



Hello,

"Cash is more important than your mother" is one particularly ridiculous piece of recession 'guidance' that has riled me this month.

So in response to such nonsense, here's why the principles our mother's operate by have far more to teach business leaders today than the so called wisdom of the gurus gracing the business columns.

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## The Mother of All Leaders

She didn't go to Harvard Business School. She doesn't have an MBA and has never run a business. But if your mother, like mine raised her family in the 70's and 80's, she knows a thing or two about how to survive hard times. Rampant inflation, unemployment and strikes followed by a biting recession in the early 80's before the economic rollercoaster cranked upwards to a decade of prosperity and Dynasty shoulder pads. The mothers of my generation have been there, done it, seen it all.

Instead of a farcical Whitehall committee, I would love to see the likes of 'Fred the Shred' and his fellow banking buddies in front of a panel of mothers from the 70's and 80's to be held to account for the mess they've created. Imagine it - nothing like the sharp tongue of their mothers to bring grown men in suits to order.

The fundamental issue underlying the current mess is of course security - or rather lack of it. Money and security go hand in hand - to a point. What drives excess? Psychologists would point to a lack of security and power in childhood driving all of this reckless and selfish decision making. Our mothers would again have a view I'm sure.

Choices define us and the world we then create. Whatever the driver conscious or not, choice forces us to confront our true nature - our fears, our aspirations, our ethical fibre. Often we make the wrong decisions. Hopefully we learn and don't repeat our mistakes. However history tells us that often we don't learn. Everything operates in cycles and circles - economies are no exception.

We cannot escape the power hungry, selfish 'Rambo in pinstripes', they will always exist. The fashion of the suit will change but not the creature inside it. However they needn't dominate our business world, if we don't let them. The question is can you choose wisely with courage and optimism as you navigate your way through the next few years or will fear and self-preservation dominate your thinking?

We need a new breed of leaders where ethical decisions, trust, responsibility and commitment to people are the norm. They are not nice to have's. It is a tough call but adversity breeds leaders with strength, determination and the courage to survive and flourish. I'm looking forward to seeing these 'mother of all leaders' emerge over the next few years.

And given its Mothers Day this month, if she's still around I recommend a chat over a cuppa. She just might surprise you. And surely it goes without saying that she is way more important than cash.

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## Wise Words

"Security is when everything is settled, when nothing can happen to you; security is the denial of life."

Germaine Greer

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## Recommended Reading

For One More Day

By Mitch Albom

ISBN 978-0-7515-3750-5

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## Your Views

As always, I enjoy hearing your thoughts and comments so please do get in touch.



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