

# Supplement to ASI Newsletter

## Winter 2004

### Preface to Wisdom Series

There is wisdom within each of us. It is developed from the knowledge and experience we acquired and combined with the judgment with which we are blessed. It may be unique, or it may be patterned with some resemblance to that within others who have similar backgrounds.

The wisdom within each of us may provide a great inspiration. But, that inspiration may be beyond the power of realization. The extent of the realization is heavily dependent upon the receptivity of others in their willingness and ability to grasp the wisdom.

The capacity (willingness and ability) of others is, in turn, based upon their attitude and intellect. As an illustration of attitude or willingness, consider the following quote:

“A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it.” [Planck as quoted in *The First Moderns* by William R. Everdell.]

As to ability, that is what the intellectual capacity is all about. It is about the mind and reason. But reason may not rule. It may be trumped by emotion. Understanding how this system works is the subject of this series of essays.

My intention is to share with my colleagues some of the wisdom within me. Much of it has emerged from an attempt to get an answer to the question of what others were thinking; a question that repeatedly arose when I saw what I believed to be wisdom-challenged decisions.

The essays are planned to appear as successive inserts to the Advanced Studies newsletter under the following titles:

- Thinking Changes Over Time
- The Mind, Brain and Heart: A Paradigm for Predicting Outcomes
- Visions and Values: Western and Islamic Heritages
- Education: The Notion Potion
- Developing a Strategy to Change Academic Behavior

These essays were developed as an outgrowth of my book in progress, *Improving Decisions: Toward a New Age of Enlightenment*.<sup>\*</sup> They started out as capsules matched to sessions of the 2005 Seminar on Improving Decisions at the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd (ASPEC). Here is the first of the Wisdom Series.<sup>\*\*</sup>

---

<sup>\*</sup> The working draft of the book is available on the ASPEC Center for Scholarly Enterprise (ACSE) website, <http://www.spicequest.com/acse/index/htm>. Click on “Improving Strategic Decisions.”

<sup>\*\*</sup> The Wisdom Series was developed as inserts for the Advanced Studies Institute’s newsletter while being part of a larger series oriented towards a strategy to deal with terrorism. That larger series, for the seminar, contains two preceding essays. They are as follows: *The Longest War* and *Winning Peace*. They are also on the ACSE website.