

## Vision

*Why should anyone have a vision at all?*

*What would happen if I don't have one?*

*Why not people live simple contented free-floating lives?*

*Why can't my story start with ' Once upon a time ' and end with 'They lived happily ever after'.*

The answer to all these questions is exactly what a ' Vision ' is made up of. In this case a picture of Cool. Calm. Contended. Comfortable. Easy. Living free. All in gay abandon.

Likewise, whoever said that a Vision should not express grandeur, valour, beauty and honour?

Of amazing conquest of endless space or search for the smallest indivisible particle or reach out to the deepest corners of our mind or find answers to questions never dared to be asked before.

A vision thus is picture of what one would like have or would want to be. A destination. A descriptor, in every which way possible, of how the future would look like, sketched on a plain sheet of paper. Very often with no connect to current constraints or standing on deep states of emptiness with nothing really to hold on to. Visions thus are pictures of the future embedded deep in the limbic system of the human brain. Initially existing as drives and imageries, showing up thereafter in understandable language.

For example, on 8th August 1942 'Quit India' was a grandiose visionary statement to make, at a time steeped in hopelessness and deep despair. To visualise that the world's most powerful and invincible coloniser would give up, one of its 53 countries; 'India' the dearest and most precious 'Jewel in the crown of the British Empire'. Yet the vision unfolded little by little in the following 5 years. A simple calf path to begin with, led one to another, till the inexplicable ultimately happened. Whoever thought that the violence of non-violence would silence guns to point of total surrender followed by complete retreat.

On May 25, 1961, President Kennedy stood before Congress to deliver a special message on " **urgent national needs**" stating:

*" This nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before the decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth".*

At the time of this statement in 1961 there was more than enough scientific and technological evidence that this could not be done. It was just impossible. Yet on July 20th 1969 Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, supported by a host of scholars,

researchers and scientists just did that. The web of impossibility untangled once again.

Whether it was the fall of the Berlin Wall or the breakdown of the erstwhile Soviet Union or abolishing apartheid, it all started with a carefully designed visualised future of a world to be. Powerful and passionate enough to make the extraordinary happen.

Alice in Wonderland came to a cross road in her life and asked Cheshire Cat, who was sitting on a tree,

“What road do I take?”

The cat asked, “Where do you want to go?”

“I don’t know,” Alice answered.

“Then,” said the cat, “it really doesn’t matter, does it?”

Vision thus is which way do you want to go. How does the picture of your future look like. By when do you want to get there. Then finally make it happen.