**The Search for Passion & Meaning**

I have been blessed with the opportunity, over 24 years, to work and succeed in 2 amazing companies. Yet about 7 years ago, in a discussion with an acquaintance, I was surprised to realize that my passion and excitement at describing what I did, were no longer the same. What could be going on? Was I too busy working and traveling, to realize some changes that were happening inside me?

**The backdrop:**

After all, my career had enabled me to learn and grow, climb the Corporate ladder, travel and relocate to beautiful countries, and make a comfortable living & lifelong friends in the process. Not only that, but it also enabled me to nurture some of my key values, like Performance, Achievement, and Connection, the latter through the relationships I built, as well as on-going collaboration that is at the heart of how successful big companies operate.

Of course not everything was smooth and easy, and there were big challenges and some very difficult periods. But each one of those brought with it a wealth of learning and opportunity, to take my growth to the next level.

**A period of interrogation:**

What could be wrong with that? Where did my passion & unstoppable drive go? This was the beginning of a period of interrogation and doubt: « is this all what it is about », « is this what I would like to do through the end of my career», “what is the meaning of it all”? The answers were coming more from my gut, rather than my mind, an uncomfortable situation for a very logic-based individual. Yes I wanted something different, perhaps more meaningful, but it took time, perseverance, and Coaching, to help me define what this was.

**The journey to the solution:**

Through the bulk of my career, my biggest strength was my ability to inspire and grow people, and build high performing teams. Over time, I also came to realize that this was by far, what I enjoyed and found most rewarding on the job. Was that the answer to my questions? Would focusing on this in my Corporate Career be enough to carry me through its second half? My gut continued to be skeptical.

This is the point at which a dear friend introduced me to Coaching, and offered me some insightful practice sessions, which led me to the path of pursuing a Coaching curriculum myself. What an incredible growth experience this was, and continues to be! Not the least because a lot of the learning happens by working on yourself. This is how I learned that while some of my values were being honored in my career, some others, like Harmony, Caring, as well as Personal Development, were much less so. But it is the definition of my Life Mission: « I am a Buddha who inspires others to find their internal light », that helped drive final clarity on my questioning. Honoring this is what would give meaning to the 2nd part of my career, and this indeed does call for radical changes in career choices.

But how do you abandon a successful career, a very comfortable lifestyle, and the lifetime financial security that comes with it? Oh, and, did I mention that Security is another of my key values, which doesn’t make this any easier?… That was the beginning of a gradual process of defining an end point, grabbing opportunities with that end in mind, doing some financial planning, and trusting myself and the universe to help me progress gradually, but surely to that end point.

Earlier on this year, I have left my Corporate career, not without some sadness at the company, people, and stimulation that I was leaving behind. But the excitement, sense of purpose, & joy of setting up my own business as an independent Consultant, Coach, and Speaker, focused on « Inspiring Women to Thrive » has been guiding my every step through the past months, leading me down to writing this first article in preparation for the launch of my business.

**So What?**

Some of us, despite doing well in whatever career or other life choices we have made, may experience questioning and doubt. It may start diffuse and un-specific. If this happens to you, take time to understand what is driving this, seek Coaching help if needed, and make sure you connect to the wisdom both in your gut and your mind to define both the issue, as well as inspiring possible solutions. This in the end, may either comfort you that the choices you have made continue to be the right ones, thereby enhancing your joy & satisfaction, or open up the road to inspiring alternatives that play up to your passion, give more meaning, and step-up your degree of fulfillment.

*“To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life.”*

*―* [*Robert Louis Stevenson*](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/854076.Robert_Louis_Stevenson)