



## PROFOUND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY INTRODUCTION

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### Introduction

This article is an introduction to the topic of profound personal responsibility. This introductory article precedes another five articles that provide a thorough understanding of the practice of personal responsibility. The content of these five articles is outlined later in this text.

### What Is Profound Responsibility?

Profound responsibility is an *attitude toward life*—a *stance* regarding what it means to be human. Profound responsibility is the recognition, acceptance, and use of the extraordinary *agency*—the ability to learn, think, decide, and act—that we've been granted as human beings. This stance rejects the notion that we're powerless or victims, and asserts that we have the ability to be the primary causal force in our lives.

Those whose personal foundation is formed by religious belief tend to see free will and responsibility as gifts from God. Those who have a secular view of life tend to see responsibility in more practical terms: individual conscience, social obligation, and individual fulfillment. In either case, profound personal responsibility is that element of human consciousness and capability that sets us apart from the rest of the plant and animal world.

Human consciousness and awareness give us a level of *agency* that can lift us out of fate. We can take control of our lives. We are not trapped by circumstances. We can imagine and envision. We can play and create in the world of possibility. If we look around us today, most of what we see that's central to our lives is man-created—conceived as possible and then made real. Ninety-nine percent of our man-created environment happened in the last 100 years. This means our capacity—*our agency as humans*—is dramatically increasing, and today, ordinary people are involved in creating what was unimaginable only 150 years ago.

### Definition Of Profound Responsibility

Profound personal responsibility begins with recognition and acceptance: If I am born human, I am born to freedom and choice, and therefore responsibility. *Profound responsibility* is a deep and abiding understanding that personal responsibility is a fact, not a notion. It is the recognition that I am the primary causal agent in my own life, and that the willing assumption of responsibility is the primary source of my personal power. Perhaps more than anything, it's the recognition that deep satisfaction and fulfillment come only with the practice of responsibility.

### Business Leadership And Profound Personal Responsibility

If business leaders could bottle and dispense one human trait to their people, the attitude of personal responsibility would be high on the list. It is common to hear executives lament how difficult it is to build a culture of accountability. Most CEOs would give anything to have a group of people who *willingly embrace* commitment, measurement, and reward and consequences

based on performance; have an ownership mindset; and play to win. Without an attitude of responsibility people play it safe, hedge their bets, do not feel powerful, avoid exposure, easily feel victimized, engage in blaming, and in many other ways seek to shrug off the burden of accountability. It's fair to say, the vitality of the enterprise is dependent on the number of people who willingly assume responsibility, as well as the depth to which they do so.

### **An Overview Of Articles To Follow**

What follows is an outline of the five articles that address various aspects of profound personal responsibility.

#### **Profound Responsibility—Part 1: Born To Responsibility**

The first article explores what it means to be born human—to have *inherent responsibility* by birth.

1. Instinct And Responsibility
2. Inherent Responsibility
3. Responsibility As Self-Control And Self-Management
4. Responsibility As Accountability
5. Responsibility And Freedom
6. Respect For Self And Respect From Others
7. Responsibility As A Social Obligation To Reciprocate And Contribute
8. The Role Of Conscience, Shame, And Guilt
9. Responsibility As Duty
10. The Leadership Challenge: Building A Culture Of Responsibility

#### **Profound Responsibility—Part 2: Awakening To Responsibility**

This article covers the experience of awakening to the fact of personal responsibility.

1. Born And The Video Recorder Is Running
2. Awake And Conscious Or Sleepwalking Through Life
3. Six Ways To Be Asleep:
  - a. Asleep Inside My Scripts And Programming
  - b. Habit, Routines, And Ruts
  - c. Asleep In My Genetic Predispositions
  - d. Have To And Made To: Life In A Corral
  - e. Life As A Burden
  - f. Bored And Seeking Stimulation
  - g. Seeking Satisfaction Through Consumption
4. Meta-Awareness: I Am Not My Scripts And Programs
5. Awakening: A Stunning, Shocking Realization
6. A Free Chooser Living In An Unlimited Field Of Choice
7. Fate Versus Possibility
8. Opening The Door To Imagination And Possibility
9. The Primary Source Of Personal Satisfaction
10. The Leadership Challenge: Building A Business Of Awake And Engaged People

### **Profound Responsibility—Part 3: Self-Responsibility And Dependency**

This article addresses the dignity that comes with responsibility and the side effects of avoiding responsibility.

1. Learned Helplessness
2. Dependency Is For The Truly Dependent
3. Dependency Destroys The Human Spirit
4. Dependency And Self-Respect
5. Social Policy: The Destructive Side Of Compassion
6. Resolving Cognitive And Emotional Dissonance
7. Recovering Our Birthright: Dignity Through Freedom And Responsibility
8. Business And Dependency: Corporate Socialism
9. The Leadership Challenge: Engendering Responsibility And Dignity

### **Profound Responsibility—Part 4: Responsibility And Personal Power**

This article is a discussion of the role of responsibility in empowering us in our lives.

1. Childhood Learning: The Burden Of Responsibility
2. The Doorway To Personal Freedom
3. From Awake To Effective
4. Circumstances Or Agency
5. The Primary Causal Force In My Life
6. Fate Or Possibility?
7. Envisioning Life: Seeing My Own Possibilities
8. The Leadership Challenge: Real Empowerment Of People

### **Profound Responsibility—Part 5: Harnessing Intention**

Finally, and most important, this article covers how we harness the power of personal responsibility, living a life that is focused on purpose and results.

1. The No B.S. Model Of How Life Really Works: Reasons Or Results?
2. Purpose And Intention
3. Results: From Intention Or Mechanism?
4. Developing Full Intention
5. A Life Of Results, Not Reasons
6. The Leadership Challenge: Creating And Harnessing Intention

### **Final Note**

All of these articles, and more on other subjects, either are or soon will be available for free download at [www.cruxpoint.com](http://www.cruxpoint.com).