

Timing Isn't Everything, It's The Only Thing

By Laura M. O'Connor

Time *n.* 1 the passage of time, duration, continuation of all existence; period, interval, span of time, elapsed time, spell, term, while, stretch. "It's all about timing".....

December 18th, 2008 approximately 2:00pm:

Jordan: "Laura, its Jordan (fake name), from Big Company (fake company). How are you?" (How am I? I am going on my last month of unemployment, have no prospects, no disposable income to enjoy the holidays, and I am in a panic...that is how I am!) "We want you to fly to Indianapolis (fake city) to apply for the Client Coordinator position (real position). Can you fly in to interview on December 23rd? We'll set up the travel plans." (You mean the job I applied for 1 ½ years ago? The job I thought was written for me? The job I wanted that was given to an internal candidate? Can I fly in, are you kidding? I'll take a plane, train, automobile or hitchhike if I have to.)

Laura: "Sure, no problem. I can fly in December 23rd. (Even though it is the day before Christmas Eve and I have a houseful of people coming for Christmas Eve dinner for which I haven't shopped, cooked, or ironed a table cloth!) Let me know the details and I will be there."

Jordan: "I'll set up the travel plans and get back with you in a few hours." (OMG...is this seriously happening?)

Laura: "Great...may I ask you something? Are there any internal candidates applying for this job?" (Yes, I seriously asked this—'Fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me.')

Jordan: "No, there are no internal candidates. There is one other candidate that has already interviewed. It is between you and **him**." (HELLO...PRESSURE! What am I going to wear?)

Laura: "Okay, I look forward to speaking to you later this afternoon." (Immediate phone call to my Dad: my right hand man, my pillar, my rock!)

December 18th, 2008 approximately 3:30pm:

Jordan: "Laura its Jordan from Big Company." (Yeah, yeah, I know who this is....) "I am emailing your travel itinerary. We have you booked on a 7:40am flight." (She obviously has **no** idea that I do not have a wash-and-go hairstyle. The time frame in which I will have to get up, wash, and style my hair in and of itself would prevent me from ever booking a flight ANYWHERE before 10:00am!) "Let me know if you have any questions." (Questions...are you kidding?) "And have a good trip."

December 23rd, 2008 approximately “too early in the morning”:

4:30am: Alarm goes off.... (I confess. I set two of them).

5:40am: Hair done, outfit complete. (Wearing something picked out of my Mom’s closet...avoiding anything that may be construed as anything but conservative. I wore knee high leather boots to a previous interview and my friend told me I probably didn’t get the job because it was considered “racy!” C’mon, dudes, read a fashion magazine once in a while...it is 2009...)

5:45am: Cab here to pick me up. (I decided that since my airline ticket was over \$1000.00, I was going to expense a cab given the weather conditions--I’m sure they will understand.)

7:15am: Board plane for “fake city.”

9:00am: Arrive at “fake company.”

9:00am-11:00am: Interview with “real boss.”

11:15am: Take cab back to the airport.

2:00pm: Take cab back home.

11:30pm: Reflecting....

December 24th, 2008 (Christmas Eve) approximately 11:00 am (24 hours after interview):

Sharon: “Laura, its Sharon (another fake name) from Big Company. I am pleased to let you know that we really enjoyed meeting you yesterday and would like to offer you the Client Coordinator position.” (I almost drop the phone and look up at the sky and say “thank-you.”) “We would like you to start on January 12th, and feel that you will be a real asset to the company. What do you think?” (What do I think?! Are you kidding me? I *think* I am having an out of body experience!)

Laura: “Thank you Sharon, I gladly accept.” (I am fighting the urge to scream into the phone, “OMG! Thank you! Thank you!” as this would make me look too needy, as well as somewhat of a lunatic!)

Sharon: “I will send you the appropriate paperwork, acceptance letter, benefits explanation, insurance info, and company overview next week. In the meantime, enjoy the holidays and I will be in touch next week.” (Paycheck, benefits, and insurance...oh my!)

Laura: “What a wonderful Christmas present, Sharon,” (my menorah is also burning but I don’t mention this since having to explain the “holiday of lights” at this point seems overwhelming), “Thank you so much. I look forward to speaking with you next week. Have a wonderful holiday.” (Immediate phone call to my Dad: my right hand man, my pillar, my rock!)

And that is how it all happened. I got a job. A good job. The job I wanted for 1 ½ years. If I ever doubted the phrase “timing isn’t everything, it is the only thing,” I am now a devout believer. Sure, the promise has been bestowed on me by friends and loved ones whenever I’ve experienced a loss--or gain, for that matter--but in this case, I am a true believer. Losing my job was one of the most difficult experiences I have had as an adult. Trying to keep perspective was often difficult, and maintaining a positive attitude even more so. Rereading the article I wrote for all of you on “How to Not Lose Yourself When You Lose Your Job” makes me realize that making the commitment to maintain faith in yourself, maintain an attitude of self worth, in addition to maintaining your confidence, conviction and integrity, are things

that need to be done consistently. I am blessed with the knowledge that I didn't have to settle. Timing. If I had gotten a job before this opportunity, I wouldn't have been available. If my son was younger, with the travel involved, I wouldn't have been able to take it. The last six months have been a test of my ability to overcome, persevere, and let the universe take care of me. My very good friend Pam (not a fake name), through all of her trials, has maintained that view—repeating to me as I cried that, “The universe will take care of you Laura; sometimes it is all about the timing.” Amen, sister.

So to any of you going through the trials of this economy and facing or dealing with job loss, leave you with this. Believe. Maintain faith. Maintain integrity. Maintain your sense of humor (see quote below). Reach out to others. You are not alone. It is all about timing. The universe will take care of you.

Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell'em, “Certainly, I can!”

Then get busy and find out how to do it.

-Theodore Roosevelt