

If you only have a minute: Rooted and Unwavering is all about connecting deeply with ourselves, others, and our service in the world. What happens when we refuse to let fear of consequences hold us back from discovering for ourselves what is true?

Serving by Boldly Speaking Truth

By Esther Groves and Hylke Faber

You're in your 20s, and your country of origin is at war. As you watch the horrifying news from your home in the United States, you are deeply curious about what is true and have a strong desire to uncover what is happening on the ground. What do you do? If you are Lisa Haisha, you plead with your Iraqi father to take you to Baghdad to interview Saddam Hussein. Unfortunately, he refuses.

Lisa was not deterred. She purchased a plane ticket to Jordan and took a bus to her destination: the Al Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad, home of Iraqi dignitaries and international journalists during the war.

With quintessential fearlessness, Lisa approached the hotel concierge each day and requested a meeting with Saddam. She intended to ask: "Why are you doing this? Is it true you have weapons of mass destruction?" The officials told her she was crazy, but she was not dissuaded.

Although she never met Saddam, she boldly approached his close advisors, Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister, and Taha Ramadam, Vice President of Iraq, at a dinner party to ask questions and to request a meeting with Saddam's sons. They told her she would need her father's permission.

After a month in Iraq and armed with a few good stories, Lisa headed home, satisfied that she had embraced her curiosity instead of letting fear hold her back.

Lisa reflects, "You have to be strong in your sense of self, know who you're going to meet, and be able to match their energy and their vibration so they can see eye to eye with you, and if you are matching, there's a complicity there, and there's a safeness that they will feel without knowing why, then you'll be treated differently."

As a life coach, motivational speaker and author of the book *Soul Blazing*, Lisa is on a mission to unleash superpowers in others, guiding them to live with purpose and authenticity. Some of her methods might seem unorthodox.

For example, take her coaching session with Bella, a "lifer" and the Chowchilla Women's Prison bully. Bella stood six foot two and sported a bald head, bulging biceps, and a tattooed serpent coiling around her neck and down her arms. Bella had fought all attempts to help her mend her ways. Lisa welcomed the challenge.

Instead of using the techniques she was taught as a coach: using empathy, understanding, and openness, Lisa realized a conventional approach would not work. Instead, she pulled her chair up, knee to knee with Bella, and gazed into her eyes. When she felt Bella relax a little, Lisa said, "Do you know what your problem is? You have the devil inside you." Bella retorted, "You can't talk to me like that!"

But, Lisa kept talking, matching Bella’s anger and ugliness until suddenly, Bella began to break down. By the end of the conversation, she was crying and said, “Lisa, you blazed my soul.” And Lisa told her, “You just gave me the name of my business, ‘Soul Blazing’.”

Lisa says, “soul-blazing is igniting a fire within you to do something good. Who do you want to be? Once you know who you want to be and what your mission is, ignite it.”

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