

Nine Catalytic Conversations

A coaching relationship needs to be mutually comfortable and respectful. So, before we start, it's important that there's clarity re. the type of coaching on offer and what sort of worldview territory might be covered. The coaching style is largely open-ended questions and conversation. And yes, there is a faith element, which, for many of us is a no-go zone—for good reason. Attempting to explore matters of faith can be like trying to sample illegal goods on the black market: difficult to do without a crowd of busybodies pushing things you don't want. Because of these concerns, it's recommended that you check out the various recommended readings in order to get the mood of these conversations.

1. Cultivating Ownership

We are warned, 'It is not laziness, it is fear: fear of success, failure or abandonment.'¹ And again, 'Most blocked creative have an active addiction to anxiety driven diversions.'² In this session we explore the elements involved in the creation of our own destiny: taking possession of ourselves, our life and our goals, which often include owning up to our place in a team or a family. We define a team thus: 'A small number of people with complementary skills, committed to a common purpose, a set of goals and an approach, for which they hold themselves mutually accountable ... structured in such a way that they are dependent on each other.'³ For you, this team might literally be your family or it might operate out of a fast food shop, an office or on Zoom.

Recommended readings

- *Human Flesh*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158632111431305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Somewhere to Hide*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10158454086971305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Risk Being Laughed At*: Website Blog
<https://petervolkofsky.com.au/risk-being-laughed-at/>
- *Fair Enough*: Beautiful Quest 3.8

2. Arousing Curiosity

'Give them the message you want them to have, packaged the way they want it packaged.'⁴ 'Silly, Serious art is born from serious play.'⁵ This is about the art of storytelling, playfulness and the spirit of the game. But what does this look like? For we're talking someone's life here and life is short. Exactly!

Recommended Readings

- *Going All The Way*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158545290891305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Temple of Light*: Website Blog
<https://petervolkofsky.com.au/temple-of-light/>

¹ Julia Cameron, *The Artist's Way* (Pan Macmillan, Wharf Road, London, 1995) p. 152

² *ibid* p. 143

³ Kris Cole, *Supervision* p. 665, quoting Katzenbach & Smith

⁴ Paul White & Clifford Warne, *How To Hold An Audience Without a Rope*

⁵ Julia Cameron, *The Artist's Way* (Pan Macmillan, Wharf Road, London, 1995) p. 112

- *Premonitions Part 1*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158569677661305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Random Wanderings*: Beautiful Quest 4.7

3. The Reality Gap

‘If you want to work on your art, work on your life.’⁶ Strategy is the easiest pathway to maximum success, given the resources you have available. This is where, building our project around the principle of ‘Quality before expansion’, we identify missing pieces in the road to success. We explore the seven reality principles and their influence on our desire to learn and grow: 1. Reality is there 2. Reality can be tested 3. Reality has teeth 4. Reality has enemies 5. Reality has a gap 6. Reality is to be lived 7. You can become reality.

Recommended Readings

- *The Walk to Perfection*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158527183036305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Finishing The Sentence*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158426066636305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Premonitions Part 2*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158572604646305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Hurt Good*: Beautiful Quest 6.5

4. Activating the Joy of Learning

‘Love knows nothing of order’ (St Columba)⁷
Joy is energy and we discover how to rid ourselves of joy inhibitors and where to find joy activators: confession, forgiveness and thanksgiving, to name a few.

Recommended Readings

- *The Functions of Art*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158500474126305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Question Time*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158492693211305&set=a.10150297810001305>

⁶ *ibid*, (quoted from Chekov) p.80

⁷ Thomas Cahill, *How the Irish Saved Civilisation: The Untold Story of Ireland’s Heroic Role, From the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe* (Hodder & Stoughton, London, 1995), p. 176. [SEP]

5. Loving The Ogre

What do you want, really want, more than anything? We follow the journey from *Observing* to *Enabling*; from *Enabling* to *Rousing*; from *Rousing* to *Galvanizing*.

Recommended Readings

- *The Shed and the Thread*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158413330711305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Like a Man*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158388794786305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Premonitions Part 3*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158580092081305&set=a.10150297810001305>

6. You, Finding The Gold Yourself

The one who will never risk being laughed at will never find the gold. Metaphorically speaking, we are on an expedition at night, the client is in the lead and the coach is in the rear—like a blind old treasure hunter with no hands. The coach knows the smells, the tastes and the feel underfoot of the right path. But this is not the coach's forest, it is the client's and they are the only one who can actually find the treasure, the moment the coach tries to do that, the gold begins to melt away.

Recommended Readings

- *Meeting We Where I'm At*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158325165251305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Premonitions Part 4*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158588368051305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *'Spend it!' she says, smiling*: Website Blog
<https://petervolkofsky.com.au/spend-it-she-says-smiling/>
- *A Quiet Train*: Website Blog
<https://petervolkofsky.com.au/a-quiet-train/>

7. Taking Charge

'So, do it. If you win you win. If you lose, you win.'⁸ This is about ownership metamorphosing into authority. Knowledge, skill, experience, servant-hood, love and spirituality are all important here.

Recommended Readings

- *Deep Calls Unto Deep*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158239076926305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *The Romance of Loneliness*: Website Blog
<https://petervolkofsky.com.au/the-romance-of-loneliness/>
- *Friendship*: Beautiful Quest 6.1

⁸ Julia Cameron, *The Artist's Way*, quoting from the film *Raging Bull* (Pan Macmillan, Wharf Road, London, 1995) p. 123
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8. Internalising

‘In order to build escape velocity you must keep your own counsel.’⁹ We explore the dynamics of *Belief* (the mind), *Trust* (heart) and *Action* (the will). ‘The cost of a thing is the amount of life required to be exchanged for it,’¹⁰ which makes a video game a very expensive item.

Recommended Readings

- Shadows: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158468403306305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Dad Music—River*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158095167721305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *Dad Music*: Website Blog
<https://petervolkofsky.com.au/dad-music-2/>

9. Creating & Imagining

‘In a creative career, thinking about the odds of success is a drink of emotional poison.’¹¹ This last workshop addresses a blind spot. It grasps the nettle of modern western culture—our obsession with the individual as a successful creator—and explores what it means to awaken our deepest creative powers through human relationship. We look at the potential of teams and communities to do what individuals can’t.

James MacGregor tells us, ‘Our main hope for dis-enthraling ourselves from our overemphasis on power lies in ... seeing that the most powerful influences consist of deeply human relationships in which two or more persons engage with one another. It lies in a more realistic, more sophisticated understanding of power, and of the far more consequential exercise of mutual persuasion, exchange, elevation and transformation: in short of leadership... We must see power and leadership not as *things* but as *relationships*... That people can be lifted into their better selves is the secret of transforming leadership.’¹²

‘What is the Genre of the Universe?’ is important question we consider here. After all, we categorise music, film and books according to genre; so, what genre does the story of the universe belong to? This will be an open-ended conversation about a thousands-of-years old question, which has a bearing on what genre your life story might belong to.

Recommended Readings

- *Mulga Creek*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158626132506305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- *The Genre of the Universe*: Facebook Blog
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158888361291305&set=a.10150297810001305>
- What Were You Thinking?: Website Blog
<https://petervolkofsky.com.au/what-were-you-thinking/>
- *Sweet Defiance*: Beautiful Quest 6.2

⁹ Julia Cameron, *The Artist’s Way* (Pan Macmillan, Wharf Road, London, 1995) p. 199

¹⁰ Julia Cameron, *The Artist’s Way* (Pan Macmillan, Wharf Road, London, 1995) p. 68

¹¹ Julia Cameron, *The Artist’s Way* (Pan Macmillan, Wharf Road, London, 1995) p. 142

¹² James MacGregor Burns, *Leadership*, (Harper, 1979) p.11