

# Conscious and Competent: A Rare Breed

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Once upon a time there lived a man in the Continent of Antarctica. His name was Adam and he was 20 years old. His parents died when he was only 5 and from then on he was raised by the mother Nature. One day, to his utmost surprise, he saw a man and a woman, who were trapped in the snowy landscape after their two seater plane crashed in a snowstorm. Somehow the couple became friendly with Adam and by the time the rescue mission spotted them, they were in such good terms with each other that all three of them boarded the Oslo bound helicopter.

## A Year Later

Adam is now seen with his girlfriend Miranda, driving a Citron along the snowy highways of Oslo and heading to watch the Winter Olympic Games

Let's try to figure out what happened to Adam ? When he was in Antarctica he hadn't a clue about what a car is and how does it look like. In other words, like all of the other modern world miracles, he was totally "Unconscious and Incompetent" when it came to driving. Once he was in this world he started to see the cars but did not have the driving skills, so at that stage he became "Conscious and Incompetent" about driving. Meaning thereby that he knew that cars exist but did not know how to operate them. Then his new mom and dad put him in a driving school where he learnt the driving skills and ultimately is on a highway, he is now "Conscious and Competent" in terms of driving.

## Another Year Later

Adam wanted to take a break from his hectic life in Oslo and his native silent and chilly homeland, Antarctica was the automatic choice. So he went back. He still knew how to drive but did not keep pace with the technological developments taking place in the automobile industry and also lost track of fast changing traffic rules of Oslo. In terms of driving, he now became "Unconscious and Competent".

## Some More Years Later

When Adam came back to Oslo after a few years, to his surprise, the driving had undergone such a tremendous change that he was unable to take a car to the road. So now, once again, he became "Unconscious and Incompetent" in driving, a position from where he started many years ago.

The above story illustrates a very important phenomena in the Learning Cycle. The four positions described above are part of the cycle. When a child is born he or she is totally Unconscious and Incompetent regarding anything. He spends a few years at home where lots of conditional love<sup>1</sup> is showered on him and by the time he is sent to school he is still Unconscious and Incompetent. Our education system educates him technically but does not develop him as a human being. The

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<sup>1</sup> Most of us are raised, I love you if...I love you if, if, if you bring good grades home. I would love you if you make it through high school. Boy, would I love you if you go through the college. Oh, would I love you if I could say, my son, the doctor. And we literally end up Believing that we can buy love with good behavior, or rewards or whatever, and then they marry somebody who says, I love you if you buy me a mink coat. This is what Conditional Love is.

surroundings around him are no better and therefore when he starts his practical life he is a classic case of Unconscious and Competent. He is quite competent academically and a vast majority of us remain in this category for the rest of our life. Some lucky people somehow, move into the stage of Conscious and Competent but cannot maintain it and through sheer arrogance and lack of will to change with time again move to Unconscious Competent phase, the ultimate outcome of which is from where we all started; Unconscious and Incompetent.

## **Conclusion**

A little concentration on the above will demonstrate that the key to Competence lies in Consciousness. If you are conscious then competence is bound to come but not vice versa. The classic model of Learning which was presented a few decades earlier talked about Knowledge, Skills and Attitude (KSAs). Here again it is the Attitude which is the most important, because an attitude for learning almost ensures that Knowledge and Skills will follow. In its absence one might acquire Skills and Knowledge temporarily, but ultimately because of the lack of Attitude or the will to learn, these set of skills will either be forgotten or would simply become outdated and hence will be of no use to the possessor. We as individual of this society have to realize that if we want to really educate our children, we have to make them realize about the *need* to go to a school and also to highlight the evils of not attaining education. Just sending them to a school, no matter how big and famous it is, is only going to impart certain skills to them. We as human beings need much more than and it can only come if we are made Conscious and are given the right Attitude at right age.