

Using Information from Trusted Sources

A connection with a trusted source can provide all kinds of amazing information. This information is ultimately used and put into action by the ego. There are many ways the ego can do this, some helpful and some harmful. A better title for this document would be “Using and Misusing Information from Trusted Sources.”

What follows is a mixture of best practices and worst practices. You may experience others that aren’t on the list, of course!

Jargon

The most frequent misuse of trusted source information is sharing it in ways and contexts that are confusing to the listener. Most people don’t have a two-way connection with a trusted source and will have no idea what you’re talking about when you share how you got the information (unless you are careful to create context properly).

The use of specialized terms is also confusing and violates the general best practices of communication. For example, the following are all technical terms from the True Purpose™ process:

- Trusted source
- Download
- Blessing

If it doesn’t make sense to take the time to explain and define one of these terms, then it doesn’t make sense to use it. Unless, of course, you are in a setting where *everyone* is already familiar with it and will know exactly what you mean.

There are spiritual and technical terms whose meaning is generally understood. These can be used in any setting where they are relevant. Examples:

- “My intuition tells me that we should...”
- “My mission is to...”

- “I feel called to...”
- “This activity doesn’t feel aligned with my purpose.”

If you choose your setting and your words poorly, you may be understood but still elicit negative reactions from your listeners. Not all audiences want to view and discuss the world in this way. For example, telling a group of molecular biologists, “I discussed this keynote with my dead grandmother last night” is easy to understand, but it is highly likely to distract and alienate them.

Bottom line: Avoid jargon, unless you are prepared to explain and define your terms, and you are confident that your audience cares enough to listen.

Predicting the Future

Asking questions of trusted sources about the future can produce interesting, mixed results. Trusted sources may make declarative statements about the future without being asked (e.g. “You will change the world in ways you cannot foresee.”)

There are many examples of trusted sources making eerily accurate predictions. More frequently, though, things do not necessarily work out as they foretell. This can cause the ego to doubt the connection in its entirety. (See the next section on the ego’s need for the trusted source to be perfect.) There seem to be several reasons why their predictions aren’t always accurate.

First, trusted sources are always calling you to the path of maximum impact. Their vision is clearest when they look towards your greatest potential. They may make statements that sound to your ego like this is the inevitable outcome. However, having free will, you are capable of ignoring or even sabotaging this path. If you don’t follow the instructions of your trusted source (or follow them poorly and screw them up), don’t be surprised when this ideal, potential future does not come to pass.

Second, your ego is almost always present to some degree when you are interacting with a trusted source; predictions may be coming through (or as a result of) ego “static.” See the next section on why trusted sources are sometimes wrong.

Third, trusted sources experience time differently than we egos do. Specifically, they are not in as big a hurry as we are (at least most of the time). They may misjudge time, or their predictions may come true in a timeframe or in a way that doesn’t match your ego’s image of what the trusted source meant.

Bottom line: Feel free to ask your trusted source to make predictions. Then, pay attention to their accuracy as events unfold. If your trusted source makes consistent, accurate predictions about the future, great! You may choose to rely on these predictions. If not, stop asking about the future and focus on other things.

Trusted Sources Aren’t Always Right

This one drives some people completely bats. For some reason, the ego has a need for the trusted source to be perfect. If anything the trusted source says doesn’t work or proves false, the ego can flip to disbelieving in the connection and the source altogether. There are three reasons why trusted source information may be inaccurate.

A trusted source is a subject matter expert, like a plumber or a brain surgeon. Its area of expertise is your path and your purpose. Therefore, asking questions outside of this area will produce unpredictable accuracy, like asking a brain surgeon for plumbing advice.

Depending on your purpose, there may be very specific information available in certain areas. For example, if your blessing includes teaching people about marketing, your trusted source may give you highly detailed and accurate information about marketing. My mission involves designing the overall process for transforming society;

therefore, my trusted source provides highly detailed information about the methods for transforming countries and sectors of society.

Even within its area of expertise, a trusted source may not always be right. Doctors, lawyers and accountants sometimes make mistakes, even in subjects in which they are trained and experienced. Most people understand this and make a conscious decision whether to follow advice or not. The same is true of advice from your trusted source.

If you find the idea of your trusted source being wrong profoundly disturbing, it may be an indication that you have constellated a parent-child relationship with it. This is an easy trap to fall into! Giving your power away to your trusted source is not the best path of growth and development for most people. Note that becoming infantilized relative to your trusted source and needing it to be the perfect parent is *not* the same as the adult act of surrender that is the hallmark of the Path of Piety. (See the section on accountability, later in this document.)

This brings up the second source of inaccuracy: trusted sources sometimes want us to figure things out for ourselves. Your trusted source's top priority is your growth and development. Therefore, it may not want to deprive you of the growth and learning from solving a problem. Giving a student all the test answers is not a good teaching strategy!

This tendency usually manifests as the withholding of information or giving vague, high-level information, but there have been rare instances of trusted sources seeming to give deliberately inaccurate information as a technique for inspiring growth and development.

The final reason why trusted source information isn't always accurate is simple and obvious: ego interference. Nearly all connection methods leave plenty of room for your ego and its component parts to influence, block, or replace the information from your trusted source. (As explained in the book *True Purpose*, sleeping dreams and medicine

journeys are most difficult for the ego to interfere with, but can also take more time than other methods and are often more difficult to interpret.)

In Islam, there is a specific term for someone who has a connection to a trusted source with zero ego interference: “prophet.” It is understood that prophets are rare, and this indeed seems to be the case. So, if you are one of the few who has no ego interference whatsoever in the information you receive, congratulations! If you’re like the rest of us and experience some “static” on the line, get used to it.

The more important the question, the more likely the ego will interfere with the answer. You can usually detect interference as anxiety, doubts, fears, skepticism, or telltale body sensations or emotions. If these are mild, a deep breath and some refocusing may be enough to proceed. If they are strong, it is probably wise to do some permission work before asking the question. (The True Purpose™ process includes methods for cleaning up your connection and for validating the information you receive.)

Bottom line: Don’t assume that the information from your trusted source is 100% accurate. You must exercise good judgment when deciding whether to follow your trusted source’s advice and instructions.

“But My Trusted Source Said...”

The fact that your trusted source told you something does not necessarily mean anything to other people, nor should it. For example, if you tell me your trusted source said that I should write you a check for \$10,000, don’t be shocked when I don’t reach immediately for my checkbook.

Besides the obvious possibility that it wasn’t really your trusted source, there is another important reason for this. Your trusted source is your advisor; my trusted source is my advisor. Key to the True Purpose™

methodology is the fact that I do not need to rely on your trusted source for information; I have my own connection.

Also, as a free-willed ego, I may choose to ignore my trusted source's input and instructions from time to time. That goes doubly for me ignoring *your* trusted source's input!

Another favorite tactic of trusted sources is to give people pieces of a larger picture. This is their way of training us in collaboration: we have to work together to construct the whole answer.

Bottom line: If your trusted source tells you something, don't assume I care. And definitely don't expect me to follow your trusted source's instructions just because you said so.

“My Trusted Source Is Bigger than Your Trusted Source”

This is an interesting twist of ego. Sometimes people will imply or act as if their trusted source is more reliable or their connection better than someone else's. This is usually done when information from two people's trusted sources doesn't seem to agree.

Of course, trusted sources do not live in a competitive world; that is our domain. When trusted source information doesn't agree, it is either due to ego interference or the trusted sources giving us a chance to resolve seemingly contradictory information (more training in collaboration).

Bottom line: When communicating with others, don't assume that your trusted source information is any more valuable or accurate than anybody else's. (Or if you do, keep it to yourself!)

Accountability for Using Trusted Source Information

This is the most important practice of all. The fact that your trusted source told you to do something does not relieve you of responsibility

for the outcome. If your actions have a negative impact on someone (or a positive one), you are accountable for that impact, even if you were acting on the advice or instructions of your trusted source. You chose to follow the advice, and you chose how to do so. Claiming it was the trusted source's doing to avoid blame will likely piss off the other person even more.

Think about it like this: imagine that a CEO hires a consultant, follows the consultant's advice and loses millions of dollars in the process. The board and the stockholders will likely be unimpressed if the CEO says, "But the consultant told me to do it!" The CEO is accountable for her decisions and the impact they have on the company and its results, regardless of where she sought advice.

Bottom line: You are the CEO of your life, and you are responsible for the impact your choices and actions have on yourself and others. Blaming your trusted source does no one any good.

If you encounter someone else engaging in problematic practices with their trusted source information, be careful! The fact that you have read this document doesn't mean that they agree that what they're doing is wrong. Rather than saying that they're violating this list of "rules," give feedback on how the behavior is affecting you and make suggestions on how they could do it differently. You must enroll them in behaving differently, not penalize them for a perceived "violation!"

Questions for Reflection

- Which of these "worst practices" are you guilty of doing?
- What impact did they have (or do you imagine they had)?
- How would you feel and react if someone else did these worst practices to you (or how have you reacted when they did)?
- What changes do you intend to make to your behavior?
- What recommendations and comments does your trusted source have about this?