

Learning Plan

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As I contemplate my approach to this assignment, with the dual intention of receiving a favorable grade and making this a valuable personal exercise, I feel a need for a bit of preemptive explanation. One of the planning styles we discussed in class was that of the existential planner, perhaps a little bit uncommon, but still occurring. I believe that I fall into this category of the existential planner. As a result of its abstract nature I want to explain some aspects of the way it is for me in thinking or planning in the event that you don't think or plan in this way. Hopefully my brief explanation will provide some context as I have found the exercise extremely useful and it has drawn out a lot of very vague thinking and forced me to make it more concrete.

I assert that in most cases people plan or think about their future along the path of Have, Do, Be. Once I have X, I can do Y, and my result will be Z. My experience as a budding existentialist can be explained as Be, Do, Have. I will generate being Z, within that context I will naturally do Y as an expression of who I'm being, and this will result in having X as an outcome or possibly resulting in something that was initially unforeseen even as a possibility until it arose inside of the created context that I was being. Being Z isn't predicated on anything. Whether I ever do Y, or have X does not impact who I'm being as this is generated as a result of a stand that I take. I could even suggest that all people actually live their lives in this way only they don't realize that their being is created by them in each moment because the way it appears is that their being is a result of the circumstances that they have. That is a topic for another venue, perhaps something outlined in Goal 1 below. However, it is something to be experienced rather than understood, something to be tried on rather than known as a piece of

knowledge so in this case, you only need to allow the possibility that life can be experienced in this fashion. For me, Intentional Change Theory lines up quite beautifully with this approach.

While developing the roadmap I also noticed that adding learning into the mix allows for increased power in the ability to generate ways of being. Even though it is possible to generate a way of being and validly live from that way of being, if I have never experienced creating love, as an experience, there may be a required period of inquiry and learning to develop that muscle. For me, this is something I hadn't considered previously and is good news.

With that long winded disclaimer out of the way my personal vision as written is what I would consider an existential framework in that my ideal self occurs right now. It is not a "getting to" personal vision, but rather a "bringing forth into existence as being now". It describes a way of being and since being occurs right now, it can never be gotten to; it can only be called forth into existence now. My personal vision is that I am being the presence of love and generating love as presence such that others are experiencing love now for themselves. One of the difficulties I had in developing the Goals and Action steps is that a goal and action step are mostly from the realm of doing. The timeline presented should be visualized with the Goals and Action steps below "wrapped within" a contextual layer of being love, as well as the other ways of being. It was difficult to represent them weaving in and out as I visualize it, but certain ways of being, as well as certain elements of learning will be required to come and go as actions steps lead to goals.

The usefulness in developing a learning plan for me is that doing occurs as a correlate of being or is given by being. Certainly things will be done coming from who I'm being. Up until a

couple of years ago my life was not designed inside of this declaration of being love present and experienced in the world, rather it was designed inside of a compensation for not successfully being love present and as a result I spent a good portion of my life being smart, being funny, and being persistent. Many areas of my life have been developed inside of that design and they often are not inherently supportive of my personal vision. People know me to be a certain way and expect results from me that “come out of” that way of being. It would be irresponsible to abandon those things outright as I have a family and others that are dependent on what is provided by my current life as designed. Additionally, being love present allows space for any other way of being and action to occur inside of it. Thus, my learning plan can be thought of as an alignment plan, aligning the things that I will do in the future to be supportive of and provide space to naturally call forth my being love present and experienced in the world. If the plan is designed well and my integrity is maintained it will result in being and doing occurring as if in a dance where it isn't obvious which is leading the other; the things I do will appear to cause who I'm being even though the what I'm doing will be coming from who I'm being. After all, I have always been who I am, love present and experienced in the world, it's just been concealed from my view and therefore not clearly expressed.

I'd like to point out one additional note about this approach and creating a future as a context lived from. The creation of a timeline is for me, a part of the assignment that provides guide rails. I am open to breakthroughs as I have experienced in the past, in which the future often rapidly develops out of the creation of a future based commitment. I declare that the timeline is not to be considered a limiting factor or something that I am committed to in the time specified and that I am open to generation of the results committed to in the future as an

immediate possibility. As an example, since the beginning of the creation of Goal 3 and the more final revisions of the paper, my sister has unexpectedly announced that she is moving to Abu Dhabi. The paradigm I existed within when the paper was written has been altered and I insist that this often develops out of committed being. I had never considered surfing in Abu Dhabi until now.

It is also possible that the results will not meet up with the timeline for various reasons. This timeline then is a guide to validate that learning and being maintain focus. The learning plan as created here is the first time that I've ever formally declared a life vision this way, inside of being, so I'm expecting miraculous results. I've also found that for me it is very easy to get caught up in "just being" and not continuing to put myself at risk by committing to bold new possibilities and taking action consistent with those commitments as the paradigms shift, so rigorous maintenance of this plan will be required.

My ideal work/life scenario is right now. It's the only work/life scenario I have and it's perfect, whole and complete. It's also a declaration, not "the truth". Building on that declaration my learning plan allows for creating natural avenues for expressing myself as love present and experienced in the world. For example, my work, in particular, jumps out as an area where I've been finding it extremely counter-intuitive to be who I am. In an arena when people expect me to know things, have the right answers, and provide solutions as a subject matter expert in various technologies it doesn't always work for them for me to be inquiring into their ideal self, what they're committed to in their lives, their personal and business relationships and the degree to which love is present and experienced in them. Usually they

just want the answer to a technical question which leaves me with a feeling of, “Yeah, but don’t you know that this question is more about the people and process and the way we interact than that particular answer?” In this way, my work will ideally transition to an area where my expertise on generating love present and experienced is what I am a subject matter expert in.

Immediately I see that I can be responsible for having created my life the way it is and that I can be responsible for the transition including being open and clear about where I’m headed. With that, I can see that I need to learn to account for when they just want the answers and when there is an opening for more powerful inquiry type conversations. As an outlet I see development of a blog that gives an avenue for expression of love within the context of technology, within the context of knowledge and the distinction between knowing things like an answer and knowing things like an experience and the way that knowing things like an answer is a conduit from knowing things like an experience, being inside the experience and asking the right questions to allow yourself to be within the experience. Because the sentence prior to this one is so abstract I see the development of tools that will guide people through what I just said as a useful step in making the experience known. It’s a little bit like trying to explain balance so having methods to demonstrate it would be useful. In developing this plan I’ve actually envisioned a couple of tools that I can develop and make available. So in time, by being the possibility of love present and experienced in the world I will have results consistent with that and methods consistent with allowing the experience to resonate with others in their experience.

Through development of the writing, tools, and experiential learning methods my career will transition to having results consistent with being an expression of love present and experienced in the world. Being known as a thought leader in developing the presence of love within organizations and the power, effectiveness, creativity, innovation, sustainability, and fiscal benefit that are created as a result of that love is one possible ten to fifteen year end state. I may fail in the endeavor to be world renowned, and I'd rather have attempted it and failed than to not have declared and attempted it at all.

Either way, I'll be who I am and I believe I will be able to develop a coaching practice and organizational development consultancy inside of these commitments using what I've learned in the MPOD program, what I've learned in other areas of life, and inserting some of my more useful original ideas into the mix. In ten years, I most certainly will be working in this realm and will be somewhere along the grand path described above.

Something I'd like to do just for fun and to say that I've done it is to write an entertaining and profound fictional novel that demonstrates the complexity of being in the world and the challenges that arise from the ought self applied to each of us by the expectations of the world conflicting with our ideal self yearning to be. I believe I have an idea in mind, something that will work to tell the story and may be mildly entertaining if I focus on the story to demonstrate the complexities of the thinking. If I looked back from my death bed and have never done this I wouldn't be upset, but it would be fun to look back and see that I had. I believe this is something I can begin in the next five to ten years, to write a fictional book and have it published.

Another area that is currently “out of alignment” with my being love present and experienced in the world is, of all things, in the area of my family. My relationship with my in-laws is quite askew I’m ashamed to admit. It’s possible (though there are many other possible causes) that my “knowing things” or being so abstract has built a wall of resistance with my wife’s family over time. Currently my wife is not on speaking terms with her immediate family. Now, it’s a long convoluted story about how we got here including the saga of my wife having a child when she was 17, her parents raising that child until she was 4, my having married my wife and then adopting the child when she was 5. It’s possible that things may have worked out this way anyway because of many personal hurts that have occurred. But, another way of looking at it, is that I haven’t been love present and experienced in those interactions and I have often been intelligent, funny (like a smart-ass), and persistent instead. All of these things tie into my lack of understanding social networks and the fact that I’d never even considered that there would be “in-laws” in my creation of the relationship with my wife. Repairing this relationship and placing it on solid ground probably precludes ever being considered a world renowned expert at creating love present and experienced in the world.

My learning plan also includes continuing to create avenues of prosperity for my children, while providing expanded freedoms for my wife and me. If it is possible to make every opportunity available to your children such that they would find themselves fulfilled and known fully as their selves, then this is my intention. Maintaining my relationship with my wife and expanding it so that we fully develop what’s possible for each other inside of our relationship is also included in this commitment to family. The jury is still out on whether or not that includes a fourth child, but learning how to have that fourth gracefully and without surrendering any of

the freedom we are now experiencing is the ideal situation. We've never had a nanny, but I'd like to learn how to, along with a cleaning person so we can pursue more exciting aspects of life and still have a home in integrity wherever it may be.

Finally, maintenance of this plan and rigorous maintenance of integrity is a major goal.

Without integrity nothing works. This plan is no different.

- Goal 1: Career shift to Be a world renowned expert on creating/bringing forth love as an experience in life in business and personal applications with a well defined value proposition for how this makes a difference. Learning objective – boldness, genius, inspirational leadership, social networks
 - Subgoal 1: Continue to leverage my current career in information technology to gain experience leading organizational change through technology projects
 - Action 1: Complete the Directory Services integration of the many current BANK2 Bank domain environments
 - Action 2: Complete the file migration projects from Bank1's environment to BANK2's environment
 - Action 3: Complete the print migration projects from Bank1's environment to BANK2's environment
 - Action 4: Begin making my intentions clear to exit this field and develop a replacement and knowledge transfer for my role
 - Action 5: Complete MPOD
 - Action 6: Identify and create the opportunity to continue in a flexible role while still providing value to my current organization
 - Subgoal 2: Fully develop my "magnum opus" on presencing/unconcealing love/aletheia as an experience for individuals, groups, and organizations.
 - Action 1: Develop an approach to presence love as an experience
 - Action 2: Develop visual aids creating love as an experience
 - Action 3: Develop experiential learning approach for creating love as an experience
 - Action 4: Derive the value proposition on love as an experience for individuals and organizations and develop the metrics to prove its value
 - Action 5: Write the fictional novel that demonstrates a life lived as creating love as an experience and the paradoxical "common life" lived out of having not gotten in touch with that's who we all are
 - Action 6: Publish and bring all the work forward to the public and leverage them in subgoal 3
 - Subgoal 3: Develop final product workshops for bringing forth the presence of love as an experience for individuals, groups and organizations.
 - Action 1: Develop the experimental course

- Action 2: Create platforms and generate course participants with which to present the experimental course
 - Action 3: Refine the experimental course
 - Action 4: Finalize, deliver, document, and create metrics for success of the course
 - Action 5: Deliver the course and redefine what people know and can expect to experience in the realm of love as it occurs at an individual, dyadic, team, and community level
 - Subgoal 4: Develop individual coaching consultancy
 - Action 1: Identify and finalize areas to focus consultancy (current ideas: “The hidden aspects of EI and the sexual power trip – don’t be a wiener or a terminator”, “Executive and Spousal Coaching – Maintaining your family priorities while building an incredible career”, “Female Executive Spousal Coaching – Empowering yourself in your role as a 21st century male trophy husband”, “other more traditional ideas”
 - Action 2: Develop coaching consultancy web presence, tools and “utilities” for aiding in pre-coaching and individual work to feed in-person sessions. These tools can also aid in workshop prep work.
 - Action 3: Develop 5 consistent coaching relationships by end of MPOD, 10 by end of 2012, 30 by end of 2013. Produce spectacular results, from the client’s perspective, in each case. Only take on clients that are willing to maintain the rigor and integrity I will require to achieve the results they want to achieve.
- Goal 2: Develop Sustainable (Self Sustaining) Laundromat Development Centers – Learning objectives: Sustainable business practices, community empowerment, business expansion, continued business plan development, individual empowerment, building of team, social networks
 - Subgoal 1: Continue the momentum from the sustainability project started in MPOD 418 class and implement it
 - Subgoal 2: Develop in-house leaders to sustain and grow the business without me and continue the growth trajectory. Could make a great laboratory for experimental programs in Goal 1, subgoal 3 above
 - Subgoal 3: Continue to develop and grow the business itself, ultimately leading to a sustainable passive source of income with little “hands on” involvement. Purchase at least two more “great” Laundromats by the end of 2013, providing fallback income for Goal 1 above
 - Subgoal 4: Continue to look into and identify possible other complimentary areas of business expansion
 - Subgoal 5: In conjunction with both Goal 1 and Goal 2, continue with previous commitment to developing business ventures with 10mm per year revenue by 2014. Obviously time is getting tight on a “normal trajectory” but the commitment allows for the possibility of a breakthrough event.
- Goal 3: Live anywhere and travel frequently. Learning objectives: Freedom, cultural learning, experimentation with sustaining being love present and experienced in the world while within other

cultures, developing support systems for income sustenance (ties to team development in Goal 2, and income streams in Goal 1 and 2), and maintaining family over distance (Goal 4).

- Subgoal 1: Continue working through Goals 1, 2 and 3, developing financial abundance and freedom.
 - Action 1: Cleveland is my home so living anywhere could mean I continue to live here. Being here is ok and I love it.
 - Action 2: Continue with current commitment to travel 4 times per year and develop consistency in actually accomplishing that. Sister Christine's recent announcement to move to Abu Dhabi is already expanding these options.
 - Action 3: In traveling 4 times per year, identify possible options for where I'd like to live when no longer "constrained" by having a day job, a night job, and young kids.
 - Action 4: At the very least, financially plan for early retirement from the day job at 15 year end of this learning plan.
- Subgoal 2: Revisit worksheet on 27 things I'd like to do before I die and make sure I'm checking some of them off
 - Action 1: Go somewhere, not be a chicken shit like I was in Costa Rica and Hawaii, and surf before I'm 45
 - Action 2: Scuba dive again 5 more times before I'm 50, with at least one of them being at the great barrier reef off of Australia
 - Action 3: Have a vacation home in Costa Rica or some other possible retirement location
- Goal 4: Family development. Learning objectives: Developing sustainable family and building a family legacy, humility, self-expression and love present in constricted "listening" environments, managing my "occurring as" a smart-ass and intelligent self-righteousness, social networks.
 - Subgoal 1: Reconcile with Mariesa's family, somehow, possibly using simple tools I've developed for being love present and experienced in the world and having us all have an "aha, oh, no shit, moment" together.
 - Action 1: Develop the experiential learning as outlined in goal 1
 - Action 2: Practice being love, consistently, even when my kids are making it so I can't hear myself think
 - Action 3: Continue to push Mariesa to define her commitments to her family and her ideal self so we're working along a common roadmap
 - Action 4: Develop a "by when" date that we will resolve this
 - Subgoal 2: Choose, powerfully, once and for all, whether we're going to have baby number four
 - Action 1: Either way, practice, practice, practice
 - Subgoal 3: Begin planning with my kids the legacy they'll want to leave for their kids
 - Action 1: Start having ideal self exploratory conversations with the kids
 - Action 2: Continue to provide all available tools to the kids for any development they'd love to have
 - Subgoal 4: Recommit that Mariesa is living the life of her dreams
 - Action 1: Fully acknowledge all that she's doing to allow me to pursue this degree

- Action 2: Ensure that she gets to follow and fulfill her dreams
 - Action 3: Already her feeling out the Master's in Bioethics is occurring. Support that.
 - Action 4: Give her the space and urging that she develop a learning plan.
- Goal 5: Maintain the plan. Learning objectives: Maintaining integrity
 - Subgoal 1: Create calendar entries to revisit this plan and revise the timelines as life shifts
 - Action 1: Create calendar entries to revisit the plan at least quarterly, with a thorough annual revision scheduled
 - Subgoal 2: Develop a board of directors to share the life plan with
 - Action 1: Identify four more people within the next 3 months, prior to the next quarterly revision of the plan
 - Action 2: Integrity checklist monthly maintenance
 - Action 3: Develop commitments from the six people to be on my personal board of directors

