

Foreword

One enchanted afternoon in November 2008, I found myself on a quiet terrace in Ojai, near Los Angeles. The sun was beginning to set, painting the mountains around us in magnificent shades of pink. Though it was a daily sight, on that afternoon it made the moment especially moving. I sat on one side of the table. Across from me sat Byron Katie, radiant with wisdom, humility, and love. In those extraordinary moments, she came closer than anyone I had ever met to what I thought of as an enlightened spiritual teacher.

To my right sat Dror Lashem, business development manager at Coaching Interactive. Together, we presented our vision to Katie: to transform her books and *The Work* into an interactive program that could reach millions of people around the world. We believed wholeheartedly that the internet could make her method accessible on an unprecedented scale.

I looked at her and, for a moment, felt as though I were walking on a cloud. Here I was, sitting across from Byron Katie, a woman with an almost angelic presence, her beauty both luminous and captivating. What a privilege, I thought.

The Moment Everything Changed

As I described our plan, Katie suddenly rose, came around the table, sat beside me, and took my hand. Tears began to stream from her eyes. Soon they became deep, wrenching sobs that echoed across the quiet terrace and seemed to shake the air itself. For a moment, I was confused, embarrassed, and uneasy. Had I said something that hurt her? Had I made some kind of mistake? Dror and I exchanged worried glances. I hesitated. Should I say something?

Katie raised her head, looked deeply into my eyes, and said, “Doron, I have been waiting for you all my life. You are the one who will bring me to millions of people around the world.” Those words would remain engraved in my memory forever.

Her words struck me with a force I had never known. I felt the weight of responsibility on my shoulders, the full weight of her expectations. Fear flooded me. Could I live up to what she expected of me? Did I have it in me to help fulfill her great dreams?

I took a deep breath, looked at her, and said, “Katie, you are the one. You wrote the books. You stand on the stages. You lead The Work. I will simply help you expand your influence in the world.”

“Doron,” she replied, “everything happens for you, not to you.”

That sentence changed my life.