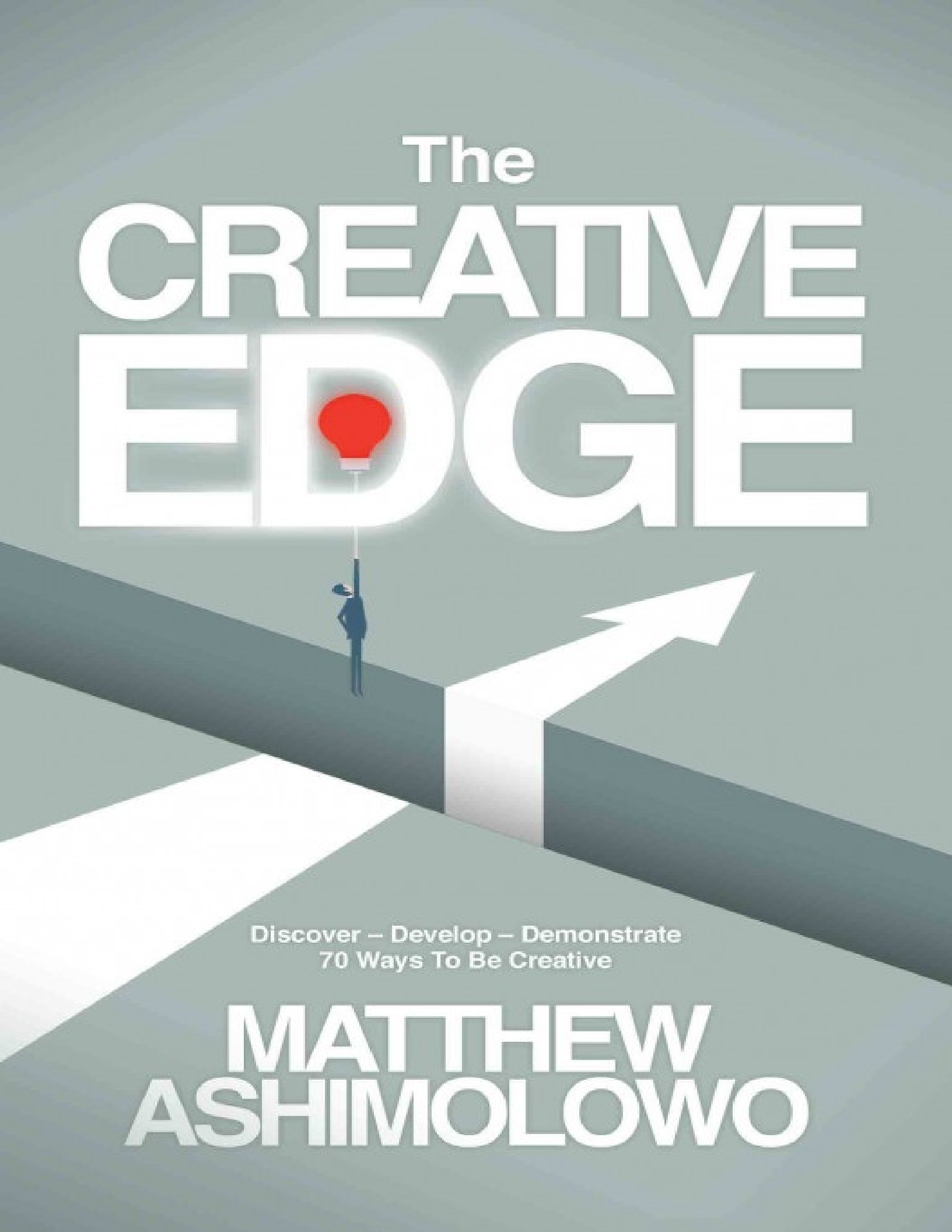
The CREATIVE EDGE



Discover – Develop – Demonstrate
70 Ways To Be Creative

MATTHEW ASHIMOLOWO

the creative edge

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70 ways to be creative



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Table of contents

Introduction

Chapter 1 – The creative edge of God

Chapter 2 – Unlock your creative code

Chapter 3 – Traits of the creative mind

Chapter 4 – Seventy-one ways to release your creative skills

Chapter 5 – Creativity and ideas generation techniques

Chapter six – Create, invent, innovate

Conclusion

Introduction

We were created by God, for ourselves to be creative. For you to understand this statement and to understand that creativity is hard wired into our DNA from the beginning by God, you would need to imagine our planet from the days of Adam.

When God created Adam and Eve and put them on this planet, there was no house standing, no iron, no cars, no canoes, nothing except the planet pregnant with possibilities. I am sure, when they looked into the horizon, they saw nothing but greenery and animals.

When I fast forward to 2018, when I am writing this book, you would see that man's ingenuity and creativity have since made the earth to deliver what it was pregnant with. Iron was dug out of the earth for us to be able to have cars. First discovered by the Hittites with which they made chariots. Plastic has been used today to replace rubber. Rubber was discovered. Several minerals have since been discovered for different reasons. Our earth is now full of skyscrapers, buildings of amazing designs, unusual architectural and engineering feats have been achieved by mankind.

Creative capability runs in our veins. We all have it. It comes in different shapes, sizes and styles. Some write, some paint, some cook, some design, some sow, some look at wood and see furniture, some look at plastic and see things to mould. Some take sand, mortar and bricks and turn them to uncommon and unusual houses. We all have an irresistible, divinely inspired impulse to create, to fashion and to organise.

Genesis 1:27 – "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

We draw this from God who created everything. He put the earth in its current shape. We are surrounded by so much creativity that it is almost possible to take it for granted.

A person goes to the market, buys condiments and turns them to amazing food. A writer assembles letters, the 26 letters of the alphabet, and writes books that are practical, engaging, mind-boggling, attention-keeping; crafting out sentences and paragraphs to form the entire book. This again is a reflection of God's ability to create.

We have, in effect, become satellites of the greatest creator. Men, women, children are all creative and when we do, we are imaging Him. It is hard work to take words and create rhymes of poems, to take the greens of flowers and turn them to a beautiful garden, to take wood and turn it into beautiful furniture and make humanity to pay thousands for it.

One could fold his arms and do nothing and be a mere consumer. It is possible to suffocate your gifting and not create anything. We all have creative gifts. We are gifted and that is why musicians can create songs that amaze us and people can make cars that take us faster, quicker and with great comfort; airplanes that take us from one continent to the other; dancers who have turned main steps to things that keep us in amazement; music, a succession of sounds that keep us responding; woodworkers, organisers, landscapers or what shall I say of preachers who are able to take the truths of scripture and craft an argument that is quite engaging and compelling.

We are creative, and when we do, we are copying our Maker.

When we write a song or a book, we bring out the DNA of God that is in us.

Creativity reminds us of how much greater God is. He is the best, the greatest. That is why the best of us who has committed himself to creativity feels restless until something has been converted to that which amazes, blesses, engages, draws or makes humanity feel better and enjoy the world. Even the clothes we wear were once cotton on a tree, or wool of a sheep on the plains of New Zealand.

We need to create. Creativity is what will make a photographer not to be satisfied with just having a camera; but what is the use of a camera if you

do not capture the beauty of life with it. What is the use of a piano if there is no musician to bellow the sound inside it. Creativity is part of mankind. We must discover our creative edge.

Our creativity echoes God's ability. It also shows that we are not God ourselves, we are an extension of the great Maker.

Some creativity grows out of serendipity. It is a sudden discovery that was not planned for. Others come out of curiosity, when we question and challenge the impossible, when we turn 'why' to 'why not.' Creativity requires that we have the eyes to see it and the mind to appreciate it. Creativity requires that we answer questions and begin to create even when the value may not be obvious. The value may not always be known because it is new or has never been seen before. Imagine the great paintings of the likes of Michelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci, Dalli etc. At the point of creation, they were not appreciated, but some have exchanged hands for as low as you can think but also as high as fifty million dollars for one painting; never tested before, possibly never sold at the time of creation but later finding its value.

In this book, I will attempt to show how that creativity, particularly the body of Christ discovering, developing, deploying and demonstrating its creative edge may be our way of tapping into all the resources which we need for global evangelism.

At the time of writing this book, four companies namely, Apple, Microsoft, Facebook and Google have a joint value greater than the GDP of a whole continent, the continent of Africa. Wikipedia puts the 2018 value of the GDP of the whole of Africa, from Cairo to Johannesburg at 2.2 trillion US dollars. On 30th May 2018, Microsoft was valued at 753 billion US dollars. In July 2018, Apple became 1 trillion US dollars. Facebook stands as 400 billion US dollars and on 30th May 2018, Alphabet Inc., Google's parent company, was valued at 739 billion US dollars. These four companies, in 2018, were valued at a total of approximately 2.9 trillion US dollars. Ironically, the four

companies did not exist forty years ago and Facebook, as at 2018, was only fourteen years old.

Apart from Apple which produces physical products such as iPhones and iPads, all four companies have essentially developed concepts that depict creativity. Facebook created a virtual platform for a social community. Google started out mainly as a search engine and yet, their combined current value is more than that of a whole continent. Nothing else argues better for the fact that creativity is a major avenue for wealth creation.

“*There is a fountain of youth: it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age.” Sophia Loren*

Chapter 1 – The creative edge of God

"*bereshit barah Elohim"*

In case you are wondering what that was, that is Hebrew. That is the opening statement of the book of Genesis in Hebrew and it means, "In the beginning, Elohim God created out of nothing."

The opening statement of the Bible gives an account of the creation. It shows us how creativity is the opening of everything. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing. The word '*barah*' is to create out of nothing.

This very statement totally contradicts every argument of evolutionary science. Evolutionary science argues that there was an evolving of mankind from a lower form to the other and that we are here because of the survival of the fittest. The scriptures make known, on the contrary, that everything God created was by faith and perfect at its time of arrival. The scriptures say that when God looked at His creation, it was the best and in its fullest form and therefore He said it was good.

Genesis 1:31 – "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So, the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Man is totally different from animals. It could almost be concluded that animals are monochrome in their capacity to create. Once they build their nest or cave as the case may be, the only other ability of most animals is the one they have learnt from the previous of their species on how to survive. Lions for example have always eaten their meat raw. Humans, on the other hand have developed a thousand and one things to do with meat i.e. cook, fry, freeze, eat as lean meat, sirloin etc.

God's process of creation started by Him speaking the universe into existence.

Genesis 1:3 – "Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."

Genesis 1:6 – "Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.""

Genesis 1:9 – "Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so."

Genesis 1:11 – "Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so."

Genesis 1:14 – "Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;"

Genesis 1:20 – "Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.""

Genesis 1:24 – "Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so."

The way He created the universe reflected His creativity, which is to create out of nothing. His creative ability reveals His person to us.

Romans 1:20 – "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,"

God's creative skill and design is shown in the universe that surrounds us.

Isaiah 45:18 – "For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the Lord, and there is no other."

We see design and purpose in everything He did. Some of His purposes may not be immediately obvious to mankind but everything has a purpose - not only with purpose, but also in order. The account of creation in Genesis shows an ordered process. Man was created on the sixth day after everything he needed to exist had already been made.

There is an absolute synchronisation in the process of God's creativity. Nothing was made out of place. Even the human body is a wonder of God's creativity.

Psalm 139:14 – "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."

Even the smallest parts of the human body have the most intricate of designs. For example, the retina. The retina is about one-square-inch of tissue inside the human eye and yet it has over one hundred million light receptors. These cells are cones and slender rods which convert light into electrochemical energy, enabling humans to see.

Man is a wonder of creativity. The eye is so delicate a camera that it takes 196 colour photos per second. It has its own light meter, protection, cleaning equipment – that is why we shed tears or have fluid in our eye. It has its self-repairing abilities. Still on the human eye, it has close to 6 million cones. These cones provide the eye's colour sensitivity.

What shall we say of another small part of the human body, that the awesome creator made: the ear. The ear did not happen by accident, neither is it a mere addition to the human body. The upper ear collects sound waves from the air and funnels them to the eardrum. These waves cause the eardrum to vibrate. The eardrums can sense frequencies that move the eardrum only one billionth of a centimetre. The vibrations are mechanically transmitted and amplified through the three connecting bones in our inner ear. The mechanical vibrations enter a fluid in the inner ear. These waves are converted into nerve impulses by 24,000 auditory receptor cells in the ear. The auditory nerve transmits these to the brain, enabling a person to hear. The ear also provides us with balance. It gives balance to the human body.

A third part of the human body which most of us do not get to physically see, is the heart. This part of the body which keeps us alive beats 100,000 times per day, pumping 5.8 tons of blood per day, enough to fill a 4000-gallon tank car; and except for a few people who have experienced either a heart attack, palpitations or some other issues, it works with such accurate rhythm until it finally stops, in old age. 100, 000 times a day.

Let me take on the entire circulatory system in your body. This includes passage ways totalling about 60,000 miles around the body and yet the heart is self-lubricating, high capacity and self-regulating.

This creative God made every part of the human body as a whole lesson in itself. The brain, the skeletal structure, our hands, each one of them took some creativity. The bones in our hands, the ones in our legs, our feet and if we look beyond our own human body and into the world of nature we would be amazed at the capacity, creativity and variety of His work.

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