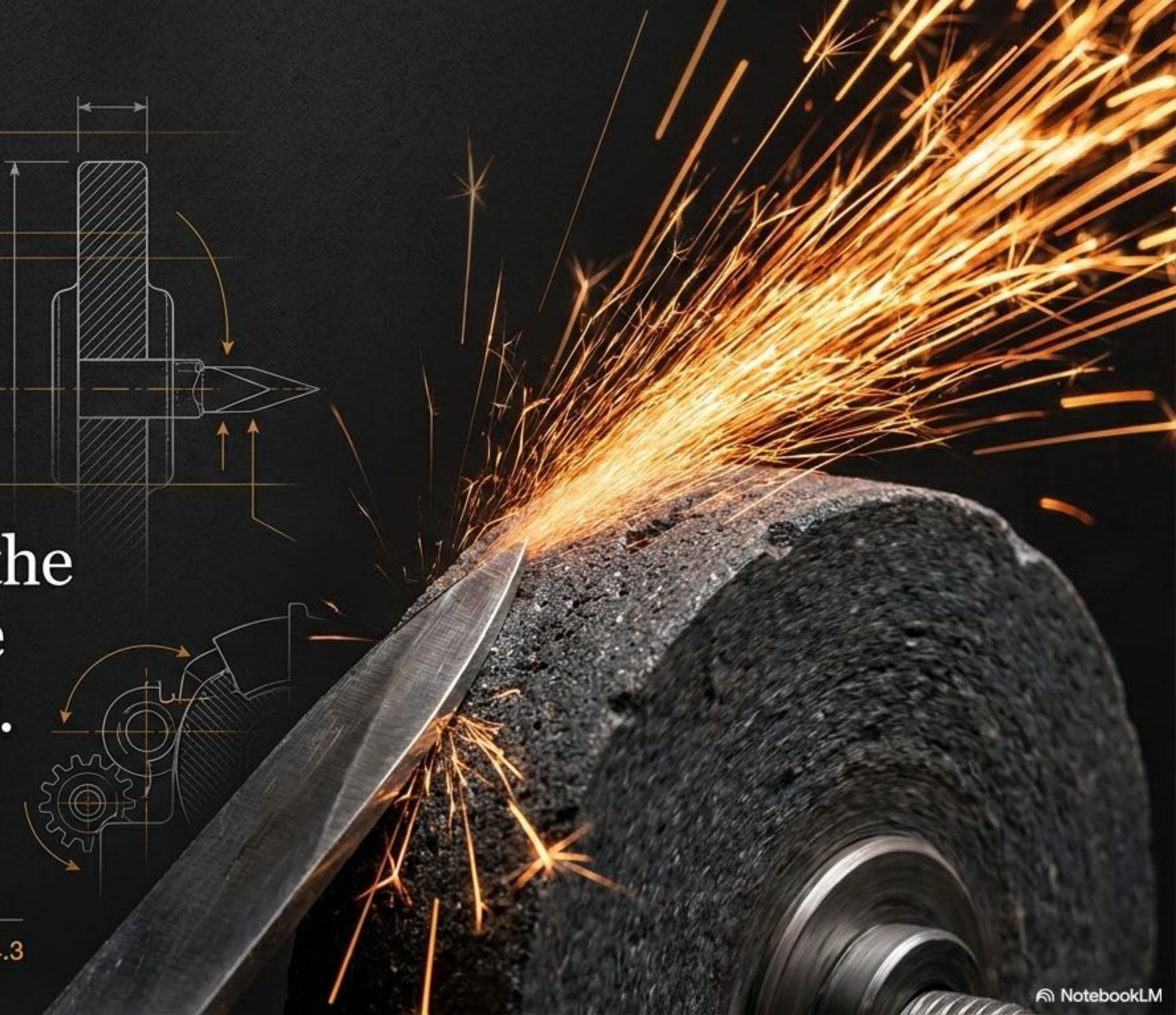


THE EDGE SOMEONE SAW FIRST

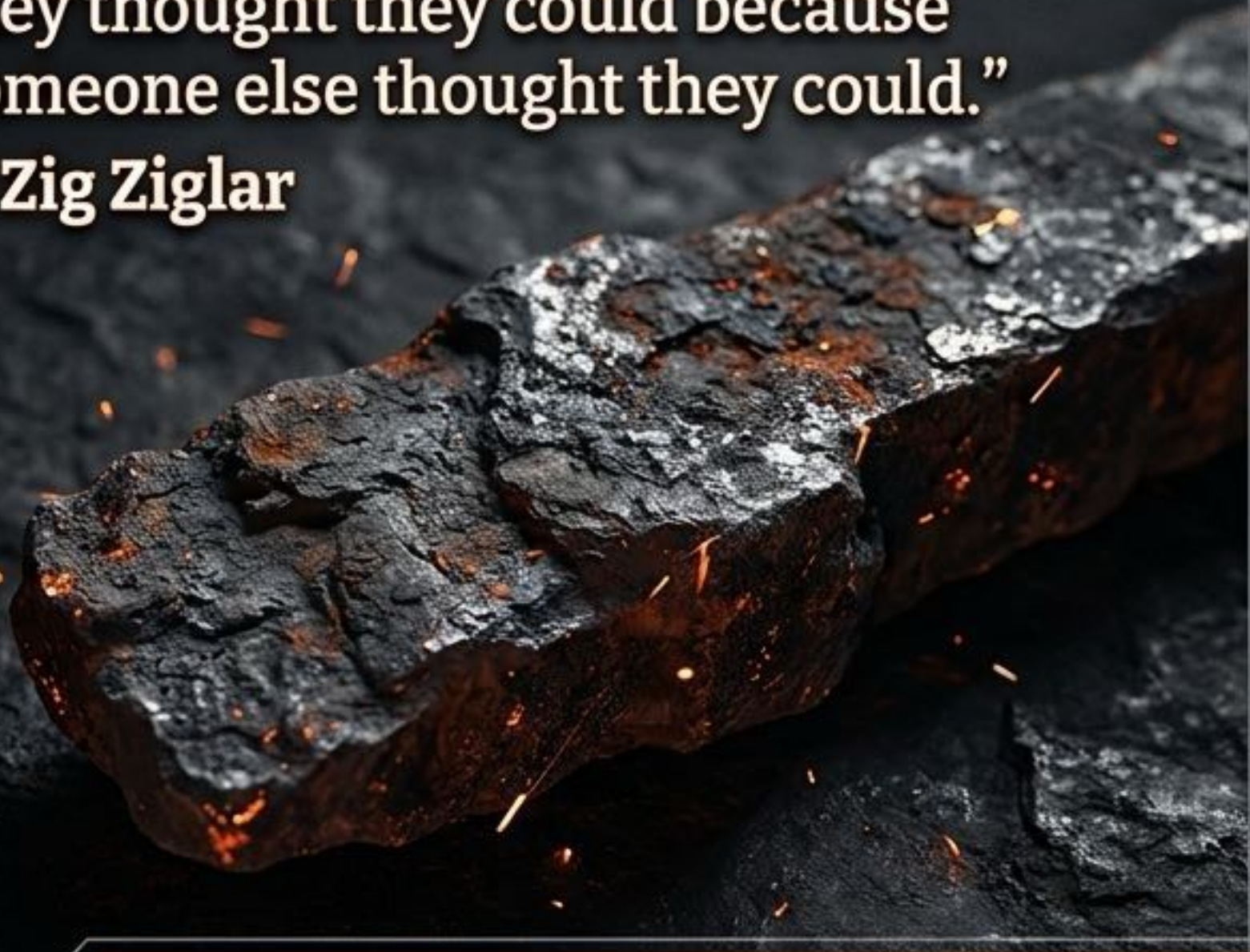
The mechanics of the
Whetstone and the
legacy of the Blade.



STRUCTURE LABEL

“A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could because someone else thought they could.”

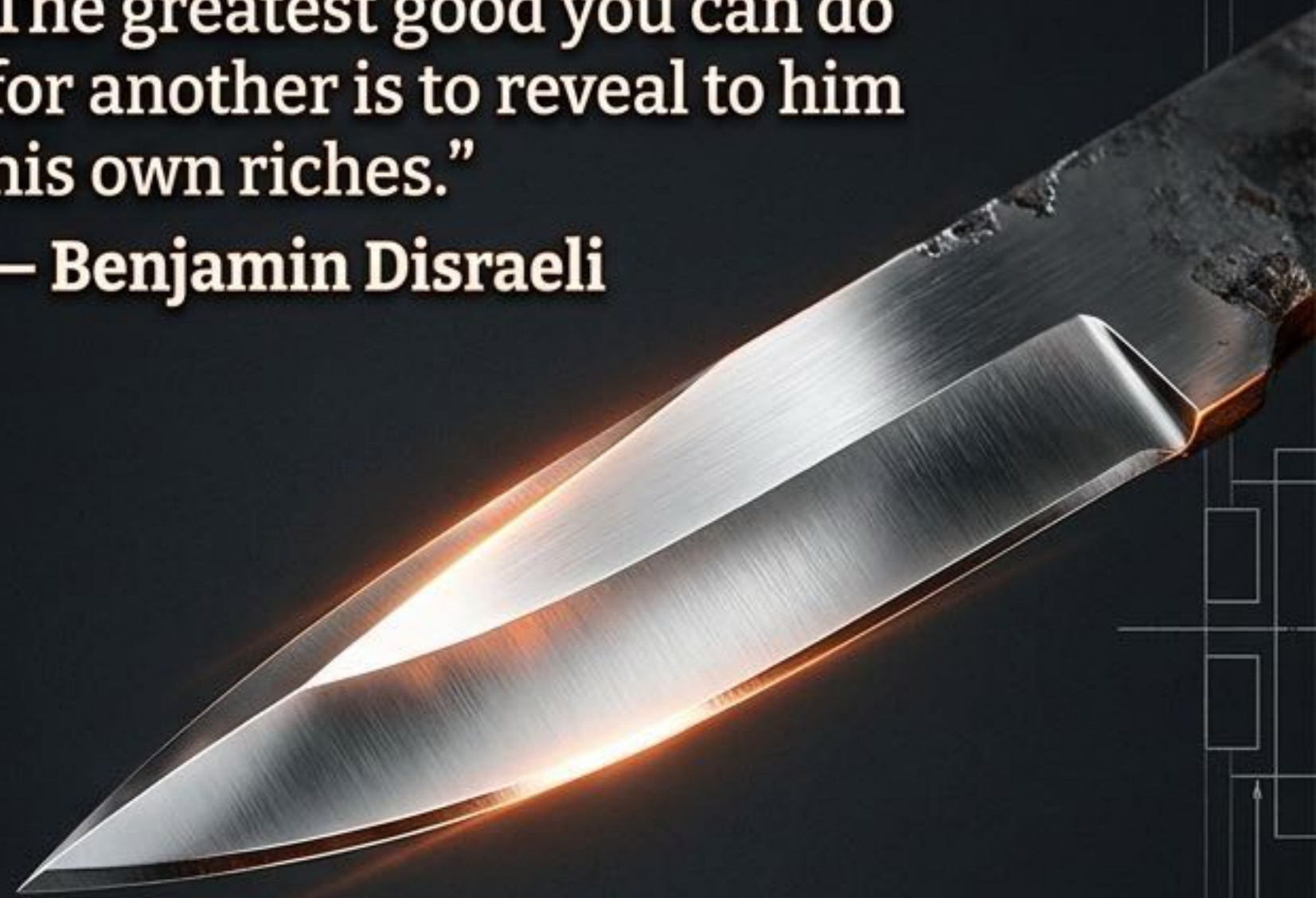
— Zig Ziglar



STRUCTURE LABEL

“The greatest good you can do for another is to reveal to him his own riches.”

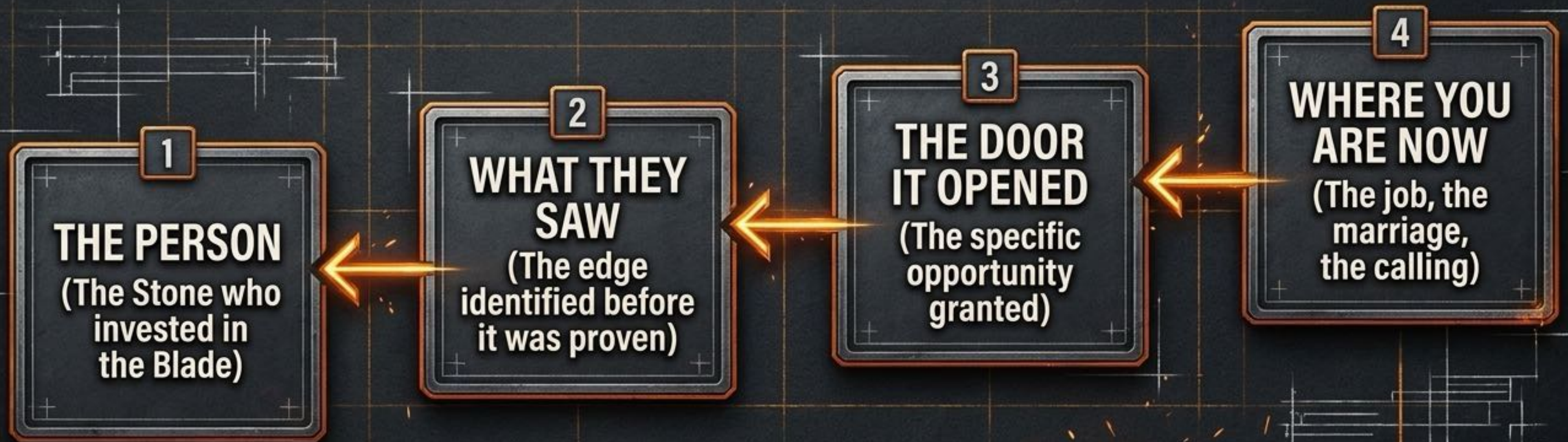
— Benjamin Disraeli



Belief is a self-fulfilling investment that arrives before the evidence.

Think: Whose voice do you still hear in your head when the work gets hard — and is it building you up or tearing you down?

The Apostle Paul traced Timothy's faith back through two named women—his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice. **You are a link, not the origin. "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Cor 4:7).**



Gratitude is not sentimentality; it is an accurate accounting of how you got here.

THE ANSWER-GIVER

ACTION: Adds something foreign to you (giving a fish).



RESULT: Keeps the mentee dependent.



IMPACT: Safe, but ultimately limits potential.



THE EXCAVATOR

ACTION: Hones what is already there (revealing the fisherman).



RESULT: Makes the mentee dangerous (in the best sense).



IMPACT: Changes the trajectory of a life.



The highest form of leadership isn't making men into something new. It is helping them see what God already put in them. Jesus didn't just teach Simon; He renamed him Peter ("The Rock") long before he acted like it.

THE WEIGHT OF BELIEF:

When greatness is seen in you,
permission to coast is removed.
Being believed in is a weight
as much as a wind.

THE FRICTION OF TRUTH:

The Whetstone is a
movement away from the
Status Quo. It causes pain.
Sharpening requires a surface
harder than the metal.

THE STONE
(Mentor)

FRICTION
(Pain)

THE BLADE
(Mentee)

THE EDGE

**Comfort has never sharpened
anyone. Don't resent the man who
raised your ceiling; rise to it.**

**CHEAP
ENCOURAGEMENT**

**CHEAP
ENCOURAGEMENT**

(Asks nothing of you,
yields no edge).

**STRAIGHT TALK
TEMPERED BY LOVE**

(Hard looks that get results.
“Faithful are the wounds of
a friend” — Prov 27:6).

**CRUEL
CONTEMPT**

**CRUEL
CONTEMPT**

(Critique without care.
Breaks the blade).

We remember affirmation fondly, but it is the **correction that changes us**.
A High Impact Man (HIM) learns to receive hard truth without
flinching and deliver it without cruelty.

The servant who hid his talent in the ground was not called **humble**, but **“wicked and slothful”** (Matt 25:26).

FALSE HUMILITY ISN'T MODESTY; IT'S BURYING THE TALENT YOU WERE GIVEN. STOP ARGUING WITH THE PEOPLE WHO CAN SEE YOU MORE CLEARLY THAN YOU SEE YOURSELF.



THE MASK:
Modesty, hesitation,
“I’m not ready,” waving
off compliments.

THE REALITY:
Fear wearing a
respectable mask,
stubbornness,
refusal to submit to
the Stone.



You were apprenticed to eventually work at your own stand, not to admire the master forever.

POURING IN:

The Stone teaches the standard to the Blade.

CLOSING THE GAP:

The act of teaching exposes the Stone. You cannot pour a standard into a younger man while openly violating it yourself.

Mentoring is not one-way charity. You don't wait until you're finished to become a Stone; becoming a Stone is part of how you get finished.



PROXIMATE

Are you physically in the room? “Iron sharpens iron” (Prov 27:17) requires the iron to be present. Hard looks cannot be done virtually.



PURPOSEFUL

Is there a real outcome? The meeting must be aimed at deliberate growth, not just a friendly chat or a pizza party.



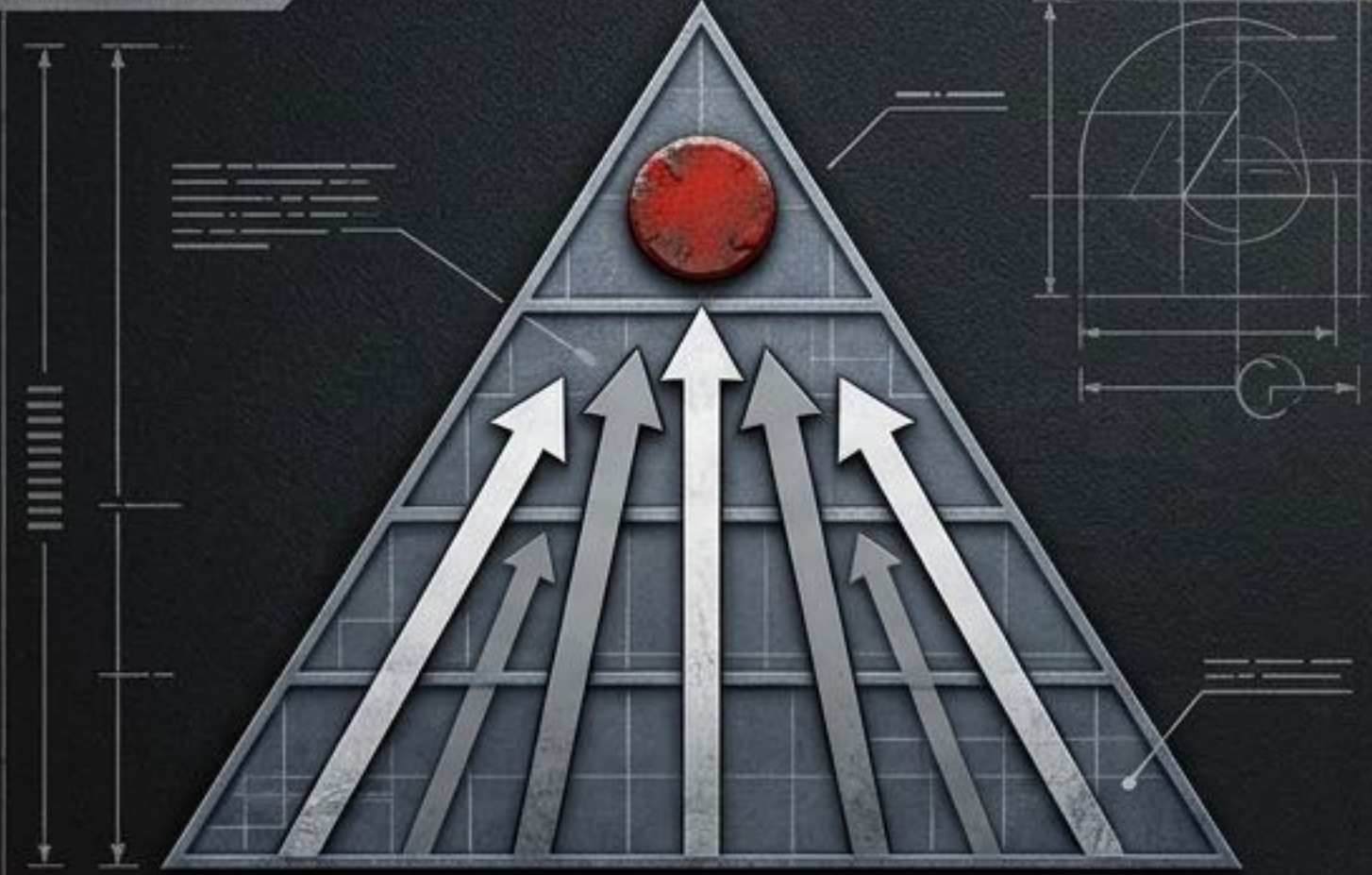
PERIODIC

Is there a rhythm? The time must be protected on the calendar, not left to chance.

WARNING:

Good will without proximity, purpose, and periodicity is just a warm feeling that never sharpens anyone. Deliberatude is required.

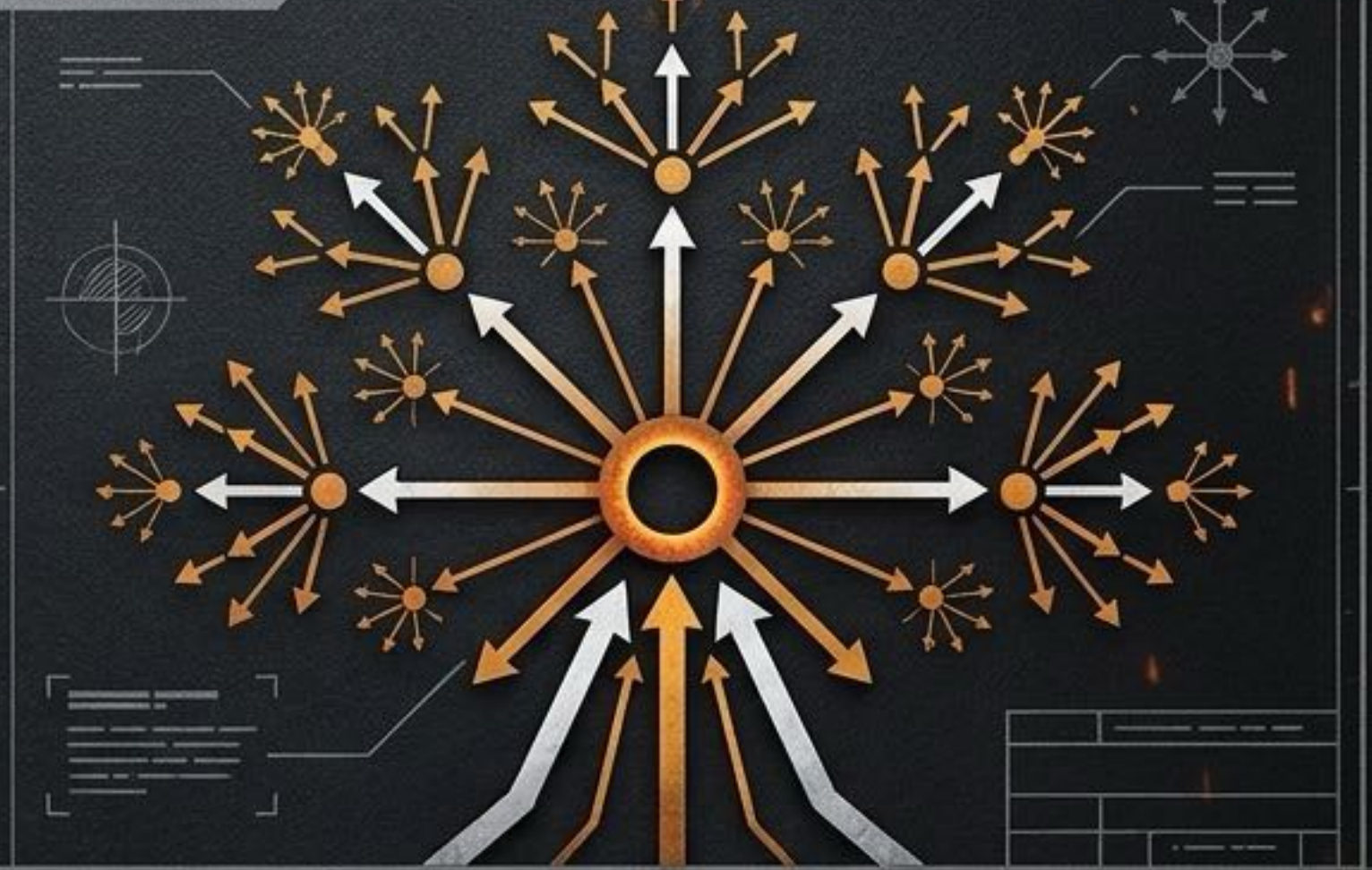
GRAPHIC A



THE INDISPENSABLE LEADER:

Hoards knowledge for self-preservation. Acts as a ceiling his people cannot break through.

GRAPHIC B



THE VIRTUOUS LEADER:

Works himself out of a job. Makes himself dispensable by raising up men better than himself.

Your real legacy isn't your résumé; it's the edge you put on other men who will cut in rooms you'll never enter.

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion...” — Philippians 1:6



THE ORIGIN:

God saw your edge before you took a breath. Every human mentor who believed in you was echoing His original belief.



THE PROCESS:

Sanctification is God sharpening you with a patience no human Stone could match, using every hardship and every brother in your path.



THE RELIEF:

You are genuinely unfinished, and genuinely certain to be completed. The Maker doesn't quit.



CONTACT YOUR STONE.

Identify the person who saw your edge before you did. Call them or write a handwritten note (no texts). Tell them specifically what their belief led to.



FIND YOUR BLADE.

Identify the one man you are supposed to be sharpening right now. Name the excuse stopping you. Take step one: schedule the coffee, name their strength, offer to teach.

Someday your legacy will have a name and a face. Go start sharpening it this week.



If you could go back and thank one person who believed in you at a moment you didn't believe in yourself — and they could actually hear it — what's the one sentence you'd want them to know?

And what's stopping you from finding a way to say it to them for real this year?

Give us the humility to be sharpened still,
the courage to own what You've put in us,
and the deliberate love it takes to become a
Stone for the younger men within our reach.

Free us to lead, and through us free others,
so that the edge You've put on us
cuts in rooms we'll never enter.