

Standing at the Edge

What a lifetime of achievement, transition, personal development, and unanswered questions has taught me about participating with life

I didn't set out to create Quantum Results.

There wasn't a moment when I sat down and decided to create **a body of work about awareness, patterns, transition, and personal growth.**

What exists here today emerged much more organically—from my own life.

From things that worked and things that didn't. From success and disappointment. From people I've learned from and people I've coached. From relationships, transitions, financial struggles, unexpected opportunities, and a few experiences I still can't fully explain.

For much of my life, I believed success was primarily about figuring out what needed to be done and working hard enough to make it happen.

That belief served me well.

Today, I think it's only part of the story.

The Operating System I Didn't Know I Had

I grew up in a stable home as the youngest of three children. My siblings were each seven years apart, and I became an observer.

In our family, as in many families of the 1950s and 60s, a lot went unspoken.

One thing I observed was my mother's relationship with money.

“Money doesn't grow on trees.”

“We could lose it all at any moment.”

“You can't trust the banks.”

Nobody sat me down and taught me to worry about money. I learned much later that both of my parents had been thirteen during the Great Depression. My mother's family lost their farm when the banks took it.

Decades later, that experience was still present in our home.

And I was absorbing it without knowing I was learning anything at all.

I married at twenty, became a father at twenty-two, and quickly discovered adult responsibilities. I began building a career in computers, and when financial pressure appeared, I knew what to do.

Work harder.

It worked.

I earned raises and promotions. Our income increased. So did our lifestyle and responsibilities.

So I worked harder again.

Eventually I managed hundreds of people and interacted with senior executives. At twenty-nine, I was sponsored into the Executive MBA program at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

I thought this might be the breakthrough.

I loved Kellogg. It was an extraordinary education, and I remain grateful for it.

But after graduating, something interesting happened.

Not much changed.

I knew far more about business, economics, organizations, and strategy. I had expanded my network and improved my résumé.

But many years later, I began asking a different question:

How could I have reached that level of formal education without ever seriously examining the subconscious programming, beliefs, and patterns that might be influencing how I experienced money, security, success, and even myself?

My education had changed dramatically.

Some of my underlying programming may not have.

When Life Changes the Plan

Life eventually provided plenty of opportunities to test what I thought I knew.

My corporate division moved from Chicago to Los Angeles. Moving my teenage children across the country didn't feel right, so I left.

I became a consultant.

I traveled constantly.

My marriage eventually ended.

I rebuilt my career, joined Netscape, was laid off after its acquisition by AOL, joined another consulting company, rebuilt again, and eventually moved into senior leadership.

Then I met Peggy.

I moved to Boston, remarried, became part of a blended family, and eventually left a successful corporate career to pursue an entrepreneurial venture.

Some of those transitions were exciting.

Some were painful.

Most contained both.

I didn't have the language for it then, but I was beginning to learn something I've since seen many times in my own life and in the lives of others:

Forward doesn't always mean returning to the life you had. Sometimes it means discovering who you are in the life that exists now.

The Phone Call

My entrepreneurial venture was a mobile application.

It was difficult, expensive, and consuming.

At the same time, Peggy and I were navigating several serious family challenges.

Eventually, we reached a breaking point.

One day Peggy was curled up on the couch crying. Seeing her hurting that badly was almost unbearable.

I slammed my fist on a table.

“This is fucking over! No more bad news! Things have got to change!”

It was completely out of character for me.

Nothing externally changed in that moment.

But something seemed different between us.

The next day my phone rang.

The call came from overseas. A man was interested in the mobile application I'd developed and wanted to see a demonstration.

His name was Peter Sage.

I had no idea who he was.

That phone call eventually introduced Peggy and me to an entirely different world of personal development. We attended one of Peter's events in London and later decided to participate in a yearlong program called the Masters Circle.

The cost for the two of us was \$132,000.

We paid a \$25,000 deposit.

That left approximately \$107,000 that we didn't have.

Peter encouraged us to become very clear about the outcome we wanted while releasing our need to know exactly how it would happen.

I recently found the statement Peggy and I read each morning.

We wrote that we desired full participation in the Masters Circle. We would plan and act as though we were participating and receiving its benefits.

But we also wrote:

“Whatever happens—it's OK.”

And:

“We do not care how it comes together, but we believe it will.”

Then we went about living our lives.

On December 11, 2015, a check arrived in the mail.

It was payable to Peggy for **\$106,625**.

The money came from an investment her former husband had made more than a decade earlier. Peggy had received half of it in their divorce settlement.

It had never produced a payment before.

It never produced another one afterward.

At the time, I knew exactly what had happened.

We manifested it.

Today, I'm much less certain.

A Different Kind of Education

The Masters Circle opened a door.

Over the years that followed, Peggy and I explored the work of many people. Eventually we discovered Bob Proctor, and both became certified consultants authorized to teach his Thinking Into Results program.

I loved Bob and his work.

But I kept exploring.

Joe Dispenza. Bruce Lipton. Abraham-Hicks. Tom Campbell. David Hawkins. And earlier thinkers including Earl Nightingale, Wallace Wattles, and Napoleon Hill.

I didn't agree with everything I encountered.

But I became fascinated by the questions underneath it all.

Where do our beliefs come from?

Why do we repeat patterns we consciously want to change?

How much of our experience is influenced by things happening outside us, and how much by what is happening within us?

What changes when we become aware of our thoughts rather than simply thinking them?

What role do intention and expectation play?

What happens when we stop trying to control everything?

And what happens when we reach the boundary of what we can actually explain?

An Experiment

A few years after the Masters Circle experience, Peggy and I decided to sell our home and eventually move to Utah.

It was a 10,000-square-foot house priced around \$1.8 million in a market with relatively few potential buyers. Local professionals told us it could take six months to a year to sell.

So we tried the exercise again.

We wrote another one-page statement.

We described the kind of family we imagined enjoying the house. We described preparing it for sale and working with the right real-estate professional.

And we wrote something remarkably similar to our earlier statement:

“If these events take a different course, we accept and embrace that as part of the real plan.”

We also wrote:

“We do not know how or when things will happen, and that is not important.”

We received an offer in twenty-one days.

Did our statement cause the house to sell?

I don't know.

Maybe becoming clear about an outcome changes our behavior.

Maybe expectation influences what we notice.

Maybe releasing our attachment changes how we interact with people and opportunities.

Maybe consciousness works in ways we don't yet understand.

Maybe several things are happening simultaneously.

I've become increasingly comfortable saying:

I don't know.

Life Was Still Life

If this were a story about discovering a secret formula for life, everything would have become easy from there.

It didn't.

Businesses failed.

Family challenges continued.

Peggy experienced health problems.

Some important relationships disappointed us.

We struggled at times financially.

We invested money with an organization that turned out to be a scam and lost a significant amount.

And although I discovered that I loved coaching and teaching, I've never found client acquisition particularly easy.

All the books, programs, teachers, coaching, and personal-development work did not make me immune from life.

That realization became important.

Perhaps awareness isn't about reaching a place where nothing difficult happens anymore.

Perhaps it's about changing how we participate with whatever does happen.

Finding My Own Voice

Eventually I began creating my own work.

I had spent years learning from other people. I had coached individuals and corporate groups. I had experienced successes, failures, relationships, transitions, financial highs and lows, and events I couldn't neatly explain.

Gradually, the question changed from:

What does this teacher believe?

to:

What have I actually learned?

Quantum Results grew from that question.

Not as a single grand theory.

More as an ongoing exploration.

Over time, several recurring questions began taking form.

What happens when the life we knew changes and we need to find our footing again?

How does the level of awareness from which we're experiencing life affect what we see and how we respond?

What unseen patterns might be influencing our choices without our realizing it?

And how do we practice awareness—not for a weekend seminar or while reading a book, but in ordinary life?

Those questions eventually became the work you see throughout Quantum Results.

Forward Reset grew from my experiences with transition and from helping others navigate their own.

The Four Levels Experience grew from exploring different ways we can experience and participate with life—from feeling that life happens *to* us, to taking responsibility for creating change, to becoming more willing to participate with something we may not completely understand.

Pattern Reveal grew from recognizing that the patterns easiest for us to see are often somebody else's. Our own can remain remarkably well hidden.

And **Quantum Edge** grew from my desire for an ongoing place to explore all of this with other people.

Not an audience listening to someone who has figured life out.

A community exploring together.

Including me.

Standing at the Edge

Recently, I've found myself using a phrase that seems to capture much of what I've been exploring for years.

The Edge.

For me, the Edge is the boundary between what I can reasonably know and what I cannot.

I know what Peggy and I wrote before that unexpected check arrived.

I know the check arrived.

I don't know why.

I know what we wrote before selling our house.

I know what happened afterward.

I don't know precisely what relationship, if any, existed between those things.

Years ago, I might have filled that space with certainty.

Today, I prefer curiosity.

I can examine the facts.

I can consider possible explanations.

I can learn what psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, spirituality, and my own experience might contribute.

And eventually I may reach a point where the most accurate answer I can give is:

That's above my pay grade.

Interestingly, I'm finding that answer increasingly liberating.

Because perhaps we aren't meant to eliminate the unknown.

Perhaps we're standing at the Edge all the time.

We can learn from yesterday.

We can become more aware of our patterns.

We can decide what we want.

We can set intentions.

We can make choices and take action.

We can participate fully with life.

But we don't actually know what happens next.

I understand my life differently today than I did ten years ago, and dramatically differently than I did forty years ago.

I hope I'll understand it differently ten years from now.

There is no finish line in that.

My own writing describes awareness not as a destination, but as a way of being.

I'm still learning.

Still noticing patterns.

Still navigating transitions.

Still making choices.

Still questioning some of my own assumptions.

Still experiencing things I can't completely explain.

And still standing at the Edge.

Quantum Results is what has emerged from that continuing exploration.

If something I've learned helps you see your own life a little differently, recognize a pattern you hadn't noticed, navigate a transition, or become curious about what might be possible for you, then perhaps our journeys have something to offer one another.