

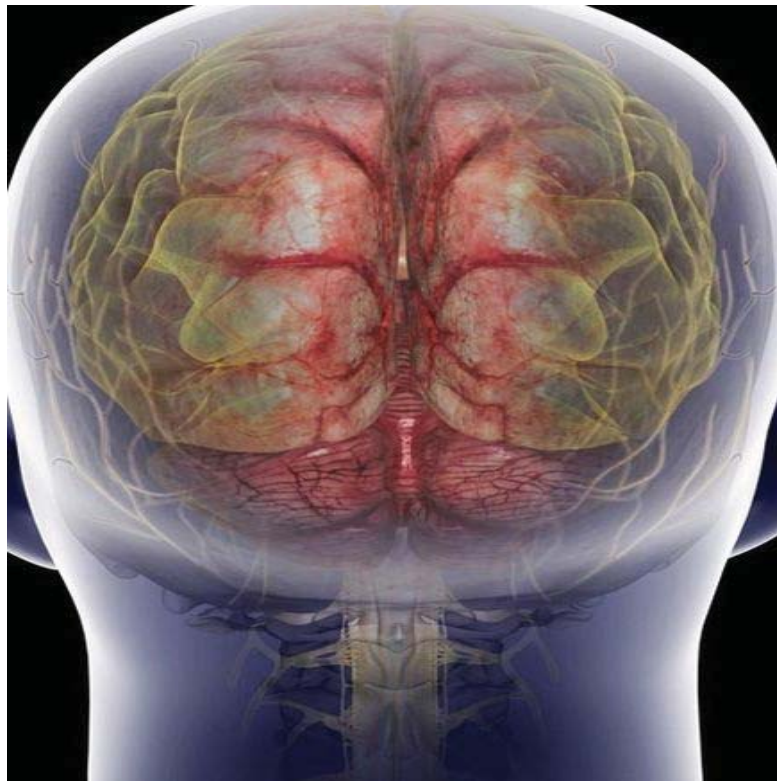
THE ROAD TO WIN....
 IT ISN'T WHAT WE
 THOUGHT....
 IT ISN'T HOW WE
 THOUGHT....

AS I WRITE THIS ARTICLE, I AM COMMUNICATING (VIA TEXT) WITH A YOUNG LADY IN CEDAR RAPIDS, IA WHO IS COMPETING AT A HORSE SHOW....I AM COACHING HER FROM TEXAS!!!! IN MY LIVING ROOM, NO LESS!!

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? HOW CAN I POSSIBLY HELP HER WHEN I AM THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY? I'M NOT HORSEBACK, I CAN'T EVEN SEE HER...HOW CAN I HELP???

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS DOESN'T BEGIN AT THE HORSE SHOW, THE PRACTICE PEN, THE BARN..... THE LONGE LINE, OR ANY OTHER PLACE THAT WE MAY THINK....

It begins in our brain as a....



THOUGHT.....

Thought.....



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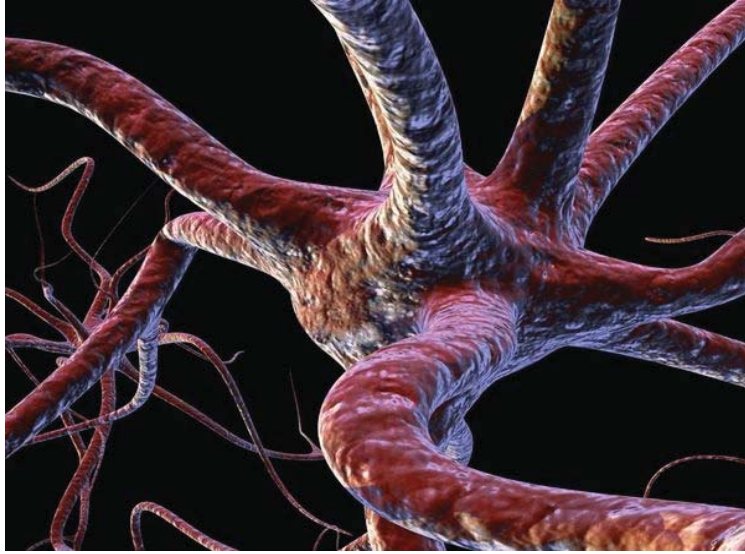
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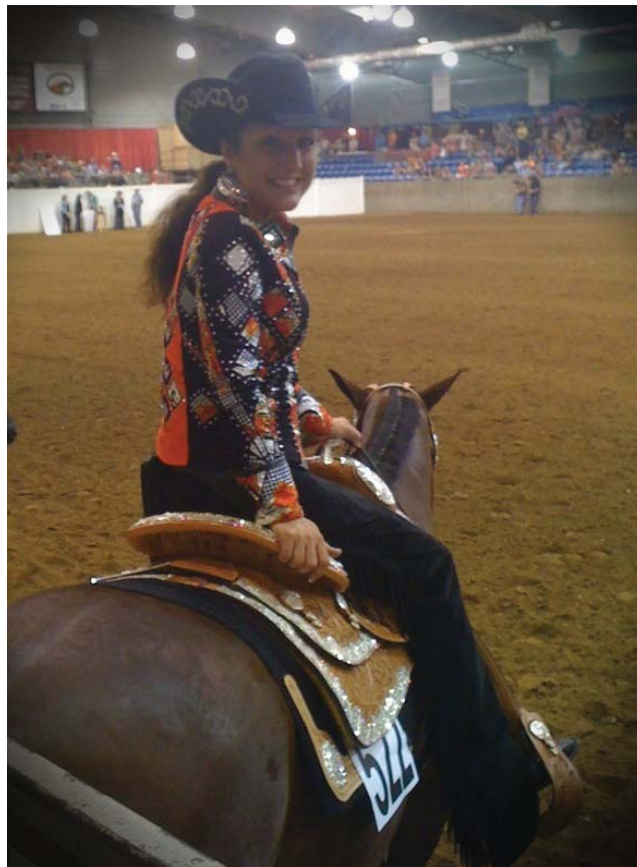
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DEEP WITHIN US IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF WHAT OUR RIDE, OUR TRAINING, WHAT OUR CLASS OR CLASSES WILL LOOK LIKE, WHAT THE HORSE SHOW WILL BE LIKE...

NO, WE CANNOT CONTROL HOW OUR HORSES WILL RESPOND, THE TALENT AND ABILITY OF THE HORSE THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN TO WORK WITH, THE OUTCOME OF OUR CLASSES, HOW THE JUDGE WILL PLACE US, WE CAN'T CONTROL A LOT OF THINGS IN LIFE.... BUT WHAT CAN AND DO CONTROL IS MUCH, MUCH MORE THAN ANY OF US REALIZE...



HOW MANY OF US SIMPLY GO TO THE BARN AND GET RIDING.....

WE DON'T THINK THROUGH WHAT WE NEED TO DO, WHAT ARE THE ISSUES THAT WE NEED TO ADDRESS THAT DAY, HOW WE SHOULD APPROACH SOME PROBLEMS WE MAY BE HAVING, OR PERHAPS HOW WE MAY NEED TO MAKE SOME ADJUSTMENTS OR CHANGES IN OUR RIDING OR OUR APPROACH SO THAT WE CAN BETTER COMMUNICATE WITH OUR HORSE, AND HE/SHE CAN BETTER COMMUNICATE WITH US...

WE SIMPLY GO FORWARD AND TAKE ACTION, GOOD OR BAD, AND CONSEQUENTLY, THE RETURNS ARE AS RANDOM AS OUR APPROACH....



**YES,
THAT IS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN, AND WHERE IT ALL BEGINS.....
AND THAT IS WHERE IT ALL ENDS.....
GOOD, BAD, TERRIFIC, HORRIBLE, BEAUTIFUL, AMAZING,
TERRIBLE, WONDERFUL, UNBELIEVABLE,
AMAZING.....MAGICAL....
UNBELIEVABLE...**

WHEN WE TAKE A THOUGHTFUL AND MINDFUL APPROACH TO OUR RIDING, WE ARE MORE AWARE OF WHAT WE ARE COMMUNICATING TO OUR HORSE, AND WHAT HE/SHE IS COMMUNICATING TO US- AND THEN, WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE CONSCIOUS DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT IS TRULY THE BEST APPROACH, WHAT WE MAY NEED TO CHANGE, TO ADJUST, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, ASK OURSELVES IF WE HAVE THE ANSWERS TO THOSE

QUESTIONS, OR DO WE NEED TO TAKE SOME TIME AND LOOK FOR SOME DIRECTION, RATHER THAN CONTINUE TRYING TO POUND THE SAME SQUARE PEG INTO THE SAME ROUND HOLE.

DO YOU LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR HORSE IS COMMUNICATING TO YOU? DO YOU RECOGNIZE HIS METHODS OF COMMUNICATION? DO YOU TRY TO LISTEN, OR IS YOUR APPROACH SIMPLY, "DO WHAT I TELL YOU TO AND DO IT NOW!!!

ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING THINGS TO WITNESS IS WHEN A HORSE AND RIDER HAVE THE ABILITY TO TRULY COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER... THAT IS WHAT CHAMPIONS ARE MADE OF...

Dale Chavez Company, Inc.

Reichert Celebration
Founded in Iowa in 1990
2010

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**WE HAVE TO HAVE DIRECTION
BEFORE WE CAN GIVE DIRECTION....**

**AND THAT REQUIRES HONESTY, OPEN MINDEDNESS, AND WILLINGNESS TO
EVALUATE THE SITUATION AND ALL OF ITS' FACTORS AND NUANCES, AND
DECIDE IF WE KNOW THE DIRECTION TO GO.**

**DO WE HAVE THE EQUIPMENT THAT WE NEED? DOES IT FIT
CORRECTLY? I'VE DONE COUNTLESS CLINICS ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND IT
NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME HOW MANY PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW HOW A
SADDLE SHOULD FIT, HOW A BRIDLE SHOULD HANG IN A HORSES MOUTH,
OR THE RIGHT BIT FOR WHAT THE RIDER IS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH....
AND IF NOT, ARE WE HONEST ENOUGH TO ASK FOR HELP?**

**DO WE KNOW THE BEST PLACE TO GET HELP? IS PROXIMITY A GOOD
FACTOR TO BASE MY DECISION ON? HOW DO WE DECIDE WHERE TO GET
HELP? THE WINNERS CIRCLE, OR DO WE CARE WHAT GOES ON OUT IN
THE WARMUP PEN? IF WE TAKE A GOOD, HARD LOOK AT OUR RIDING,
OUR TRAINING, OUR SHOWING, ARE WE TRULY DOING THE VERY BEST THAT
WE CAN DO TO ENSURE THE DESIRED RESULT, OR ARE WE SELLING
OURSELVES SHORT?**

**IN THIS AGE WE WANT THINGS NOW! PERHAPS WE NEED TO DO A
BIT MORE RESEARCH, PERHAPS, THAT "HEAD TOSSING" NAG HAS PROBLEMS
WITH HER TEETH? OR, AS I'VE FREQUENTLY SEEN, THE BIT IS EITHER THE
WRONG TYPE OF BIT FOR WHAT THE RIDER DESIRES TO ACCOMPLISH, OR
IT ISN'T FITTED PROPERLY, OR BOTH. THE KEY IS THAT WE WON'T KNOW
THE ANSWERS IF WE NEVER TRY TO GET TO THE HEART OF THE ISSUE,
WHICH ULTIMATELY IS COMMUNICATION. ARE WE ADEQUATELY
COMMUNICATING WITH OUR HORSE, ARE WE ADEQUATELY HEARING WHAT
OUR HORSE IS COMMUNICATING TO US? WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO
DIFFERENTLY, AND IF WE DON'T KNOW THE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS,
WE MUST BE WILLING TO SEEK OUT THE ANSWERS-**

**FOR OUR OWN SAKE, AND FOR THE SAKE OF THIS ANIMAL THAT
WORKS SO VERY HARD TO PLEASE US.**

WHAT IS YOUR “CONTINUING EDUCATION” PROGRAM? IF YOU DON’T HAVE A PLAN, I URGE YOU TO EDUCATE YOURSELF, AND THEN EDUCATE YOUR

HORSE. WITH PROPER FORETHOUGHT AND DIRECTION, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, BUT IT ALL BEGINS WITH A THOUGHT, THAT THEN CAN TURN INTO ACTION, THE RIGHT ACTION!!!

OH YES, AND BY THE WAY, THE LITTLE GIRL IN IOWA, THAT I’M COACHING VIA TEXT MESSAGE, AND VIDEOS, AND VIA EMAIL-



YESTERDAY SHE WAS BUCKED OFF OF HER HORSE IN THE SHOW RING, AND COULDN’T BRING HERSELF TO RIDE THE REST OF THE SHOW, TODAY, WITH SOME SERIOUS TEXT MESSAGING AND EMAILS, SHE WAS SECOND IN HER TRAIL CLASS OUT OF NINE!! CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

AS I SAID, IT WORKS VERY DIFFERENTLY THAN WE THOUGHT, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE REALLY START TO THINK ABOUT IT!!!!

