

A CONCEIVIAN BRIEFING · VIII

On *Living Powerfully*

On the mystery of power, the power of mystery, and learning to feel the wave under your feet.

SAQIB RASOOL · MARCH 11, 2026

PREPARED FOR LEADERS, MISSION CAPTAINS, AND MOBILIZERS

Conceivian

DESIGN A DIFFERENT FUTURE™

Seattle · Belfast · Vancouver

“Not how the world is, but that it is, is
the mystery.”

LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN

ABOUT THIS BRIEFING

For the leader who has won and still feels they are fighting life. Read this if the power you have built has begun to feel like a weight rather than a force, and you have started to wonder whether you are running a company or being run by one. You will leave able to feel the wave under your feet, to stop pushing against the current, and to lead with a power that does not exhaust you.

Let us begin a conversation about the mystery of power, and about the power of mystery. Ultimately it is one conversation, and it is about learning to live life powerfully.

We are not as smart as we think. But if we pay attention, we can see that there is always something shaping human destiny, something invisible moving all action, all resistance, all breakdowns. This something cannot quite be said. Sometimes we call it luck. Sometimes we call it God. Sometimes we call it the economy, and we keep inventing new metaphors to explain the same invisibility.

However educated we believe ourselves to be, if we are honest, that something remains nameless. And while we cannot say for certain how the nameless works, we can see certain patterns, and if we are fortunate, we can learn to tune into them. We can see that fortune favors the bold and that life rewards ambition. We can see that gratitude cures victimhood, and that forgiveness is the master move a person can make in a life. We can see these patterns clearly. But how it all actually works, we do not know.

And the moment we look honestly at existence, at consciousness, at what a human being even is, it becomes suddenly clear that the whole matter is mysterious. Who we really are, where we have come from, where we are truly going, we do not know the answers to these as facts. And yet it is obvious that something is animating us, running everything within us, and that it is intelligent beyond intelligence. Our first task as human beings is simply to acknowledge this, that human existence is mysterious, that we cannot finally know how to live or what to truly want, and to make peace with the anxiety that this insight stirs. Everything we know about ourselves, after all, is a story.

Those who pretend they have it all figured out tend to lead violent outcomes and long, quiet unhappiness.

I The disaster of fighting against life

When we do not appreciate the mysterious nature of life, we want to be certain. We want rules and formulas and structures handed to us by others, because we have decided that life is a thing to be organized, used, established, controlled. And there is a part of us that must do some of that. But if we

really pay attention, we see that life is carrying us on its own. Given where we are born, given where we go, life keeps carrying us and keeps opening one opportunity after another in front of us, and much of it happens through no fault and no doing of our own.

Here is the greatest disaster of a life. That we fight against it. We isolate ourselves from life, we trap ourselves in boxes, and we mistake the box for life itself. When we say no to life this way, we get cut off, and we fill up with complaint and victimhood and grievance. But when we allow life to happen to us, our participation becomes more joyous and more fruitful. We do not control the wave. The wave was here long before us. But if we appreciate the unpredictable nature of life rather than letting it dampen us, we can let that very unpredictability work in our favor. The work is not to master life. It is to stop fighting it, so that it can carry us.

II

Feeling the wave

Think of power as the power of a wave. You did not make the wave. You pressed no button to summon it. It arrived, and your only real choice was whether to feel it under your feet and ride, or to be knocked down by it. This is the power that is beyond you, and the leaders who live powerfully are the ones who learn to feel it.

Sometimes large companies with enormous budgets imagine they can manufacture the wave and then ride their own creation. It rarely works that way. What is artificially made dies quickly. The real waves are long-running historical occurrences, the genuine concerns and accumulated histories of human beings coming to fruition over time. So we need an appreciation for emergence. And when an emergence arrives, we tend to get trapped in trying to understand why it came, the reasons behind it, and in doing so we miss the only question that matters in that moment, which is what to do with it, how to take the opportunity that is right in front of us. We try to force life into an ideal box, and life does not want to be in an ideal box, and so it pushes us back down.

Anything artificially made dies quickly. The real waves are the histories of human beings, coming to fruition.

III

Working with mystery

So the question for a changemaker is not how to solve the mystery. We will not solve it, and we can leave the figuring out to the scientists. The question is how to navigate it. How to feel the waves under our feet so that we are working with the great unknown rather than against it. How to let this mystery help us through the breakdowns that have no clean solution, and find satisfaction even in impossible situations.

Let me be honest, against everything the gurus promise. The mystery does not work on our command. It will not perform on demand. But there may be conditions we can create for ourselves in which our life becomes an expression of what really is, that great unknown, intelligent beyond intelligence. The people who learn to tap into this power live powerful lives. They meet dissatisfaction with everything they have, and they refuse to fall into being victims, the unblessed, the ones life forgot. They counter it with their whole being.

So this is the real invitation, and it is the one I want to leave you with. Wouldn't you want this power working with you and not against you? Wouldn't you want what is invisible, what is intelligent beyond intelligence, on your side? You cannot command it. But you can stop fighting the wave. You can cultivate gratitude where there was victimhood, and forgiveness where there was grievance. You can meet emergence with action rather than endless explanation. You can make peace with not knowing, and let life carry you. That is what it means to live powerfully. Not to master the mystery, but to learn to dance with it.

“Gratitude cures victimhood.
Forgiveness is the master move. And
the greatest disaster is to fight against
life.”

SAQIB RASOOL

This Briefing is adapted from the closing lecture of The Power Course. It stands in the tradition of Fernando Flores and our teacher Chauncey Bell, and reaches toward the older wisdom of the poets and mystics who knew that a life is something to be met, not mastered.

For conversations and correspondence, write to care@conceivian.com.

To put this Briefing into practice, COROS AI holds this work and is ready to think through your situation with you, in private. Begin exploring at app.coros.ai.

This is a work of authorship protected under the copyright laws of the U.S.A. It may not be reproduced or republished without the express written consent of Conceivian.