

## Dream Big

12 ways to be a 21st Century Visionary

By Marcia Wieder

Over 20 years ago, when I began to write and speak about achieving our dreams, I had a big vision. It was (and still is) to change the way we think and speak about our dreams. Instead of it being a nice idea that you might (someday) explore, a dream is something that matters to you and that you fully intend to achieve.

As expected, life brought the unexpected and with it many challenges. We could justifiably look at the economy, the lack of health care, war, education and many other areas and declare that this is no time to dream. Many would say it's a time to focus more on what is, than on our dreams.

And yet, without our dreams, and this new definition of dreams, nothing changes. Since living in unusual times requires that we think, act and are different, here is my call to action.

I invite you step up and out as a 21st Century Visionary. A visionary has a big dream, shares it, and inspires others to join them. Here are additional qualities for you to consider.

You are a 21st Century Visionary if:

1. You are comfortable with uncertainty, the place where true creation occurs. You know we were created to create and you allow the time and space for this to occur.

2. You have extraordinary faith. You are able to act on what's important to you even without assurance and guarantees. You can walk on faith without knowing the strategy or even clear next steps.

3. You know that the secret to enlightenment is to relax. As we relax, our ego (with its agenda, fears



and doubts) can slip away and we are left with our essential self, essence or soul.

4. You practice getting empty, so you can hear the voice of the Divine and/or feel this presence. You often create ritual and sacred space as a way to invite this in.

5. You can consciously drop into a deeper place of wisdom, knowing and truth; you can ideate/dream and speak from this place.

6. You are aware that miracles happen in their own time and you are able to wait rather than asserting your will or effort too soon. You trust the process enough to let it unfold.

7. You are receptive and know that "give and take" is not the same as "give and receive" and that giving and receiving need to be done in balance. You practice restraint, allowing space for the space where true creation and original thought happen.

8. You do not live primarily as a problem solver, but more as a creative force. You are aware that it is more powerful to move toward what you want than away from what you don't want, yet you know that both creation and destruction serve.

9. You have a conscious relationship with the silent witness; the part that can see many points of view, all sides

and new perspectives. You are a big dreamer with great imagination and a willingness to traverse new terrain.

10. You are collaborative rather than hierarchical. You have the courage, clarity and commitment to share dreams and ideas, empowering others to take ownership.

11. You are crucial to the Dream Movement's ultimate dream, which is to make the world a better place. You know that with one single highly intentional step, the world can and has changed.

12. You have tremendous integrity. Beyond keeping your agreements with yourself and others, you answer to a higher Source. You have a purpose, mission, vision, calling and dreams in many areas of life.

Here is my commitment to being a 21st Century Visionary. My purpose is to believe. My mission is to help others believe in themselves and their dreams. My vision is to lead a Dream Movement in order to make the world a better place. My calling is to help us remember who we are and why we're here.

What's your purpose, mission, vision and calling? How are you living as a 21st Century Visionary? What qualities or values would you add to this list? •