



## Freeing Wisdom



Can you trust the wisdom in the room?

“Nasrudin, a wise yet sometimes foolish man, was invited by village elders to speak in their village mosque for three consecutive weeks. Nasrudin, who knew he had many wise ideas in his head, had foolishly neglected to prepare a sermon. That first morning, he stood at the door of the mosque, puffed out his chest and decided to wing it. He turned to the people and asked, ‘My beloved, who amongst you knows that of which I speak?’ and the people looked down and said, ‘We are poor simple people. We do not know that of which you speak.’ He then threw his robe across one shoulder and pronounced, ‘Well, then there is no need of me here’ and marched right out the door.



The people were curious and the next week when Nasrudin was to speak even more gathered. Again, Nasrudin had not bothered to prepare his thoughts. He strode to the front and turned to the people and asked, 'My beloved, who amongst you knows that of which I speak?' and this time the people stood up and said, 'We do! We know that of which you speak!' Old Nasrudin didn't miss a beat. He shrew his robe across his shoulder and said, 'Well, then there is no need of me here [.]' and marched out the door.

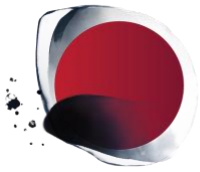
On the morning of the third week, Nasrudin stood no more prepared than the first day. He confidently walked to the front and turned to the people and asked once more, 'My beloved, who among you knows that of which I speak?' This time they had a plan! Half of the people said, 'We are poor simple people. We do not know that of which you speak.' And the other half stood up and said, 'We do! We know that of which you speak!' Old Nasrudin stood for a moment and said, 'Then if those of you who know would tell those who don't, there is no need of me here.' With that, he threw his robe across his shoulder and left the building." (Simmons, 2001, pp. 49-50)

## Interpretation

- "When you decide to awaken sleeping wisdom rather than to convince others you are right, you will produce a more powerful experience for both of you. If you trust that the wisdom is in the room, then your only job is to free this wisdom to flow among the people" (p. 50-51)

## References

Simmons, Annette. (2001). *The story factor: Inspiration, influence, and persuasion through the art of storytelling*. New York: Basic Books.



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