

Shared by **Tom Asacker: author, innovator, change agent, provocateur**

Lock and key.

Budapest-born Erik Weisz was one of seven children.
He arrived in the United States in his mother's arms in 1878.
Twenty-two years later Harry Handcuff Houdini was baffling police in Scotland Yard.
He had let go of what he was and became the world's most famous escape artist.
Houdini boasted he could break out of any jail cell in the world in less than one hour.
And every time he was tested he would escape in just a few short minutes.
But one time things didn't go as Houdini had planned.
As the story goes, a small town in the British Isles built a new lockup.
And they haughtily invited Houdini to come give their showpiece a try.
As usual Houdini accepted the challenge without hesitation.
He arrived and strolled into the cell pregnant with confidence.
And once the door was closed and he was left alone, Houdini went to work.
He coughed up a special lock pick, quickly released his handcuffs and homed in on the door.
But there was something strange about this particular lock.
Thirty tortuous minutes dragged on and Houdini was rattled.
After sixty, Houdini was crestfallen and drenched in sweat.
Exhausted, he collapsed against the heavy metal door.
And it swung open.
Houdini was astonished to discover that the door was never locked.
At least not in objective reality.
It was only locked in his mind.
There's a quote often attributed to the great Houdini.
"My mind is the key that sets me free."
Minds can certainly be keys.
But more often they are locks.

Catalyst for change, Tom Asacker has written several books including *The Business of Belief* and *Opportunity Screams*. He views today's world of complexity and change as a large-scale manifestation of many emergent events and behaviors that require a new, coherent viewpoint to guide one's actions.