and what is the purpose of your career or schooling or relationships?”
EXERCISE

With a partner(s), discuss the following:

1. “Are you satisfied with the effectiveness and power of your current level of being and action?”

2. “Are you given being and action by something bigger than the way you wound up being?”

3. “What is your life about, and what is your career or schooling or relationships currently about – that is, what is your purpose in life, and what is the purpose of your career or schooling or relationships?”
Access to Being a Hero – to Being a Leader

“Breakthroughs are created by heroes, by people who will take a stand for the result while it is still only a possibility, people willing to create the path to the result in action. They are willing to see and act on a possibility beyond what is predictable in the present, beyond what the circumstances and rationalizations based on the present would allow.

Heroes are ordinary people who call on themselves to reach beyond themselves, ordinary men and women who dare to be related to possibilities bigger than themselves.”

Werner Erhard
Access to Being a Leader Begins with Leading Yourself

In order to create your life, and your career or schooling, and your relationships, to be about something bigger than yourself, you will need to begin the process by being ruthlessly honest with yourself regarding what your life, and your career or schooling, and your relationships, are currently about. Really about.

And, you will need to be ruthlessly honest about your willingness to do the work to be bigger than the way you wound up being.

Leadership begins with leading yourself.
You Cannot Get to There from Any Place Other than Here

If you want to get to Paris, and you don’t know where you are, that is, you don’t know where you’re starting from, you’ll never get there.

Similarly, you cannot plop something bigger than the way you wound up being on top of the way you “wound up being”. In order to give yourself the possibility of being bigger than the way you wound up being, you need to confront the way you “wound up being” and get complete with it.

That is, not make the way you “wound up being” wrong, like there is something wrong with you. Or even worse, not make the way you “wound up being” right, as if all that was involved for you is “fine tuning” the way you “wound up being”.

The point is: Get yourself clear about the way you “wound up being”, and do it without any evaluations or judgments about it. And don’t kid yourself that this is going to be easy.
You Must Also Be Clear About Your Life, Your Career or Schooling, and Your Relationships

You will also need to do the same with what your life is about, and what your career or schooling is about, and what your relationships are about – that is the purpose of your life, and the purpose of your career or schooling, and the purpose of your relationships.

Just be honest with yourself about what your life and your career or schooling and your relationships are about, and do it without any evaluations or judgments about it – that is, without making it wrong or right in any way.

Today, we will give you the opportunity to start the process of getting yourself clear about what your life and your career or schooling and your relationships are about, and the opportunity to get clear about the way you wound up being.
Your Access is Through What You Stand For

Your access to BEING a leader is through creating your life and your career or schooling and your relationships to be about something that for you calls forth being and action from you that would be unrecognizable to you as the person you wound up being.

Throughout this course you will be provided with opportunities to create for yourself you standing for something bigger than your concerns for yourself – even bigger than the dreams and the grand ideas of the person you “wound up being” – and surely something bigger than your dreams about fame, position, authority, or money – that is, something that calls forth from you the being and action of a leader.
BREAK ASSIGNMENT
Break Assignment

Being Given Being and Action

1. What could you create in your life and your career or schooling and your relationships that would be about something that for you calls forth being and action from you that goes beyond the way you “wound up being”?

2. ….that calls forth being and action that would be unrecognizable to you as the person you wound up being?

3. ….that calls forth from you the being and action of a leader?