

The Four Agreements

Transform Your Life and Relationships with The Four Agreements

Key Point: Be impeccable with your word. Don't take anything personally. Don't make assumptions. Always be at your best.

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On the surface the book, [The Four Agreements](#), looks like a million other self-help books. However, the way this information is presented is unique and truly inspiring. Almost 100% of my personal coaching clients, have read this book ... and 100% have said that it has has a profound and powerful impact in their lives.

Make sure you purchase this book -- I promise you, your life will be enhanced immeasurably if you do so.

So let's take as look at what you can expect.

Introduction

Although the Four Agreements is a small book it has the power to dramatically shift your world. Author Don Miguel Ruiz outlines four agreements that, if you adopt as a way of living, gives you greater personal power, freedom and purpose.

The Four Agreements are:

1. Be impeccable with your word
2. Don't take anything personally
3. Don't make assumptions
4. Always do your best

Throughout the book, and particularly in the early chapters Ruiz helps you to unfold the self-limiting beliefs and, what he calls, limiting agreements with others so that you can set yourself on a path of living the life you dream.

Certainly, most of us know that our reality is controlled by the beliefs we have bought into, both individually and collectively.

For example, it wasn't that many years ago that we communicated to distant loved ones via pen and paper. The concept of instant communication with people across town, let alone across the the world wasn't even in the realm of possibilities.

Yet today it is the norm to not only speak, but to see the other person live!

On a personal level, many of us are rigidly controlled by the limiting beliefs that were handed to us by our important others - parents, grandparents teachers etc.

The thousands of beliefs, (or in Ruiz's words agreements), that you have picked up over the years tell you:

- ✓ Who you are
- ✓ What you should feel
- ✓ What you should believe
- ✓ How to behave (to make others happy)
- ✓ What you can and can't do to be accepted

The problem with most of these beliefs is that they are steeped somehow in the notion that we just aren't good enough ... that we don't measure up in some way.

When this happens, our internal conversation becomes one that creates a living hell for us, and depletes us of our energy.

By adopting the four agreements, you can begin to break down these limiting beliefs, and gain your personal power back.

And here's where the rubber hits the road with this book.

Once you've read and absorbed these agreements, if you are like me, and the hundreds of clients I have shared this wonderful book with, your thinking and emotions will shift and your life will transform.

Let's take a quick peek at the Four Agreements - but I highly recommend you get the book, because even though it is a small book he covers the agreements far better than this small summary.

Our word is the most powerful tool we have. It is our power to express, communicate, think and create events in our lives.

This is the most important agreement, but can also be the most challenging to honor.

Agreement 1. Be Impeccable with Your Word

You are ... Is a very potent sentence opening.

Don Miguel says, that we plant fertile seeds in our minds and these fertile seeds can contain either fear and doubt, or power and love.

Powerful People

For example, have you heard of someone being diagnosed with a disease such as cancer, and they buy into exactly what the doctor has said, and within 'x' months they have succumbed to the disease.

Or, another example, early in my career (when I was a secretary), a mentor suggested that I should go to university and get a degree. He believed that I was capable of more, and, because of his status in the organization I believed him, (and his word), and he planted a fertile seed that I could be a leader.

In Don Miguel's terms, these are examples of white magicians and black magicians. They are people who can change your beliefs for better or worse.



What Does Being Impeccable with Your Word Mean?

- ✓ Accepting yourself
- ✓ No judging or blaming of yourself or others
- ✓ Taking responsibility for your actions
- ✓ Being kind to both yourself and others
- ✓ Using your words and thoughts in the direction of love for yourself and others

By practicing impeccability, we can clear up communication problems, heal relationships, and create enough personal power, to break our old limiting agreements.

We no longer gossip.

We no longer spread poison so that we can feel good about ourselves ... so many people feel unworthy and not good enough on the inside, so they bring others down, to make themselves feel better, (and unfortunately most people don't even realize that they are playing this game).

When you adopt being impeccable with your word, you are able to get rid of the emotional poison within yourself.

It is about healing yourself, so that you can step into all your potential and become a person who is both inspired and inspiring.

The amount of self-love that you have is a measure of how impeccable your word is and you can [improve your self-love by improving your self-talk](#).

Master being impeccable with your word and happiness and peace follows - both within yourself and in your relationships with others.

Agreement 2. Don't Take Things Personally

We each have our own sense of personal importance, so we assume everything is about me. Someone snaps at you, or makes a careless comment or acts in a way that has a negative impact on you, your immediate thought is something like, "It is because they don't like me".



A huge amount of freedom is gained when we take nothing personally ... For example, you can make the choice to decide that someone is snappy because THEY are having a bad day ... it has nothing to do with you at all - and you are okay.

So, the first key to not taking things personally is understanding that everyone is dealing with their own insecurities and life viewpoints ... their own inner rule book.

**Everyone is dealing with their own
insecurities, fears and viewpoints. It's not
about you it's about them!**

And, we are all overwhelmingly busy trying to shape ourselves and others up to look like the picture we have in our mind of how people ought to behave.

For example, some people consider it uncouth for people to chew with their mouth open. If they happen to be somewhere and another person is eating with their mouth open it really bothers them.

Yet for others the rules for chewing are the direct opposite and for others there are no rules about whether the mouth should be open or closed whilst eating.

Our Internal Rulebook Can Be A Ticking Bomb

Unfortunately most of the rules we have about life are sitting in our subconscious, sitting there like a time-bomb that we are unaware of, waiting to explode and make our life more stressful and tangled than it needs to be.

Imagine a scenario where a newly established team is having lunch together to establish closer relationships. The person with the 'mouth closed whilst eating rulebook' is really bugged by the person sitting next to her and she is struggling to try and 'like' this other person.

Later she says to someone else, "Can you believe he ate with his mouth open the whole meal ... it was disgusting". The person upon hearing this feels embarrassed, because he didn't know there was a rule against eating with your mouth open and begins to wonder

if he has been doing the same, and others have been judging him.

Accept that you shouldn't be using their rule books to guide how you live and feel. You can't stand on your head in enough ways to make every single person, you come into contact, with happy.

If you try to run your life so that you comply with other people's rule books, you will drive yourself mad. Because the minute you make one person happy, you are likely to be annoying someone else, or even more tragically making yourself unhappy.

Similarly, you shouldn't be trying to run anyone else's life according to your rule book.

When you take things personally, you get caught up justifying, blaming, defending yourself and this always leads to conflict. You don't want this to happen.



Stop taking what others say and do personally
and no longer will you be driven by anger,
jealousy and envy.

Trust Yourself To Be Wise

The second key to not taking anything personally is trusting yourself to make responsible choices. When you trust yourself you can begin to break down the agreements/beliefs that you have bought into that just don't serve you well.

In fact, don't even take other peoples good opinions personally.

Because they are still judging you, and when you give someone the power to judge you, even when the outcome is still good, you are still leeching away some of your personal power.

Learning to like who you are, the way you are, feeling happy with your life and where you are going and not getting caught up in what others think of you and leaving others to get on with their own life in the way they best see fit ... is the best, and fastest way to personal freedom.

Bottom line - you are never responsible for another person's choices, actions or thoughts - only your own. Not taking anything

personally means you are free to follow your heart, choose wisely, and you won't feel guilt or self-judgment ever again.

You will begin to feel heaven on earth.

Agreement 3. Don't Make Assumptions

We make assumptions when we think we know what others mean, or what their intent was behind their actions, or when we think they know what we mean.

The problem with making all those assumptions is that we believe them as the truth. And, if things aren't working out the way we want, we:

- ✓ Blame others for the assumptions that we make,
- ✓ We take it personally and this sets us up for crisis and conflict,
- ✓ Complain about it to others.

All of which, of course, isn't living Agreements One and Two.

Become Clearer By Asking Questions.

Instead, practice the skill of asking questions and getting clarity, so that you can understand the other person's story and picture ... understand their intent.

Not making assumptions, clears your emotional slate, so that you can step into conversations with others with an open mind and an open heart.

How differently do you think these two conversations might go?

One that starts with - Why did you

Or another that starts with - Help me to understand ...

The first opener lays blame and points fingers. The second lays the foundation for a conversation of discovery and relationship building. Operating this way means that you are on the path toward your word being impeccable.

[Check out the Fair Grid](#) which can be useful in helping you to unravel when you or others are making assumptions.

Agreement 4. Always Do Your Best

This agreement makes the other three possible. When we simply do our best - we avoid self-condemnation and we have no regrets. Although our best is always changing, even though we may not realize it, we are always continually striving to do our best.

Your Best Differs

Your best can differ depending upon the circumstances that surround you. If you are tired or unwell, drunk or angry ... your best will be quite different from when you are fresh, healthy, sober, and happy.

If you can let go of any self-condemnation, and remind yourself that you are working toward doing your best, no matter the circumstance, you will release yourself from the bonds of guilt, regrets, blame and self-punishment.



You'll do your best when you take the time to align with your source energy and take inspired action - doing something because you love it, not because you have to - not because you are trying to please another, not because you expect a reward but because it pleases you and makes you happy.

Don't expect to be always impeccable with your word, to not take things personally or to not make assumptions. Most of us have been too hardwired to live this purely.

However, if you recognize

- ✓ that you are doing your best to speak impeccably
- ✓ that you are doing your best to not take things personally
- ✓ that you are doing your best to not make assumptions

then this way of being will start to flow from you more easily, and effortlessly. One day you will awaken and find that you are living your life with a great deal more freedom, joy and a exhilaration.

About Shelley Holmes

Using tools, tips, ideas and strategies that help them to be really clear about what is 'success critical' and how to get there fast, **Shelley inspires leaders to be a 'rockstar' in their industry, by living, loving, and leading at a remarkable level.**

For several years, Shelley was a key leader in a High-Performance organization (that had national and international recognition). It is this real-world experience that underpins and brings to life the theory and insights gained, from her deep study of high performance leadership.

Around the globe, she has worked with organizations (with total revenues in excess of \$116 billion) and supports thousands of individual leaders through, coaching, consulting, workshops, webinars, audio programs and the Make A Dent Leadership website (which has over 5,000 visitors per day).

Shelley's Philosophy...

Whether you like it or not how you show up at work defines you as a human being.

On grand and small scales, the way you interact with others, the products and services you are a part of delivering, all roll together to become a part of the legacy that you leave behind. The way you deal with others, the things you teach them, that cause them to grow, and become a better version of themselves as individuals, work colleagues, leaders, and parents ... now that defines who you are!

There are hundreds of resources like this at [Make A Dent Leadership](#) where you can join our community of leaders who are focusing on being inspired and inspiring and making their dent in the universe.

If you are ready to be the best possible version of yourself, to lead with more energy and passion than you thought possible... if you are ready to make a dent in the universe ... then:

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