

# SEVEN STONES

LEADERSHIP



Standing in your Power  
Created for  
For Chirobloom Tele- Class  
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Power: The ability to take effective action

## **The moves we make when we are in our power:**

### **1. Integrity**

Integrity is at the center of our power: where we are out of integrity we are leaking our power. Have a look at where you are out of integrity: where word and deed do not match, where you say one thing and do another, where you know you are not being honest, where you are selling yourself short. Our power comes from being able to get back into integrity, word and deed, body and story, when the alignment is off.

Look at your relationship to yourself and to others.

Please look in all domains:

Career

Money

With yourself

Friends

Family

The world

Your staff

Play

Self care/Health/well being

### **2. Declarations:**

To declaration is an act of creation, invention. People can declare a future that does not currently exist and then move others towards bringing that reality into existence. To declare is to lead. Our declarations create the context for our lives. Often we are living inside of declarations we forgot that we made and that no longer serve or are direct conflict with declarations we make in present time. Old forgotten declarations that are running the show will often interfere with our ability to fulfill on declarations we are making now. Declaring is an extremely powerful move to make in language. We can, and do, shift the course of history through a single declaration.

### **3. Promises**

What does the word *promise* evoke?

What is a promise?

Which ones do you make that you know you won't keep?

Who do you accept them from when you know they won't be kept by them?

What's the impact on you and others?

What are the reasons you tell yourself for not keeping your promises?

What's the impact on you when others don't keep their promises?

How do you justify it all?

What relationship do promises have to integrity, peace, building community, leadership, team, family?

What promises are you currently living in that you are now breaking?

What promises do you need to revoke or re-negotiate to get back into integrity with yourself and the other?

#### **4. Requests** *"Our success in life is directly proportional to our ability to make requests of other people." Former CEO of Coca Cola*

What is a request?

A request must have:

1. a speaker and a listener
2. a shared understanding of the request being made
3. a time by which the request must be fulfilled
4. conditions of satisfaction

Why make requests?

When we make them poorly, what is the impact?

What does it cost us to make requests?

What does it cost us not to make them?

What's the impact of making and not making requests on our ability to partner?

What impact does it have on our ability to be authentic?

At peace? To be contributed to?

What makes requests threatening to make or hear?

What requests do you need to make and of whom that you are avoiding?

What requests are being made of you that you need to decline or counter offer instead of accept?

#### **5. Offers**

Making offers is one of the moves leaders make to push their agenda forward. The more powerful and well crafted the offer, the greater the possible impact.

What offers do you make every day that actually distract from your mission?

What offers are on the table that could be crafted to produce greater value for you and your interests?

What offers are you not making because you don't know how?

What offers do you accept that you ought to decline or delegate?

#### **6. Declining**

Saying NO or declining has such a bad rap in our culture. Yet a straight honest decline allows the energy to keep moving and clearly articulates promises you can be counted for and promises that are outside your competence or interest. The other party, once clear, can move on quickly, wasting minimal time and energy for all.

What do you chronically say yes to that you need to decline?

What do you chronically decline that you need to say yes to?

What difference would it make if you made these new moves?

## **7. Counter offers**

This move is part of making powerful clear promises. You may need to decline one request but if re-defined and well negotiated both parties can get what they want. That is making a counter offer. Where are you accepting offers or requests that you need to stop and actually counter offer instead. This would require asking the question: what do I need, what do I feel, how do I want to use my resources?

## **8. Assertions vs. Assessments**

We often confuse the two. An assertion is clearly true or false. Many things we think of as assertions are actually assessments. There may be lots of agreement about them, but that does not make them assertions. A ten dollar bill is in actuality not a 10 dollar bill in TRUTH. It's a piece of paper. However there is collective agreement that it **IS** 10 dollars.

Some people in certain domains are paid to make powerful/grounded assessments; about the future, about their organizations, about other leaders and the more powerful and grounded our assessments the more value we offer. We are making assessments all of the time. We are assessment machines actually and discerning which assessments are useful and which are garbage is also the mark of a leader. Assessments are always made by an observer and knowing who you are as an observer makes you more powerful. It is important to determine who is qualified to make assessments that will forward our action in the world and which assessments we ought disregard. Listening to the wrong assessments can be lethal. Often our own self assessments are the most lethal.

Where are you making powerful grounded assessments?

Where are you listening to assessments you ought to decline?

Where are you not paying attention to someone's assessments that you ought to actually head?

What assessments are you withholding that would serve ? And of whom?

What assessments are you harboring, and of whom, that do not serve?

## **9. Right-wrong/ Good- Bad/ Agreement- Disagreement**

Be on the look out for how seeing through this dominant lens cripples your power. Using right or wrong good or bad or determining whether you agree or disagree are not the place to look when making powerful choices. In fact using these criteria cripple your effectiveness and ability to be innovative and skillful. Take a look at how often you are determining your moves through this lens? How often do you evaluate whether to move forward based on whether you agree with something or think it is right etc....keep a log for one week.....

If you were not using those distinctions to determine how to move on the court, what criteria would you use that would make you much more powerful?

## **10. Stepping into the Unknown**

Our power also comes from being able to move from the known to the unknown, to give up **looking good** or **knowing** and move into risk that feels out of our reach; so what risks are you avoiding that you know would forever alter who you are in the world for yourself and for your community?