**“Your Soul Profile, Personal Vision, and Mission Statement”**

Taken and adapted for high school students from: Chopra, Deepak. *The Soul of Leadership: Unlocking Your Potential for Greatness*. First ed. New York: Harmony Books, 2010. 30-33. Print.

YOUR SOUL PROFILE:

Using just a few words or phrases, answer the following questions. Be candid and don’t dwell too long on the questions before you answer them. Let your first responses guide you.

1) What’s my contribution in life?

2) What’s the purpose in what I do?

3) How do I feel when I have a peak experience?

4) Who are my heroes and heroines (from history, mythology, fiction, religion)?

5) What qualities that I look for in a best friend?

6) What are my unique skills and talents?

7) What are the best qualities I express in a personal relationship?

Now, using the key words you’ve developed in your answers above, write a brief profile of your soul as if you were describing another person. For example: “Deepak’s purpose is to ***grow*** personally and to ***bring out inner potential*** and ***hidden possibilities.*** He contributes by being ***loving*** and ***supportive.*** When he has a peak experience, he feels great ***inner peace*** and ***unity*** with everything around him. His heroes are ***Gandhi, Buddha, Jesus, Mother Divine, and Krishna.*** In a best friend he looks for ***understanding*** and ***stimulation.*** He feels that his unique skill is ***communication.*** He has a talent for ***getting others to look beyond their old conditioning and fixed boundaries.*** His best quality in personal relationships is to ***love, support, and appreciate*** the other person.”

 Keeping your soul profile close at hand, now move on to the next step: defining your personal vision.

YOUR PERSONAL VISION

Again using just a few words or phrases, complete the following sentences. Let yourself go. Don’t worry about being logical, or about the feasibility of implementing these ideas. Just write whatever comes to you. And above all, be true to yourself.

1) I want to live in a world in which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) I would be inspired to work in an organization that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3) I would be proud to lead a team that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4) A transformed world would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To match your future work with your vision, answer the following:

* How will your work in the world reflect the vision you outlined above?
* What will you need (from a team or organization) to get closer to your ideals?
* What can you offer (to your team and organization) to move closer to your ideals?

It may be what you expect to do is far from what your vision would want it to be. The first step toward bridging that gap is to define your vision as specifically as possible. Vague ideals remain passive; a focused purpose awakens the unseen powers of your soul. On the other hand, you may be well on your way to achieving your vision, or at least have made the first steps. There is no right place to be right now. The point here is to clarify what kind of world you envision and how you see yourself in it.

YOUR MISSION STATEMENT

Now that you have written down your values and your vision, merge the two into a succinct statement of your overall mission in this lifetime. Your statement should describe what you want to accomplish as a leader from this point forward. Use the following template:

My mission behind everything I do is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* Keep it simple and concise.
* A child should be able to understand it.
* You should be able to state it even in your sleep.

*Example:* My own mission statement originally was “to reach a critical mass and achieve a peaceful, just, sustainable and healthy world.” This needed to be simplified, which led me to come up with a clearer mission: “To serve the world and all who live in it.”

 Finally, see if you can crystallize your mission statement into one word. Mine is “serve”. Yours might be “grow,” “evolve”, “inspire”, “peace”, or anything else. The key is that when you hit upon the most succinct way of stating your purpose, you will be listening to your true self, which is the first requirement for anyone who aspires to lead from the soul.

 As a leader, your vision exists to be shared with enthusiasm and inspiration. The word *enthusiasm* comes from the Greek root *en-theos* or “in God,” reminding you that you must look in your soul. *Inspiration* comes from the same Latin root as *to breathe and spirit*. When you inspire others, you bring everyone into the spirit of your vision-you motivate them to breathe together in the same atmosphere.