

VISIONARY PARTNERSHIP

By Reverend Margaret Shepherd, MBA

Published in *Science of Mind* April 2002 issue

The life experience of relationships is pain-prone, and we often feel hopeless and helpless. It can be hard to see beyond your immediate experience, beyond what seems so real. Yet it is possible to hold a higher vision for your life and to create a new reality from the power of that vision. Whether you seek the ideal intimate partnership, or ideal relationships with family, co-workers, or friends, you must first understand partnership from a spiritual metaphysical perspective.

The spiritual truth is simple: we are here to give and receive love. Relationships are the structure through which love circulates. We sometimes have to grow into understanding the metaphysics. Consciousness creates. The thoughts and beliefs you hold in your conscious and subconscious mind create ALL of your life experience – including all your relationships.

Mastery of thought creates mastery of life – including creating ideal partnerships. Change what you create by thinking new thoughts. When you don't like what you have created the only powerful action is to "turn away from the condition", said Ernest Holmes. Send your thought energy to what you *want* - never to what you don't want. You can continue to create from old patterns or you can create anew from vision. You get to choose. Your most powerful energy comes from your strongest emotions, which are born of your strongest beliefs. Beliefs change as they are replaced with different ones until the new ones take hold. You do this consciously through holding to a vision of what you desire.

God's promise to us is if we live focused on our own growth and allow others their own path, we will know perfect relationships. Trying to manipulate or force

causes suffering. Think of a partnership in which you are suffering. Ask these questions. What standard for this person am I trying to enforce? How am I trying to manipulate? What are my criticisms? What would Love do now?

In an intimate partnership there is a synergy of masculine and feminine energy, which completes the whole. When each partner consciously chooses which principle to represent in the relationship true harmony results. The authentic masculine and feminine are *principles*, not genders; they reside in both males and females. They are part of the universal creative process. The masculine is the seed, creative force, power, assertion, blueprint, the word, provider and protector. The feminine is the soil, patience, allowing, surrender, acceptance, and gestation, bringing into form. When these principles are unrefined and corrupted they appear as the passive, weak, manipulative female and the angry, aggressive, insensitive, male. They show up when the ego self is in charge, when self-mastery has not been attained. Whichever energy you chose to express in your intimate partnership, express it fully, and allow the opposite energy to express fully in your partner. You must restrain yourself from expressing what you have not chosen. It is valuable to cultivate *both* principles to employ in areas *other* than your intimate partnership. If you operate from all masculine energy you may create money but never accept it, or create ideas that remain unfulfilled. If you operate from all feminine energy you may have nothing to bring into form, you are willing to accept but have put nothing into the law.

Here is my own story of visionary partnership. I walked the beach daily until I found what I was searching for. It was not driftwood or shells but a vision. After two divorces and some soul-searching time alone, I was ready for a visionary partnership. The rhythm of the ocean stilled my mind and allowed my inner wisdom to express. The vision I was seeking gradually took form. Having taken care not to focus on a person, but on the relationship qualities, I saw a detailed description of my ideal partnership. It had a very magnetic feeling, like the

perfect person was being drawn to the vision just as I was. And he was. Earl and I were married last May. It is a visionary partnership.

Now that you know the spiritual and metaphysical principles, and have a real life example, let's consider the visioning process. A vision is a clear conception of an ideal state or experience. It is a magnetic blueprint that attracts all resources required for its fulfillment. Your job is to keep the vision fueled with your energy. That job is easier if you surrender to the natural process by which the universe delivers the vision. Keep your mind free of thoughts of "how" and keep focused on your vision.

Visioning differs from other related forms of spiritual practice. VISIONING is the revelation of an ideal state, bringing that ideal to your conscious mind.

VISUALIZATION begins with a mental picture on which you focus to give it life.

PRAYER is either asking for or claiming a desired experience. MEDITATION is maintaining an open state of consciousness to make revelation and insight welcome.

Here are the visioning steps. And please, give yourself the kindness and patience you would a small child learning a new skill.

Step One – **PREPARE YOUR MIND.**

You must prepare your mind to accept a higher experience. Remember, there is something deep within you that accepts your present experience of partnership, and that must change. You do this by firmly setting your intention. Because it is thought, intention creates. Also, your desire is in harmony with the universe, you have the right to ideal relationships. Remember, you are 100% responsible for all your life experiences. Turn away from past or future. In the past is longing or lamentation; in the future is limitation or fear. Cleanse your consciousness of all

self-judgment and judgment of others. Forgive yourself for choices you judge as wrong. They were not, and you are not. Forgive anyone else you have judged as wrong. Get free.

Step Two – CREATE YOUR VISION

Give yourself some quiet time. Close your eyes and breathe deeply. Say a prayer or centering words.

Keep in mind that the vision must be about the *experience* of the relationship, not the qualities of the person, and not about you. The vision must be about the nature of the invisible bond between two people, how they serve and are served by each other, about Love.

Ask these questions of your inner wisdom, your intuitive guidance.

“What is my vision for this ideal partnership?” “How can I best describe it?”

“What in my mind must transform?” “What in my behavior must change?” “What am I willing to do now?”

Articulate your vision

Write, draw, sculpt, sing, dance - whatever. Express it any way you can to give it maximum power. Leave open questions open. Your vision will refine itself over time.

Create Affirmations

Affirmations are a powerful support to the manifestation of your vision. You have 60,000-75,000 thoughts daily. That means that your sustained attention is

necessary to implant new thoughts in your subconscious mind. Old beliefs will predominate until they are transformed.

Affirmations are present tense declarative statements of what you desire to be true. For example: “My partner and I experience only loving harmony.” “My employer and I support each other’s creativity.” In working with your affirmations, begin with the phrase “I am willing to fully experience this in my life now...”

Keep your attention on your vision. Use your heart (*not* your logical mind) to fuel it with energy and bring it into form. Nourish and protect it. Act on its behalf as you are inwardly guided. Trust the process. Accept the guidance, intuition, ideas and resources that issue forth from your vision. And most importantly, remember that the purpose of your vision is to bring you joyful partnership. Accept the joy.

Step Three – ACTION PLAN:

Ask your inner wisdom these questions: “What three actions can I take in the next six months to create my vision? What can I do in the next thirty days? What is my commitment?”

Share

Share your vision, plan and commitment. Support each other. Share the joy of creation. In the Los Angeles area I facilitate Mastermind Groups that allow people to work together in support of each other’s dreams. There is great power in knowing others are supporting you, and holding you accountable to yourself. And there is great power in giving support to others.

Relax, God is in charge. As you commit to living your vision, practice patience and trust the process. Martin Luther King said, “You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just the first step.” And from 2 Timothy, The Bible “For God has not

given us a spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of sound mind.” Put your metaphysical power, your love, and your sound mind to work, and experience visionary partnership.