



March 2011 – Who Would Have Thought

Lahore, Pakistan had snow this winter for the first time in the memories of two generations.

My Uncle moved from London, England back to Canada after 53 years of living and working in London, more than three-quarters of his life.

Who would have thought that protests by the people would lead to the fall of dictators in Tunisia, Egypt and potentially Libya?

Ben Ali seized the presidency of Tunisia in 1987 in a bloodless coup. After decades of the general population living in difficulty and the government enjoying the fruits of strong economic growth, Ben Ali has fled the country due to public uprisings.

Mubarak assumed the presidency of Egypt after Sadat's assassination, only winning one multiparty election amid rumours of vote-rigging and he spent 30 years ruling under a state of emergency law. Now he is in seclusion at the resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

Muammar Gaddafi clings to power after over 40 years of repressive rule and military forces loyal to him attempt to take back areas seized by rebels/ protestors/ revolutionaries. We will have to see how this unfolds, yet amazingly the last 3 weeks may topple a 40 year reign – how's that for fast-paced?

The success of these rebellions is based on enough people acting against the government despite their fear. The number of people involved increases as the appearance of success increases – a bit of a circular process with hope fuelling protests. People hope that the risk is worth it; their desire for freedom overshadows their fear.

Who would have thought that these changes would ever take place?

For many of us the choice for change is not life or death as it has been for the protestors. It is merely overcoming ourselves in many cases, not toppling a dictator. So what change in your life would be unimaginable right now? What if your life depended on making that change? Who could you enlist to support you in that change to increase your chance of success? How fast do you want to implement improvement in your life despite the years contrary?

In the Arab World hope is motivating people to risk their lives against the status quo:

What less-daunting risk could you take today to live your potential?

Live your potential

Anne Taylor
Certified Professional Co-Active Coach
DIRECTIONS – Coaching for Results
www.taynac.com/directions
coachanne@taynac.com

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