



Synchronicity at Work!

When I entered the breakfast room in the morning the sweet aroma of fresh coffee greeted me. While I hadn't drunk coffee for at least ten years, I always enjoyed the smell of it. Somehow its aroma alone seemed to heighten the senses and instigate all kinds of interesting discussions. Mario was already waiting for me and smiled when I approached his table. His greeting was enthusiastic, as always. We got some food from the breakfast buffet and sat down.

"You would not believe what happened last night when I walked into my room," I said, excited, and told Mario about the e-mail I had received regarding the Peruvian hotel chain.

"Too cool! That is real synchronicity at work," he almost shouted when I finished my story. "See? I told you, you have to solve this mystery!"

"That is *what* at work?" I questioned.

"Synchronicity."

"Explain synchronicity to me. I am not familiar with the term."

"Did you never read *The Celestine Prophecy*?" Mario asked.

"No. Is that some ancient Inca manuscript or something?"

"No, it's a book!" Mario said with an expression of disbelief on his face. "That book made the concept of 'synchronicity' known among the broad public. I can't believe you haven't read it."

I started to feel old and out of touch.

"The term 'synchronicity' was captured by Carl Jung, a Swiss psychologist and philosopher," Mario continued. "Synchronicities are meaningful coincidences that help us progress on a certain path in life."

It is like what just happened with your e-mail for the Peruvian hotel development: You are dealing with this mystery which requires your presence in Ayacucho, and then suddenly you get this e-mail providing you with a reason to go. It's fabulously divine!" Mario cheered. "The universe wants you there! Now you just need to make sure you will be there on the right date!"

"I'm still not sure I understand," I said. "Certainly, the e-mail was a mysterious coincidence, but coincidences happen to everyone all the time."

"Of course," Mario responded, "but the point is they are not really random coincidences. They are meaningful coincidences, events or people that cross your path to direct your life, provide you with new insights or teach you a lesson. You are attracting those coincidences!"

"I *attracted* this e-mail?"

"Exactly! During our conversation on the plane you explained that we should not question the Divine plan. We should have faith and learn from the reality that presents itself to us. Well, synchronicity fits right into that. We all have a purpose in life. We are here for a reason. When our actions are in alignment with our purpose, we attract meaningful coincidences that help us along on our path. It is like the entire universe collaborates with us to make us succeed. As long as we are in sync with our purpose, we attract our own luck!"

I took a moment to consider different synchronistic events that had taken place in my life. I remembered when my wife and I wanted to move from Belgium to Canada. We had tried to play things safe and find a job and a house before moving with our three children. We had to feed them, after all! Yet it simply was not working and it seemed our North American dream would stay just that: A dream!

But neither of us were prepared to give up that easily, and so we decided to be bold and go anyway. Essentially we burned our bridges in our home country and moved to Canada with no security at all. I resigned from my company in Brussels, after which we sold our house, shipped our furniture and bought one-way plane tickets for the entire family. Once we had made that ultimate commitment,

Synchronicity at Work!

everything suddenly fell into place. Miraculously within a week I got a job with a company that reimbursed all my moving expenses and we found our dream house in the foothills near Calgary.

I also thought back to the only time that I had taken a job out of greed. It was a job with great responsibilities and tremendously good pay, but from the start I knew my learning would be limited since the function did not stretch my skills. On top of that, I was well aware that the required time commitment was going to keep me away from my family and would therefore conflict with my personal priorities. Well, during that year, nothing seemed to go right. When I finally decided to quit and follow my heart and dream again—even when it made no economic sense at all—everything fell into place. I started my own consulting business and had my first big consulting contract within the first three months. Ultimately this led to an executive position with a global company that allowed me to explore Latin America. Actually, I would not have been on this trip if I had not decided to follow my dreams in the first place! So synchronicity was certainly making sense to me. From now on, I was going to pay more attention to where my heart was leading me, and observe the meaningful coincidences on my path.

“I have observed such coincidences in the past,” I replied to Mario, “but never did I consider that I was attracting them! Though looking back at my life with this perspective, it all makes sense. I have done some crazy things from a security and financial point of view. Each time before I do such stuff, I am afraid and try to build a safety net. That usually doesn’t get me anywhere. It only distracts my attention from what my heart tells me to do. Once I finally make the decision to jump off the cliff into the darkness, things always work out and everything falls into place.”

“That is synchronicity at work!” Mario said. “My grandmother told me that when you follow your heart and your dreams you enter a state of flow. Your focus attracts that which you need to succeed. Being in flow allows you to be more open and see opportunities you did not expect and which can help you reach your goals.”

“Flow? You mean like what we call in sports, entering ‘the zone?’”

“Exactly! All people go into flow with certain activities in their life like sports, music, acting, computer programming, constructing, dancing and so on. My grandmother taught me that once you become aware of your purpose in life and start to align your activities with it, your entire life can enter into flow or ‘the zone,’ and synchronicity is ever-present. I am so glad I met you yesterday and that you coached me through my fear. I spent the summer holidays in Buenos Aires and somehow, while there, lost my purpose and state of flow. I became afraid of losing things—like my life—and anxious to acquire things. And due to that newly-acquired fear I forgot to enjoy the beauty of life altogether! You got me back on track yesterday. The purpose of meeting you, at least for me, was to return to the path, on which my Incan grandmother has been leading me for years.

“She taught me—but I forgot—that whenever flow is *not* present, you should examine *yourself*, determine how you are blocking the universe from helping you and execute changes in your life that allow you to enter a state of flow again. I would think everyone finds it more attractive when they are in flow and the universe works with them instead of against them. What prevents people most commonly from following their dreams and attracting synchronistic events, though, is fear, just like what I was experiencing over the last few months. When fear kicks in people lose their focus and synchronistic events come to a halt.”

“I guess in a certain way I have always sensed the existence of synchronicity,” I responded, “but I was never quite sure how it all worked. I knew my fears were my biggest obstacles to success, growth and learning, but I had never linked them to following my dreams and living from my heart. When I am back home I am going to read more about Carl Jung. I find this synchronicity phenomenon very interesting!”

Synchronicity at Work!

It was time for me to go and pack my bags. I had to catch a flight back to Buenos Aires. So I said goodbye to Mario and promised to stay in touch.

“Don’t forget to let me know what the answer is!” Mario shouted as I walked out of the breakfast room.

I stopped and turned around. “The answer to what?”

“To the question, ‘Are human beings being human?!’ I want to know where this mystery will lead you,” he explained. Then he laughed.

I smiled back and went to pack my bags. The general manager had arranged a taxi to the airport. I said goodbye to the hotel staff and left.

