

INTEGRATIVE LEADERSHIP INTERNATIONAL

“Helping individuals and organizations become integrated.”

Lessons on the Path:

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“Integral Organizational Leadership”

Lillas Marie Hatala

OBSERVATION:

In July, I had the privilege of participating in Ken Wilber’s “Integral Organizational Leadership” program in Denver, Colorado sponsored by his Integral Institute (www.integralinstitute.org). It was affirming to be with fifty like-minded individuals from all over the world who are committed to an emerging worldview of an integral or wholistic approach to personal and organizational leadership. Each participant affirmed that it is the leaders in business that will help lift and shift the consciousness of our world by moving from a single profit only perspective, to a triple bottom line – people, planet and profit. It also affirmed for me that the number one challenge of leadership development is heightening leaders awareness (or consciousness...) and that the whole field of adult education and development has much to offer the field of leadership development.

One of the many highlights for me during the weeklong program came rather unexpectedly. Ken Wilber (57), perhaps the worlds leading integral psychologist and philosopher, was to lead two of our seminar sessions that week. However, he was unable to do so because he was suffering the debilitating effects of an autoimmune disease that he and 300 others contracted in 1985 at a hotel in Nevada. This particular form of autoimmune disease, according to Ken, attacks the aerobic system, causing extreme fatigue at times. He was suffering one of these high fatigue episodes and chose not to appear physically, but to rather dialogue with the seminar participants through live audio teleconference.

Ken was both inspiring and impacting for me in hearing his vibrant voice and how he interacted and responded so engagingly to our questions. He began by saying that, although he was not with us physically, he was with us mentally, emotionally and spiritually. He also shared that many others with his same disease were much worse off, bedridden and on 24 hour care without the ability to fully live, and work or make a contribution. Ken attributed his daily integral practices of meditation, yoga, lifting weights among other practices, to helping him continue to live his life’s purpose (he has just completed two more books to add to the 23 he has already written...) and work each day in a mental and spiritual realm free of physical pain and suffering. It truly was an honour to experience his presence during the teleconference. I felt him as humble, humorous, brilliant, warm, engaging and vibrant.

The parallel to my own life right now is that Rick and I have been living and working apart for three months, he in Calgary and I in Saskatoon, seeing each other about two weekends a month. His work in co-creating our new company, Integrative Energy Ltd, (more about this in next weeks newsletter...), suggests that we will have to endure a long distance relationship for the foreseeable future...

In our time together, Rick and I have found that we love being together. We seem, for whatever reason, to bring out the best in each other, and have come to know that we are truly better together than apart...

Although a part of me is sad about our current situation, Ken’s story made me appreciate that Rick and I are very connected spiritually, emotionally and mentally. We do speak every night, are truly in each other’s lives, and strive to meditate at the same time every day. We have chosen to consciously invest and nurture our relationship: heart, mind and soul. And our separation truly makes us grateful, when we meet, for the precious gift and opportunity of being able to physically touch each other once again...

APPLICATION: When you are apart from loved ones, practice meditating and sending them love and light. Know in your heart, that on an energetic realm they receive your love and light.

INSPIRATION: “The more you are plunged into authentic higher states of consciousness –such as meditative states- then the faster you will grow and develop through any of the stages of consciousness.” Quote from a paper “Introduction to Integral Theory and Practice” available on the Integral Institute website.

INFORMATION: Wilber, Ken (2004) The Simple Feeling of Being: Embracing your True Nature. Boston: Shambala.

UPCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

- **Integrative Leadership: Taking Leadership to the Next Level: Sponsor: Location:** University of Saskatchewan: Tuition: \$958.00 per person. Visit: www.learntolead.usask.ca for details: In Saskatoon: November 8-10 2005: February 8-10 2006:
- **Building & Strengthening Your Relationships: Location:** University of Saskatchewan: **Tuition:** \$594.00 per person. **Visit:** www.learntolead.usask.ca for details. **Dates:** March 31 to April 1, 2006. **Description:** The quality of your relationships will dictate the level of your success: personally, interpersonally and organizationally. In this two day intensive is designed to strengthen important relationships in life and work. Reflect on coming to the workshop with a relationship you would like to strengthen in mind.
- **Executive Integrative Leadership: From Good to Great/Great to Grace: Sponsor:** University of Saskatchewan, Business & Leadership Programs. Tuition: \$3,750 (+ GST, Meals, Accommodation). Topic: This retreat is an invitation to Senior Leaders, Executives and Managers desiring to experience the path of integrative leadership in depth and in action. **Locations:** Canmore, AB, Canada: March 20-25 2006 AND Toronto, Ontario, Canada: November 6-10 2006. For more information and qualifying registration, call (306) 966-5492.

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Contact Information: Integrative Leadership International Ltd, P. O. Box 22204, Bankers Hall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P-4J5, **Alberta Phone:** (403) 651-8351 **Saskatchewan Phone;** (306) 244-0934 **Toll Free:** (866) 616-0934. **E-Mail:** iliinfo@integrativeleadership.ca. **Website:** www.integrativeleadership.ca