

The Nature of Wisdom

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The Hungarian Templeton Program

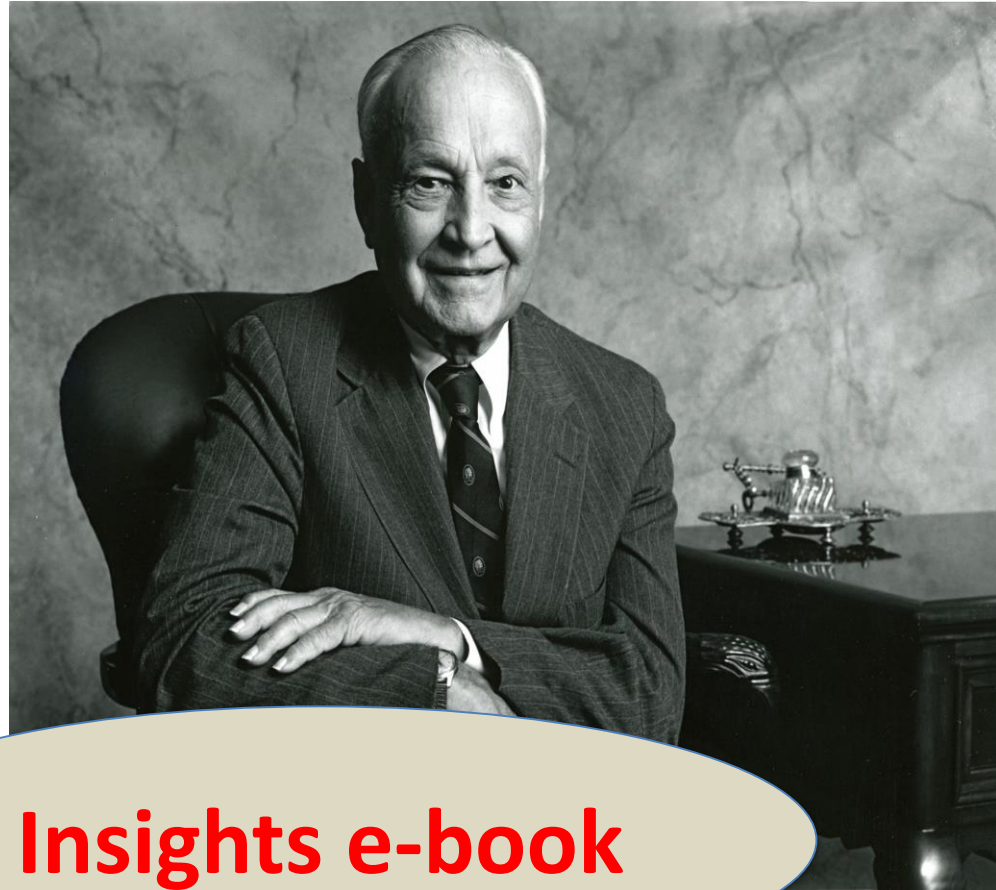
1 March, 2015 to 28 February, 2017

- With the help of the Hungarian Talent Support Network 314 exceptional cognitive talents (aged 10 and 29) were identified;
- The program offered personalized talent development program for the 314 Hungarian Junior Templeton Fellows for a year.
- The nurturing programs were flexibly adjusted to the individual needs, providing talent consultancy and different courses.

John Templeton Foundations

The mission:

to serve as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the **Big Questions** of human purpose and ultimate reality.



Insights e-book

„The Big Question”

The nature of wisdom?

It has been inspired by a contemporary problem pointed out by many: our no doubt increased knowledge of the world is not reflected in the wisdom discernible in our actions.

„The nature of wisdom”

The choice of the topic was no accident:

- it related at several points to the spirit and undertakings of the Program;
- it is crucial whether the exceptional cognitive talents – who will most likely occupy leading positions in the future – will be able to take wise decisions during their career and demonstrate genuine social responsibility.

Methodology

two forms:

- **participation at 60-90 minutes discussion about the topic “Wisdom discussions”**
- **writing down their thoughts inspired by /regarding the life of a wise person individually**

Methodology

“Wisdom discussions”

- the questions for discussion were put together by a group of experts
- chaired by either a philosopher (Dr. Olga Kiss) or a psychologist (Dr. Róbert Orosz)
- the chairs strove to give the youth **as little content input as possible to let them express their own ideas** without any external influence during the conversations (triggers)

Methodology

- The discussions were taped
- The chairs compiled the ideas expressed in the discussions
- content analyses
- e-book / research
- thoughts / comments

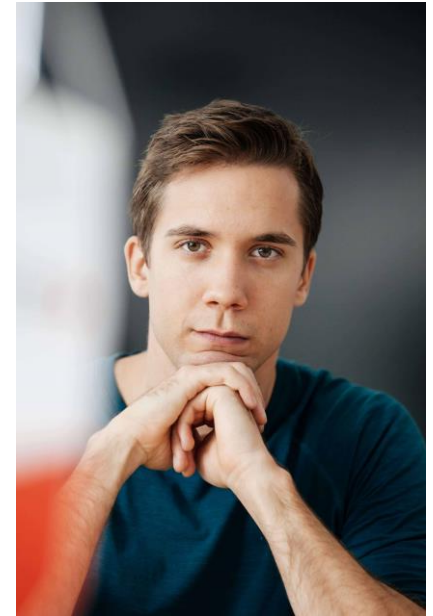
Methodology

- 30 aged 10-16 and
- 11 aged 17 or over took part in the discussions
- group of 7-8
- participation was voluntary
- 3 of them wrote their own chapter as well

Discussions / learning process

- Who do you consider wise?
- What is the role of wisdom in our world?
- What is the difference between being clever or wise?
- What is the connection between love and wisdom?
- Etc.

Individual essays



We learnt....

- students did not have a proper vocabulary
- we do not speak enough about existential topics with them
- problem solving attitude – and the realisation that they cannot solve this „problem”... process

We learnt....

- How can/dare young people talk about this topic when wisdom is correlated to old age?
- The connection between LOVE and WISDOM was surprising / ignored / considered as a big insight for most of them.
- Each and every discussion was really different.

Thoughts on the nature of wisdom

*“...wisdom originates mainly from an appropriate and stable value hierarchy, where the cornerstone is Love. And if you ask, what love? Then I think first of all the **love of life.**,”
(woman, univ. student)*

Thoughts on the nature of wisdom

“I think the wise man is on his way to the transcendental. He receives transcendental assistance that he does not possess himself – for our human capabilities would not allow the latter.” (man, 17)

Thoughts on the nature of wisdom

“Observation without judgement may be the highest form of intelligence, but learning from events observed this way is the source of wisdom.” (man, 23)

Thoughts on the nature of wisdom

“...wisdom cannot be approached from a single direction, someone may be wise in certain things and not in others. I recall my grandfather in his old age, maybe there were things he knew nothing about, but he could still say things that were important to me, that I can integrate in my own life. And I think what I am being told is wisdom if it is relevant for my life, and I can use it.” (man, 20)

Thoughts on the nature of wisdom

“As I see it, there are much more emotional than intellectual moments in wisdom. Wisdom is to experience the world or part of it emotionally rather than intellectually.” (woman, 21)

Thoughts on the nature of wisdom

“....wisdom is not something tied to a person. And it also includes some flow: it keeps changing with the passing of time.” (man, 21)

Thoughts on the nature of wisdom

„In my opinion, the truly wise are also merciful.” (boy, 10)

„...when I give advice or I am about to make a decision, I look at it from both sides, to see which is better, to make a good choice, and a wise one.” (girl, 12)

*“Besides mere intellect, love is also very important.”
(children 10-13)*

Thoughts on the nature of wisdom

*“...there is no need to say much, only the essence. **This is wisdom – say the essential, always.**”*