At 3H Academy, a humanities-based tradition and technical expertise in the financial, legal, and tax fields come together to foster strategic thinking that guides, shapes, and informs decision-making. (www.gebpartners.it)

2016

INTANGIBLE TURNING TANGIBLE

KNOWLEDGE INSIDE

"Norse Warrior and His Son" – Bronze Sculpture by Emile Laporte – (French, 1858-1907)

The Mentor

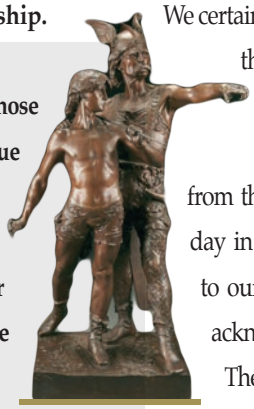
Very few are endowed with the rare gift of innate knowledge, the rest of us require someone to guide and show us the way in all facets of our lives.

Teaching starts at home, from our earliest childhood until we reach adulthood and beyond.

While our first steps are most likely to be encouraged by our mothers, our fathers play an equally important role.

Both have the precise duty to help us become full-fledged adults and honest citizens whose main aspiration should be to help society, and the world, become a "*better place*" also thanks to our personal contribution.

The message contained in this life-like work of art clearly conveys the strong bond in this father-and-son relationship.



The father is the hardy warrior: a full-fledged adult whose demeanor exudes strength, pride and courage and that unique self-assurance that only matures after many victorious battles. His right arm is uplifted with his index finger pointing towards a faraway point, which may be a specific target, or some strategic advice he is sharing with the young future warrior he is trying to forge.

The son's attentive listening denotes the latter's filial devotion along with a respectful and obedient attitude towards his father's teachings, while the deep affection between the two is almost palpable.

The sculptor skillfully caught the essence of the importance of how profound this bond is between this father and his son.

The two roles in this relationship are well defined: the father does not merely epitomize a father's protective and duty-bound instinct towards his child, but in this instance, the parent is also playing the role of mentor to his son, as he is evidently teaching the youth the art of warfare, (*as a vital survival technique*), or the so-called "***tricks of the trade***", which were crucial then and are just as fundamental nowadays.

Everything in this dynamic twosome is captivating.

Both figures give the impression that they are about to come to life and start talking to their beholders: the facial expressions and attitudes of both statues are deeply touching in their superlative representation of this intimate and profound link that has since forever bound parents to their children, while also emphasizing the all-important role, the father – *as first mentor* – in the life of his offspring has; all this without forgetting the various other mentors that have enriched our lives.

Many are the people and teachers we should be thanking for all – *or almost all* – we learned, or know.

A subtle and almost imperceptible *fil rouge* traces our learning path throughout our lives. To our parents we owe everything, since to them we owe our own existence (*i.e., the most precious gift, which is life itself*).

They helped us walk, talk, and fall asleep with some enchanting story or wonderful fairy tale; fairy tales did not only help us fall asleep with a smile, but had also the precise purpose of stimulating our intellect, rouse our curiosity, fire the imagination and broaden our horizons by teaching us new things.

We certainly owe a lot to our teachers as well: to all those who took over the development of our personal growth in a just as caring and essential role, albeit different from that of our parents, since there was always someone who took our learning to heart: from the first day at kindergarten to our most fulfilling graduation day in College or, when some kind of special satisfaction – owing to our knowledge expansion, or to some particularly meaningful acknowledgement – somehow brightened our existence.

There was always a guide on our path, who took us by the hand and knew how to spark our intellect, rekindle our learning abilities when discouragement would set in; to those who knew how to draw out our specific talents by encouraging and helping us overcome our teenage shyness, or by surmounting other obstacles which might somehow have obstructed a serene and holistic development of our individual self – *from childhood into full adulthood* – in all areas of our personal and professional sphere of life.

A special thought should go to those who did not only teach, but actually helped us understand the important things of life, those who actually drove us to do "***hands-on***", and especially to those who inspired and nurtured, not only our minds, but also formed our conscience, elevated our spirit and raised our consciousness.

The greatest thanks should go to life itself, perhaps the sternest but surely the most generous teacher of all... i.e., **Life itself – *this unique gift* – which is to be celebrated always, as the most exceptional and unrepeatable experience of our own personal and distinctive exhilarating moment in time.**

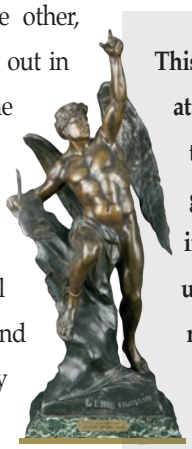
"Le Génie Humain" by Émile Louis Picault

It takes perhaps genius to understand genius, or so it would seem.

This is surely the case of the bronze marvel statue entitled "***Le Génie Humain***", (*i.e., Human Genius*).

The ingenious craft of the Master Sculptor encloses in a nutshell man's dichotomous nature.

On the one hand, earth-bound man, held fast to the rock (*or earth, if you will*), in an effort to break loose from the chains of physicality; on the other, the statue's wings are spread out in full awareness that once he shall have broken that chain, he'll be able to give full rein to – *by setting free and channel* – all of his inherent mental and spiritual qualities and characteristics that were simply waiting to be unshackled: ***supreme intelligence, namely that creative genius, which is known to stir the mind and spirit, finding expression in a myriad of innovative shapes, colors and purposes heretofore unknown to human eye or mind.***



It is the nature of the mind's creative impulses and consciousness to produce – *in a neverending creative act* – an ever-flowing and multi-directional proliferation of ideas, thoughts, wishes, images, sometimes focused and irrational, or random and spontaneous at others; sometimes triggered from our past memories or experiences, at other times by our senses, wishes or needs or other sources, but which somehow all come together in a rich and enriching imaginative and resourceful kaleidoscopic whirl that always brings to life something new and unthought-of.

This wondrous winged creature's attempt to break loose from the chains that bind him to earthly matter and give his genius wings, is unmistakably inherent in man's innermost longings, utterly ingrained in the deep-seated recesses of his soul's ancestral memories, since man is not merely an earthen vessel but is that gifted precious vessel that contains unparalleled intellectual faculties, an immensely vast potential for creativity, rationality, sense of humor (*which is in itself a spontaneous form of genius*), **a sense of self and of one's duties and responsibilities towards oneself and others, curiosity** (*key characteristic of explorers, researchers and inventors*) **and that peculiar characteristic of self-awareness that is unique to man's genetic mental make-up.**

Creative genius, at its best heightens mankind's own stature and is here to serve and ennoble man.

The other side of the coin is that genius takes everything to its highest potential – whether constructive or not.

There is a yearning in man's soul to reach out for the impossible, to conquer the unconquerable, or know the unknowable, always striving to fill those immense spaces (*and places*) that are apparently out of reach and that may only be attained through a vivid imagination, deliberate imaginings, unconscious stimuli, compulsions or even dreams.

Somehow man is secretly aware that the ever-bubbling subconscious mind is the "***dormant***" reservoir in which latent genius is being incubated, lying in wait and secretly kept at bay for a number of reasons that we may not even be aware of, and that had best not be unleashed in certain cases where genius may be manifestly irrational or for other reasons.

One must never be afraid to tread on new paths and liberate one's own genius – ***it may just be waiting for a little nudge to start flying and conquer those seemingly unconquerable spaces you always wanted to explore.***

MILANO

Valente Academy

Viale Bianca Maria, 45 - 20122

Tel: +39 02 7626131 Fax: +39 02 76001091

Email: p.valente@gebnetwork.it

www.gebpartners.it

GEB Partners

Copyright © Valente Academy