

Fatma Odaymat, Head of School - Participant of PTC Instructional Supervision 2019



“So what I want to share with you basically would be something I've been struggling with in the past couple of years and I decided to name it the seven year itch. Basically I've been at my job for eight years, so you might kind of see where this is coming from. So seven years, usually relates to marriage and the data shows that seven, is actually the median length of marriages that end in divorce. So relationship experts are not sure if this is a real phenomenon or not, but I think there might be something to it I've been through with in my marriage now in my job. So something might be true about the seven years number. So how did I know that I was going through with that seven year itch? Just simply because I felt very restless, angry a lot of the times, very emotional and very frustrated. And it got so bad that I acted in a very rude way and walked out of a board meeting. Yup. The people that had hired me, I just walked up because I couldn't handle my frustration and anger.

At that point. I felt maybe I should consider divorce, maybe I should resign. The issue was not the job. I love what I do and I'm successful at what I do. I've realized that it's actually the true purpose of my life. It's my icky guy, but my issue was the people I was working with, and so I felt they were the issue or so I thought. One month ago, a student that graduated three years back comes back from Turkey with a gift and a card for me and the gift was a small figuring of the twirling dervish. I don't know if you've seen the twirling dervish the man with the long skirts and they go into a twirling trance, but what they perform is the Sufi twirl or the SEMA and the purpose of that tour.

It's an active state of meditation. And through that twirl, they aim to reach an ultimate state of truth and knowledge. So in her card she writes, I chose a twirling dervish because of your constant search for more truth and knowledge and how you use that to help the school and this community. She went on to explain that during the twirl they stomp their feet to symbolize, striving against and defeating the Eagle and as they twirl they also have their right hand reaching up to receive the blessing from God, while they're left hand is facing down to distribute these blessings. For me, the key word was eagle and I could feel the cobwebs clearing in my mind as I realized that I had unknowingly developed an inflated ego. The school was successful and I was successful and I had this thing like I knew it



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all. And if the board change, the staff change, I became angry at this and I couldn't be with it. So I researched Eagle and relationship and leadership and it was such an enlightening moment.

So I realized then that the issue was not the people, that it was me and my problem with kind of facing and dealing with relationships. So I ended up the year with a very honest discussion with the board chairman in which I of course had to profusely. Say, I'm sorry and apologize. Go and apologize. And I also shared that experience with some members of my team on why you shouldn't do so. My pearl for you today is you're allowed one very, very stupid thing every seven years. kidding. It's just that if you are successful, at what you do, and I know a lot of you here you are, a lot of you are successful leaders trying not to develop that no adult attitude. Be careful of inflated people. Do not let your ego dictate what you see, what you believe and what you feel. And most importantly, do not let your past success ruin any possibility of future success. thank you very much. Let's all have a wonderful morning and I'll see you at the morning break."