

Chapter 1

Reflector Vector – Deconstructing the “Law of Attraction”

par ♦ a ♦ digm - noun

a philosophical and theoretical framework of a scientific school or discipline within which theories, laws and generalizations and the experiments performed in support of them are formulated (1)

Paradigms are used to provide a reference framework from which to understand our Universe and then, hopefully, to successfully predict which outcomes will follow any given course of action or circumstance. Thomas Kuhn, author of The Structure of Scientific Revolutions states, “Paradigms gain their status because they are more successful than their competitors in solving a few problems that the group of practitioners has come to recognize as acute.” (2) He continues, “Because it demands large-scale paradigm destruction and major shifts in the problems and techniques of normal science, the emergence of new theories is generally preceded by a period of pronounced professional insecurity.” (3) “During the transition period there will be a large but never complete overlap between the problems that can be solved by the old and by the new paradigm. But, there will also be a decisive difference in the modes of solution.” (4)

For illustrative purposes, let’s consider the field of astronomy. The Ptolemaic system was considered the law of the land for nearly seventeen centuries; from two centuries before Christ until the early 1600s. Many civilizations, including ancient Greece, relied on this geocentric model which had at its core a belief that the earth was the stationary center of our solar system and all of the other celestial bodies, including the sun, revolved around it. Critical to its long duration was its considerable success in predicting the changing positions of both the planets and the stars.

During the late 1500s and early 1600s, the Copernican system came to light. Copernicus felt that the sun was the center of the solar system and the earth, along with the rest of the planets, revolved around it. And while, thanks to the efforts of Galileo, the Copernican system eventually replaced the Ptolemaic system, “for the stars, Ptolemaic astronomy is still widely used

today as an engineering approximation; for the planets, Ptolemy's predictions were as good as Copernicus'." (5) For his efforts, Copernicus' book was initially ignored and later banned. Galileo, for his part in bringing the work of Copernicus to the masses, was condemned to hell.

*First they ignore you. Then they ridicule you.
And then they attack you and want to burn you.
And then they build monuments to you.*

Nicholas Klein (6)

This brings us to our discussion today concerning the Law of Attraction. In my humble opinion, the classic works of Ralph Waldo Trine [In Tune With The Infinite] (7), Wallace Wattles [The Science of Getting Rich] (8), Charles Haanel [The Master Key System] (9), Napoleon Hill [Think And Grow Rich] (10), Rhonda Byrne [The Secret] (11) and even myself [iContractor 1] (12) are **all** slightly off-base, missing the final obvious, yet subtle, conclusion that there is no such thing as the Law of Attraction! None whatsoever!

Nowhere in the natural world does "like attract like." Even a cursory review of any college-level physics textbook will reveal this. The forces that magnets exert upon one another are such that **like poles repel** one another and opposite poles attract one another. Like and opposite electric charges can be seen to behave similarly. Even in chemistry and physiology, solutes in solution diffuse from high concentrations to low concentrations (opposites moving toward each other) until equilibrium is reached (likes, side by side) at which point **nothing** further occurs. As such, the Law of "Attraction" is really a misnomer since like does not attract like.

Another point of conflict contained within the Law of Attraction comes from its underlying implication that anyone is lacking in any way, thus necessitating the power to "attract" anything in the first place. In the Bible, Luke 17:21 states, "the kingdom of God is within you." (13) Psalm 23 states, "I shalt not want... my cup runneth over." (14) Clearly, if "the kingdom of God is within you" AND you "shalt not want" because your "cup runneth over" then there is incongruency here because you cannot be lacking in any way. Similarly, in the sacred Hindu text, The Bhagavad-Gita, Lord Krishna states, "the lord resides in the heart of all creatures." (15) Sanjaya then summarizes, also in The Bhagavad-Gita, "Where Krishna is... there do fortune, victory, abundance ... exist." (16) And, according to

Tibetan Buddhist precepts, “The secret wisdom of the Dzogchen teaches us that whatever we are looking for, it is always right here... what we seek, we already are.” (17)

In spite of its seemingly miraculous ability to help some people to improve their station in life, the Law of Attraction is based upon principles that defy the known laws of physics, chemistry and physiology AND that deny the word of God (and numerous other spiritual teachers and teachings, including sacred Hindu texts and Tibetan Buddhist precepts); based on these two flawed assumptions: like attracts like and you are lacking in some way. And, for all the success stories, there are millions more who *believe* in the Law of Attraction, struggle to attract their desires and still come up empty-handed. Why? The Law of Attraction cannot possibly be an accurate depiction of reality!

That which has always been accepted by everyone, everywhere, is almost certain to be false.

Paul Valéry (18)

There may be no such thing as the Law of Attraction BUT perhaps there is a Law of *Reflection*. Maybe it is not about what you are “attracting” to you. Instead, what if it is all about what you are putting out there that ultimately gets “reflected” back to you? Like may not attract like but like DOES reflect like! Imagine shining a flashlight at a mirror in a darkened room. The light you shine gets reflected back to you. Think of a smile. If you go out into the world trying to “attract” a smile, all the while frowning, you won’t likely attract another smile. In fact, you will probably frighten people. However, if you go out in public and just smile, genuinely, at others, many will smile back at you, reflecting your smile back to you from multiple directions; the Law of Reflection!

Again, borrowing from iContractor 1, Genesis 1:27 states, “God created man in His own image.” (19) John 8:12 states, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (20) John 10:30 continues, “I and My Father are one.” (21) Separation from God is often described as “being in the dark.” Survivors of near-death experiences all talk about going towards or returning to the light. When people figure out the solution to a long perplexing problem, they often say they have “seen the light.” The truth is, we are all beings of light; light resonating with a dense vibrational form. (22) The problem, however, is that

most of us have forgotten who we really are! Lama Surya Das, the most highly trained American lama in the Tibetan tradition, tells us that, “A beautiful Tibetan prayer wishes that we may all together reach enlightenment that we may all find the Buddha within and awaken to who and what we really are... We are all lit up from within as if from a sacred source.” (23)

There is an old Hawaiian Molokai parable that says we come into this world as bowls of radiant light. As we express negative emotions like anger, fear, jealousy and resentment, we gradually fill our bowls full of rocks until our light is barely visible. Only by carefully choosing your responses to any and every given set of circumstances can you release your negative emotions, dump your rocks and re-experience your light.

Consider this, if we are all spiritual beings of light and whatever we emit is what gets reflected back to us via the Law of Reflection, doesn't it make sense to focus more on who you are being on the inside, what you are emitting, than what you think is missing on the outside that you think you must attract? Contrary to what the Law of Attraction suggests, perhaps we do not send out our thoughts, feeling/emotions and actions as vibrations that go out and *find* “like” things and bring them back to us. Rather, maybe who you are being on the inside shines outward and gets reflected back to you from the mirror of God, on a massive, magnified scale, as the people, events and circumstances of your life through the Law of Reflection.

***The Game of Life is a game of boomerangs.
Man's thoughts, deeds and words return to him,
sooner or later, with astounding accuracy.
Florence Scovel Shinn (24)***

If you find yourself in want it is likely because you have forgotten who you are. I keep coming back to this point because it is imperative that you grasp its significance. We all come from the light. “God created man in His own image.” (25) We are reflections of God. Thus, we too are the light. Sometimes, we surround ourselves with darkness so we can get to know who we really are. After all, a candle in the sunshine is sometimes difficult to perceive. This is how serious illness, calamity and orientation issues can serve to put us in touch with our own true nature: by “forcing” us to grapple with the big questions of life. But, know this too. We all come from abundance. It is who we are. It too is our nature. Again, Psalm 23 says, “I

shalt not want... my cup runneth over.” (26) It is impossible to be lacking in any way unless we ourselves make it so. We have enough already. We are enough already!

You can never out-dark the light. Even the smallest candle is more powerful than the deepest night.

Jacob Nordby (27)

This is why practicing “gratitude in advance” is so powerful. It enables us to embrace the fact that, whatever it is that we want, we **already** have it. And THAT is what gets reflected back to you!

Jim Rohn, “America’s Foremost Business Philosopher” used to say that you become like the five people you spend the most time around. The Law of Reflection brings instant clarity to this. Who we surround ourselves with affects who we reflect and who reflects us. The more negative influences we are reflecting back to others, the less our own light can shine through.

The simple 3-step process, as outlined in iContractor 1 and the previous chapter, is still a great way to get clear on who you are and create the life of your dreams. But don’t get too hung up on what specific ways your dream will manifest. You cannot control where your “reflections” will be shown to you from, nor when. Focus on “WHAT” you want, see it as already accomplished. Feel it! Be it! Emanate it! Give thanks for it! Then let God decide where and when and how it gets reflected back to you. Your attitudes and emotions color and can block your light. You maximize your light by being true to you.

Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Bible (28)

Light travels at a fixed speed, the speed of light. Some of the stars you see in the night sky are no longer in existence, but their light is just now reaching us. Likewise, there are stars whose light has yet to reach us. Don’t get caught up on the speed of light or the speed and direction of its reflection. Know this, you already have everything you need inside of you. The sooner you recognize this, the sooner you will emit it via your thoughts, feelings/emotions and actions. And then, that is what will get reflected back

to you as the people, circumstances and events of your life through the Law of Reflection.