

No Such Thing as Random or Bazaar

What a story. Bob was raised and survived his teen years in an extremely conservative religious family in rural farming America in the 1970's. Bob was most influenced by the work ethic of his family and the close community in which he lived. As is true for many teens, he rebelled against it all.

Over 40 years later, as a PhD marriage and family counselor, successful corporate franchise executive, pastor, and owner of multiple businesses, Bob asked me to coach him on his strengths. I simply said, hesitantly and reluctantly, "OK, but only if you promise to coach me afterwards." We both laughed. We've been friends for decades.

Bob's top talents are Learner, Connectedness, Strategic, Achiever and Communication. There isn't anything that Bob does that isn't informed. Once Bob gains new and corroborated information, he's compelled to apply and advocate its truth. When Bob learned the truth about the growing Muslim extremist nations and about some of their destructive practices, he leapt into action. He now takes multiple trips annually to Muslim dominated countries to do his part. When he learned that families were crumbling across America, he embarked on a PhD counseling program. The list goes on.

In our first coaching session, I asked Bob how he felt about his strengths. Stoically, as usual, he said, "That's me." I asked, "Are any of the five especially intriguing to you?" He said, "Connectedness. It is somewhat of a foundation to the others. I have this particular religious inclination that says, 'It all makes sense and has a reason. There is no such thing as random or bazaar.'"

After some deeper conversation, I asked Bob, "Given your vast knowledge of various personality tools and placement mechanisms, how do you think your strengths should be aimed?" He said, "Most of what I do is in direct contact with people, yet I am mostly a strategic and executing guy [he read the book], I think that I'll focus [Strategic] on learning how I can help people in my counseling center. I'll use my Communication strength to find the right words to get them to achieve success and hopefully connect them to the big picture."

I said, "Okay Bob – now your turn to coach me."

Thomas J. Trageser
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