

## Tapping Into True Imagination



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*True imagination is not fanciful daydreaming; it is fire from heaven.*

— ERNEST HOLMES

This time of backlash and conflict in the United States penetrates deeply into every community and creates challenges for everyone. Our grounding in spiritual truths helps us weather uncertainty and oppression, offering hope in dark times. But these truths can also seem unrealistic or even dangerous in polarized times. Now is the time for leaders to spark creative solutions and open up the way of light.

Connecting with “true imagination” means connecting with the divine stories we live from our core as leaders. Why stories? Because the human imagination spins stories as the substance of our transforming selves and, therefore, the transforming world. These same stories, translated in our actions and plans, form the matrix that allows us to communicate our vision of community and the solutions that will bring us into alignment with the highest good.

Great leaders build a bridge to the limitless world of the imagination, modeling its expansive wisdom as a gift for all people. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. shared his dream despite violence and repression, waking the conscience of a nation. But mobilizing the imagination can happen on a small scale as well, beginning with one creative leader at a time.

The only real barrier to the imagination’s deep conversation with God is our own fear and doubt. Strong leadership harnesses the stories from the vast dream of the Divine to break free of that narrow and anxious perspective. The mythic world of the imagination gives us vision and empowers us on every level. With discernment, we can navigate the sometimes overwhelming images and lessons there, living that wisdom when we walk through the world.

The first step to mastery is to build a meditation practice that liberates the true imagination. You might begin with something like traditional Zen breath work, teaching the body and mind to become calm and open. You can progress to exercises that open the heart and spirit to a kind of shamanic journey, using every creative tool at hand, including art, writing, active imagination and prayer.

Which creative tool best supports your journey to visionary leadership? Imagine the delight in store when you open the door to experience “the fire from heaven.” ✿