

Shush! Forgive and Forget!

And

Shush! It's your ego talking!

I was born into a Franciscan family. My dad's two brothers, my uncles, were Franciscan priests. My mom and dad were members of the Third Order of St. Francis. The First Order being priests and the Second Order were nuns following in the footsteps of St. Clair. Prejudice and judgement of others were a big no no. It is one of the greatest gifts given to me by Him through the vessels of my parents.

It served me well. Being a natural born leader courtesy of my genetic makeup, passed down to me by my father, at first subconsciously then consciously, I chose to view leadership as a means to serve others. Perhaps this is how I was able to lead four different companies, turning them around not by cutting cost in the form of layoffs but by increasing revenue through increased sales. I spent over half my time out of the office and traveling with salespeople, helping them to be better people and therefor better sales folk. When I traveled with them as we were pulling into the parking lot of a customer, I would remind them the most important thing they could do was listen.

Then I would tell them to remember, "You, not me". You being the customer.

I don't know exactly when I started using the chant which is the title of this article daily. Before that I prayed daily for the people who did me wrong in the business or organization world using the Our Father and the part that says, 'as we forgive those who trespass against us' adding 'a thousand times a thousand times over'. Forgiveness is constant and one must practice it every day.

All of us experienced situations in life where we were treated badly by associates, we worked with whether it was inside a business or an organization. More often than not our own nuclear families do it to us.

So when thoughts of self-pity, or in some cases vengeance and other types of demons like anxiety and despair I chant to myself...

"Sh! Forgive and forget.! Here I am Lord, I come to do your will."

And when ego starts to seep in attempting to replace God's will I chant...

"Sh! Ego! Here I am Lord, I come to do your will."

Must admit I do these chants dozens of times a day. That's because when I feel those aforementioned demons even beginning to attack, in the first second or two, I do those chants.

Forgiveness takes constant practice. One must never ever stop forgiving and forgetting.

'Tis God's will!

Clement