

WISDOM STROKES

THOUGHT PROVOKING REFLECTIONS ON INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES



SUNIL RAISONI



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Dedicated To My Parents
Sadabai and Gyanchand Ji Raisoni

"Your love and support is the foundation of all I do and achieve."

I consider my family to be my strongest support system which enables me to take big leaps. I share the credit of my success with each and every one of them.

I pay homage to my father Gyanchand Ji Raisonni for guiding me so that I could follow in his footsteps with inspiration and example, while making my life one of integrity and character.

I express my sincerest gratitude to my wife Shobha Raisonni, who has always been my shadow in all my moves irrespective of the journey I undertook in life. I also feel grateful to my children Shradhha Surana, Shruti Dhadda and Shreyas Raisonni for staying in tune with technological innovation and putting all possible efforts into strengthening the foundation of my life with new perspectives and avenues.

-- Sunil Raisonni

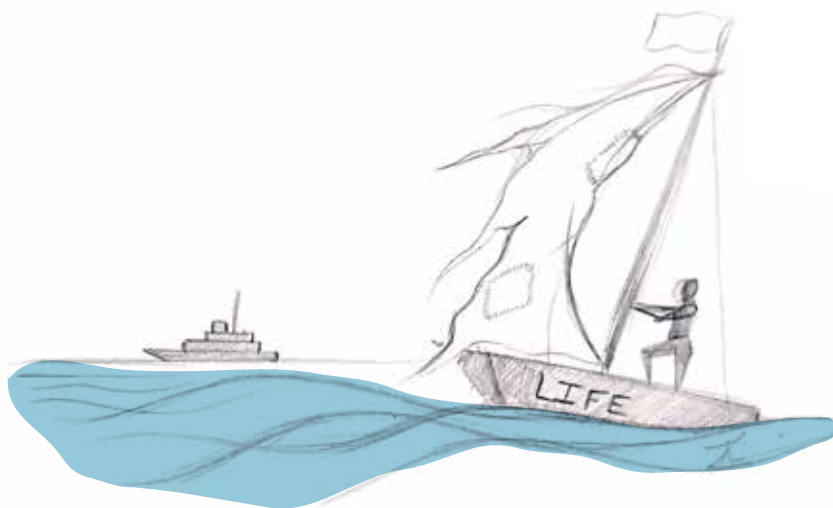
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TALKING ABOUT THE PATH OF SUCCESS



It doesn't always happen according to the way you have planned things out but I feel if you have covered most of the aspects, it does help out there in the middle.

-- Sachin Tendulkar

Life is a vast ocean where you experience everything on your journey; thunderous rage, tides with cool breeze, serenity with tranquillity, and of course a beautiful horizon that seems impossible to reach. Amidst this vastness, there is nothing that is planned. The water keeps flowing with high and low tides exposing us to many experiences of life. That is all life is about, discovering experiences, learning to deal with what comes across, and preparing for what comes unplanned.

We all have dreams, aspirations, and goals, but there is one thing that we always stay blind to. And that is uncertainty. With definite goals, we keep sailing through the waters but approaching a high tide or winds with a stormy intensity often breaks us apart. It either makes us stagnant at that point or makes us sail in the direction opposite to our goals. Some even end up drowning with the approaching rage. But are these the only solutions?

Life is beautiful and we all leave a beautiful way crossed behind. Then why come to a standstill? Why end up drowning? Why not push our fears deep down the waters? Why not be strong and face the high and stormy tides? Yes, since the time we started the journey of life, we should stand strong and confident to face anything that comes across. We should understand and know all the aspects of dealing with the situations as and when they come across. We should prepare ourselves to face the unexpected in a way that can help us sail through the rough waters of life.

In the end, it is our journey. If there is high, there is low; if there is happiness, there is sorrow; if there is success, there is failure. All we have to do is prepare ourselves for unexpected situations or eventualities with a positive attitude, courageous beliefs, and fruitful alternatives towards our path to success.



TALKING ABOUT THE PEACE IN THE WORLD



Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world.

-- A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

Peace in the world is the most beautiful reflection of people's hearts and minds where righteousness resides. Righteousness is the quality of having a moral character and acting by the divine laws. And this quality is known to give birth to peace.

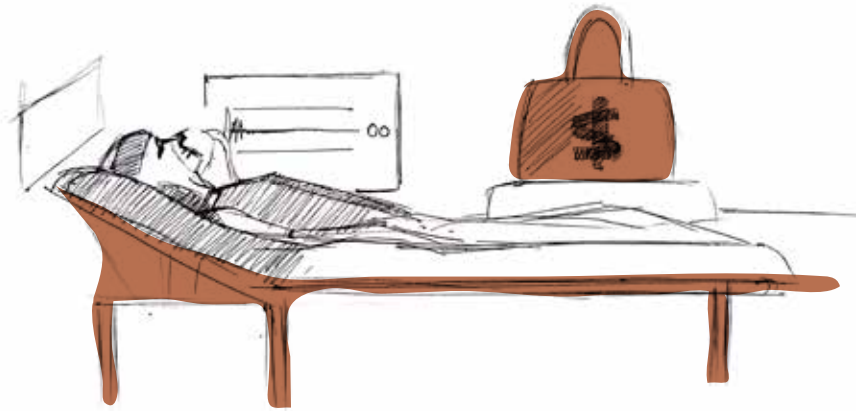
Modern society has been experiencing a sharp deviation from the rightful path of morals, values, virtues, honesty, righteousness, and purity. The people today are living a more materialistic life that is eventually taking the society in the clutch of an unknown demon posing various societal problems. However, being righteous by heart can turn this inclination towards a happier, peaceful, and prosperous society.

Take an example of a toddler nurtured with love, warmth, and values. It is this stage of life when all the values are either imbibed or thrown away in the lost world. He imbibes righteousness and moral character at the core of his existence. The same is further evolved through education equipped with a strong value system paving the way for personal and spiritual growth. Later in life, the toddler becomes a responsible and righteous citizen empowering his society with knowledge and resources, working to uplift the deserving and underprivileged people of the society, and giving way to the formation of an enlightened society. This, in turn, will strip away the inequalities and differences between people of various communities and societies. And when differences are removed or even minimised, what takes birth? Indeed Peace.

So, from being a toddler with a blank canvas to being a righteous citizen where colours of purity smile on the canvas, the transformation leads to harmony; harmony with oneself, harmony with others, harmony in the home, harmony in nation, and harmony in the world. This, in turn, will contribute to bringing peace, prosperity, and happiness to the planet.



MEANING OF TRUE HAPPINESS



A wise man should consider that health is the greatest of human blessings, and learn how by his own thought to derive benefit from his illnesses.

**-- Hippocrates
Greek Scientist**

A sound mind in a sound body is instrumental in having a productive and beautiful soul. With a healthy body and mind, we are bound to deliver incredible results, results that are beyond our confines, and results that can make us genius. On the other hand, in an ailing body, even our most beautiful soul fails to achieve its task.

Our body is just like a guitar whose strings vibrate a soundboard to project the desired sound with their resonances. The strings even amplify some overtones to deliver a soothing and calming sound. But what if the strings are broken? What if the strings are out of tune? Here, even the most beautiful guitar becomes a useless musical instrument. The same happens in our body. When all body parts, including the mind, is in harmony with each other and at its optimum health, happiness follows with a melodious overtone of life.

Let us take a case study of a millionaire suffering from a brain tumour. Here we talk about a man who spends his life working and earning millions of dollars all through his life. At a later stage, he gets affected by the deadly brain tumour. Doctors suggest an operation that could be fatal. His entire family stays outside the operation room with a bag loaded with dollars to pay for the operation bill. Unfortunately, the man takes his last breath on the operation table, and the soul departs from this world. Money fails to cure his tumour.

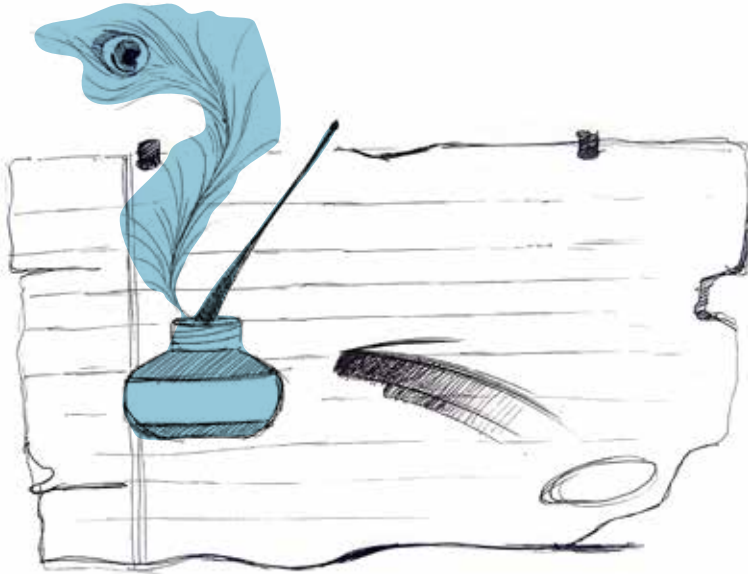
This indicates that health is priceless and the greatest of human blessings.

We cannot quantify our lives in dollars, but we certainly can cultivate optimism within. With a positive mind, we can overcome the most formidable challenges of life; we can smoothly sail through the rough waters of life. Here, let us take another case study where a woman can walk on her feet after years of paralysis. It is her positive outlook towards life and her firmness towards recovering.

Optimism, when rooted deep within, takes us to accept whatever life brings to us and helps us stay healthy and courageous to overcome the challenge. This brings happiness that indicates how healthy we are, both physically and mentally. And this happiness becomes the requisite on the way to our dreams.



TRANSFORMING INFORMATION TO KNOWLEDGE IS INSTRUMENTAL



Today knowledge has power. It controls access to opportunity and advancement.

-- Peter Drucker

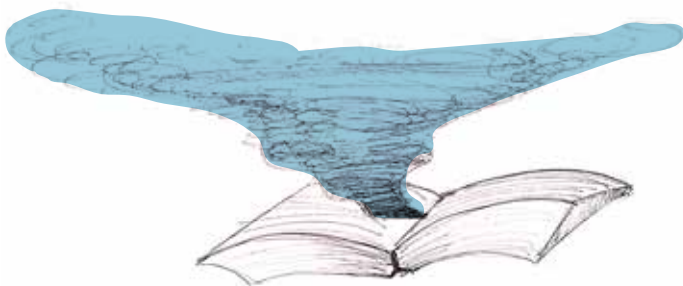
Abiding by the words of Peter Drucker, knowledge beholds an incredible power to beat physical strength, empower our growth in the society, make us humble in our achievements, and enable us to discover new horizons of life. Indeed to mention, that no individual, society, community, or nation can prosper without knowledge.

In the current era, we all have become addicted to digital channels and technological devices. We keep juggling our fingers on keyboards, mobiles, smartphones, and other similar devices to source information and knowledge we aspire to receive. But think wisely, what do you source from the web? Information or knowledge? To be precise, it's only information that we can extract from there because knowledge cannot be gained from the web but comes from real life experiences by validating interpretation of the reality.

We all know the seasons of the year; we all have read about the seed germination process; we all are well acquainted with the fact that Earth revolves and rotates. But, do you know how and why seasons change? Do you know how the seed grows into a plant? Do you understand how and why rotation and revolution of the Earth take place? This understanding of "How and Why" indicates a clear differentiation between information and knowledge.

Information is defined as refined data that improves your representation of an object, thing or person. In contrast, knowledge connotes the understanding and awareness of the subject obtained through learning, perceiving or discovering. This, in turn, increases consciousness and makes us amass the wealth for becoming powerful. Once we gain this incredible power of knowledge, we open ourselves to opportunities, heightened achievements, and advancements that further become a virtue of wisdom and perseverance.

Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft; Hippocrates, the founder of medicine; and Amitabh Bachchan, an Indian actor; are all a live testimony to the power of knowledge. Many more have burnt the midnight oil to hold on to the power of knowledge and have controlled access to the roadmap of success. Any one of us can be next!



CONVERTING FAILURES TO A GLORIOUS ENDING



Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though sometimes it is hard to realise this. For the world was built to develop character, and we must learn that the setbacks and grieves which we endure help us in our marching onward.

-- Henry Ford

American Businessman

As said by Henry Ford, 'Life is a series of experiences' that bring forth happiness, joys, success, tears, smiles, failures, grievances, and setbacks. There is no permanency of any moment or experience of life.

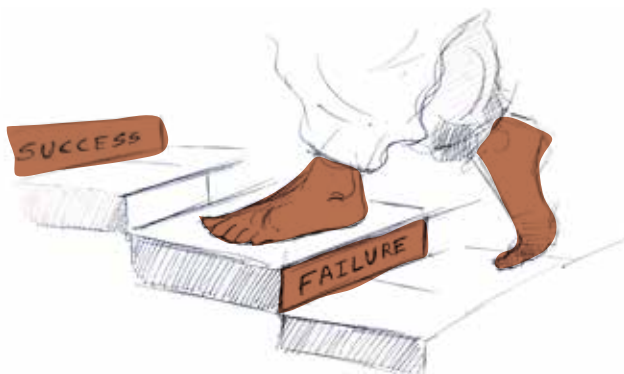
What stays constant in life? The only constant thing is 'Change'. Life keeps changing now and then, embracing all the moments of life, as and how they come along the course. We win, we smile, we stay happy, we fail, we trip, we cry, we make mistakes, we get lost. And taking one step at a time, we keep marching ahead with no assurance of what is to come next in life. That's all that we can do in life.

However, the way we embrace all the experiences, the way we deal with all the setbacks, and how we handle all the obstacles that come across defines the core of our character. There are moments when setbacks and failures put us down in life, but then it purely depends on whether we consider it as failed moments or as stepping stones towards success.

A quote by Winston Churchill beautifully states, 'Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm'. If that's what we can achieve in life, success is a close-by destination. Failures, setbacks, and obstacles tend to give new experiences in life. If we have the passion and enthusiasm to embrace the true colours of life, these experiences can make us stronger and smarter to lead a successful life.

Going down the success stories of Henry Ford, Walt Disney, Charlie Chaplin, Michael Jordan, Bill Gates, Ratan Tata, Mahatma Gandhi, Amitabh Bachchan, and Dhirubhai Ambani will give a clear interpretation of inspirational tales directed by failures and extreme controversies. All they had was the power to continue their journey with sheer determination.

Like the live examples, even we can shape our character, reframe our persona, and transform our failures to a remarkable success story.



THE WISDOM OF SILENCE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS



A Successful person listens more and talks less, while an unsuccessful person talks more and listens less.

‘Empty vessels make the most sound’. This is a prevalent English idiom that showcases the hidden potential of gaining the wisdom of silence. Silence does not merely mean staying numb but speaking thoughtfully with sufficient information and an appropriate assumption. This comes as a result of focused listening.

To be precise, silence defines how you can enrich yourself by listening more, analysing your situations, being aware of your emotions, and exploring your reactions. This, in turn, brings success and happiness to your life. Contrary, when there is no inner substance, when there is no self-analysis, and when there is no knowledge about a subject, all you do is keep blabbering like the sound of an empty vessel.

Going by the real-world examples, many take conversations like a competition where the one who speaks the longest and loudest stands as a winner. The fact remains that during such competitive discussions, you are just interrupting, insisting, persuading, and passing sarcastic remarks to prove your point of view and your superiority. Here, you are into a complete loss. Do you know how?

Let's extract the answer from knowing the benefits of listening more. When you listen more, you tend to gain knowledge and wisdom that plays an integral role in the information-driven world. Listening also helps you analyse the hidden meaning, message, and moral behind what you listen or what is said by another person. You can then implement the same learning to your life and work towards betterment. With this learning step-by-step, you should understand when to speak and hence save your story for that perfect moment. If you occasionally talk, if you come up with fresh ideas at intervals, your words will have extra weight and impact more powerfully.

So, what would you like to be? An empty vessel or a platter with a delicious meal? The choice is yours!



CONVERTING MOMENTS OF STUPIDITY TO MOMENTS OF LEARNING



The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits.

There is a very little difference between genius and stupidity, but that thin line beholds all the power and magic to become successful in life. When we talk about genius, we consider intelligence, both IQ and EQ.

There is a very little difference between genius and stupidity, but that thin line beholds all the power and magic to become successful in life. When we talk about genius, we consider intelligence, both IQ and EQ. Whosoever is a genius, always take a thoughtful route in life and follow the rules of perseverance and perspiration to reach their destined goals. However, the most important thing they know and believe is that they have their limitations. This does not apply to physical boundaries, emotions, or sensations that pull you back. This implements the constraints that help them make the right decision at the right moment. Precisely, they know the answers to all the 5 W's- Who, What, Where, When, and Why. This is what leads them to success. This is what makes them 'Geniuses'.

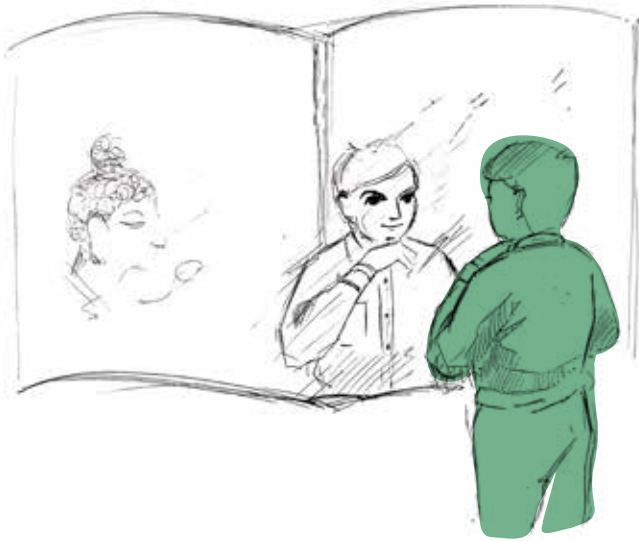
Talking about stupidity, a lot of people often get confused with the real meaning. According to the etymology, the word is taken from the French word, Stupid and Latin word, Stupidest that means 'Struck Senseless' or 'Amazed'. It also has other origins, but the meaning remains the same. However, if we go by definition, it means Lack of Intelligence or Poor Learning Abilities. When you have low intelligence or poor learning abilities, you tend to make silly mistakes in life that give you the tag of 'Stupid'.

Would you aspire to see a fish climbing a tree? Would you ever look forward to seeing a lizard flying in the sky? Would you ever ask a cricketer to participate in a chess championship and win the game? These are all merely the signs of stupidity that have the power to be infinite. But with intelligence, you have control on your aspirations. And that's the reason why it's said that a genius has its limits.

Peek into your past and think about a moment that you might have felt stupid. Think about the lessons you could have learnt from that specific moment. Then, work to smartly convert that moment of stupidity to a moment of learning and take your flight to success.



OVERCOMING YOUR WEAKNESS MAKES YOU STRONG AND SUCCESSFUL



You are actually strong when you know your weaknesses.

No one in the world is perfect. Everyone has some flaws and lacks something. But what you lack does not define your character; instead, overcoming that flaw makes you carve your identity.

Having weaknesses is a simple indication that you have space for grooming; you have the power to improve.

Have you ever counted your flaws? Do you know your weaknesses? Have you ever tried to work on your weakness? Well, first of all, all you need to do is acknowledge and accept your feelings. Analyse your strengths and weaknesses and segregate them wisely. Don't feel insecure, shy, and inferior; sit back, relax, and unwind an opportunity for fulfilment.

There was a man working with a multinational company having a six-figure salary. But do you know how he started? During his initial years in the corporate world, he was not so competitive. He lacked conversational skills in English. In due course of his job, he realised this and thought of overcoming his weakness because he felt this could affect his success in the long run. Every day from then on, he stood in front of the mirror and practised speaking in English. Adding to this practising in front of a mirror, he started learning one word a day from the dictionary. Gradually, he gained fluency in English. He converted his weakness into his strength and later became a tiny master of his destiny.

You too can grow and evolve; you too, can overcome your weakness. All you have to do is know your weakness and accept it. And once you learn to accept it, you get the power to overcome, improve, and evolve.



LEARN TO CREATE SUCCESS FROM THE WORST TIMES OF YOUR LIFE



When things are a disappointment, try not to be so discouraged.

**-- Carol Burnett
American Actress**

It is rightly said, "If you can learn from the worst times of your life, you'll be ready to go into the best times of your life". When you make mistakes, you learn it is a mistake and respond with the right ways of doing things.

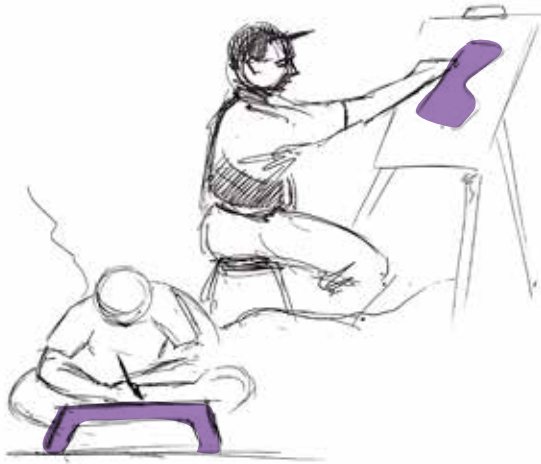
When you witness sadness, you feel the pain and understand the value of happiness. Similarly, when you experience disappointments, you crave for the feeling of contentment. In due course, you learn a lesson every time you make a mistake, every time you feel sad or disappointed.

Think wisely and understand what makes you disappointed? Major failures! Whether it is the failure of actions or failure of emotions; failure does hurt to the core. But would you stop at this crossroad? Would you not want to understand the reason that made you fail? Would you not want to fight back with more strength, courage, and optimism?

Take a deep thought and analyse what can make you go further in life. When failures put you down, when disappointments surround you, all you need to have is an infinite hope in your heart to face the finite disappointments of life. Agree, it takes a lot of learning, a lot of understanding, and a lot of courage to walk against the harsh wind of reality. But you can achieve it. Just learn the true lessons of life from your failures and try converting your failures to new opportunities. Then find an appropriate and meaningful way to navigate with pleasure. At this stage, stay assured that all your pain, sufferings, disappointments and failures will vanish; all that would stay behind is an Inspirational Success Story.



BE MINDFUL OF YOUR HABITS



Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts.

-- Aristotle

Greek Philosopher

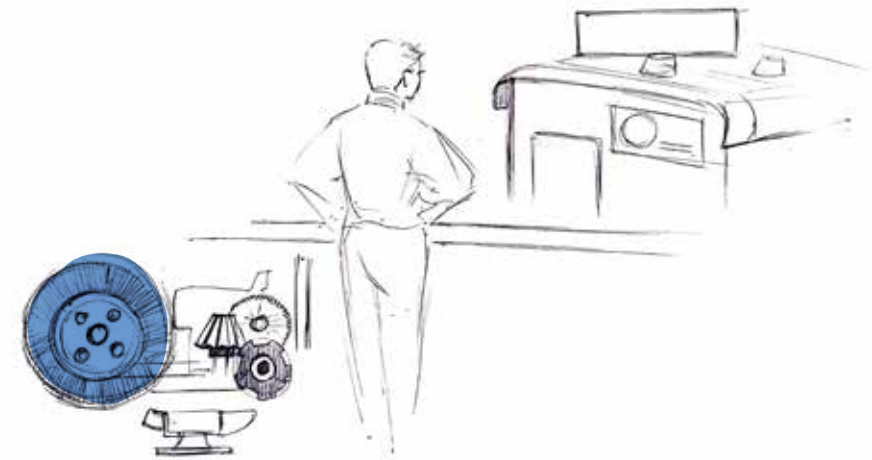
By definition, moral excellence is the activity and action of a rational soul aligned with the virtues and values. Indisputably, this excellence plays an integral role to frame your destiny.

Talking about moral values, it is not an inborn trait. You are not born as a moral or immoral human being, but you are gifted with specific abilities by nature and genes. All you have to do is harness and leverage the inborn abilities in a positive direction and make it a habit. This, in turn, forms part of your character. It is quite similar to practising the art and skills you behold. Take an example of a painter fond of painting since childhood. From a very young age, the painter keeps practising the art and becomes a renowned painter later in life. Had he not attempted to practise the art regularly, he would only have been a painter, but the recognition that became a part of his character came through practice that over a while became his habit. Similar is the case with your habits. A child's journey to a famous painter was instilled with self-control, perseverance, perspiration and temperament.

Sow an act and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny. Going by the words of Charles Reade, if you repeatedly do just actions, you become just, if you do brave actions, you become brave, and if you do temperate acts, you become temperate. Whatever you do, you have to be mindful of your habits because how you do what you do holds the highest weightage when framing your character. Over a period of time, you will realise that when you take small meaningful steps, repeatedly and faithfully performing good habits, you are sure to transform your intentions and goals to fruition. On the other hand, lack of moral excellence and misguided obedience to bad habits can hold you back and lead to the destruction of your character.



BE A MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S CREATION

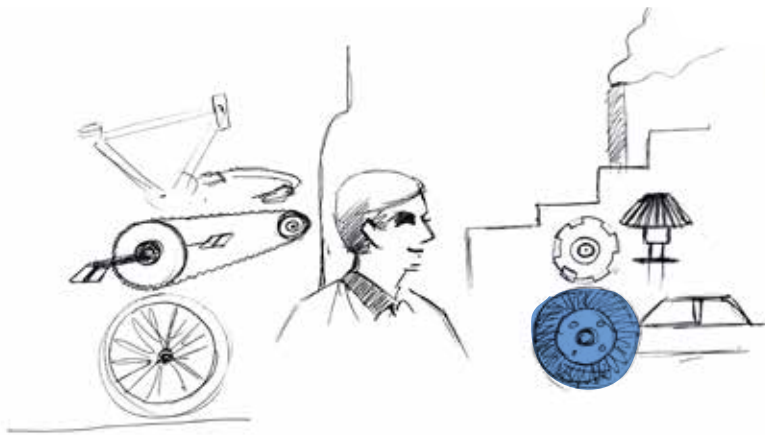


The health of the eye seems to demand a horizon. We are never tired, so long as we can see far enough.

**-- Ralph Waldo Emerson
American Poet**

Abiding by the same belief, when you have your eyes open to your goals, ambitions, intentions, and vision, you constantly move the pathway, defying all obstacles that come your way.

The same is beautifully explained by the wisdom imparted through the quote of Ralph Waldo Emerson. In his quote, 'Eye' is a metaphor for 'Health, Well-Being, and Success' whereas the 'Horizon' is a metaphor for 'Nature'. When you see through nature, you are able to see your will, your desires, your ambitions and your goals. This kind of visualisation gives you an expression of the divine and a deeper understanding of yourself. It also narrates that with an open eye, you can unlock various mysteries of the society, nation and the universe. So why not take advantage of being a true manifestation of God's Creation with big dreams, big plans, big smiles and big success.



CHARACTER OR REPUTATION- WHAT WILL YOU PURSUE?



Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

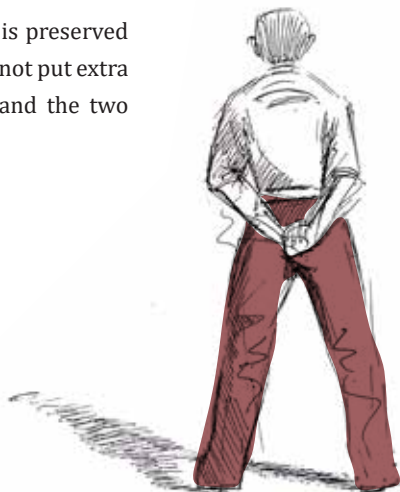
**-- Abraham Lincoln
American President**

As rightly said by an American basketball player and coach, John Wooden, "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

Yes, your character defines your individuality with a clear reflection of who you are and what you are. It illustrates your internal traits and values that lay the foundation of your reputation but cannot define your reputation. This is because reputation is an outward expression of people around you that keeps shifting just like the shadow. As the shadow keeps increasing or decreasing its length based on the position of light on the person, the reputation also keeps varying to different wavelengths depending on viewpoints and beliefs of different people. So, what do you prefer? A good character or a good reputation?

Introspecting yourself, you will realise that character plays an integral role when you journey through life. You will come across many demons who will try to harm you and tempt you for sinful deeds while testing your strength, courage, and determination. However, if your heart is at the right place and you are firm with your beliefs and values; if you can keep holding your character high through thick and thin, all sins and evils will surrender before you. Occasionally, you may make mistakes. Humans tend to do so. But, that should not wither your internal character. However, it may make others question your integrity, but with honesty, trustworthiness and a sound moral character, you are sure to change people's perception about you. Keep spreading the light of your character in a way that the darkness disappears, leaving no space for the length of the shadow to shorten or disappear.

This clarifies that when the character is preserved with all virtues and integrity, you need not put extra efforts to safeguard your reputation and the two align beautifully.



RECOGNIZING THE LIMITS OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE



Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance.

-- George Bernard Shaw

Irish Dramatist

How would you differentiate false knowledge and ignorance? It is the same for many but in reality, there is a very thin line between the two. Amazingly, that thin line beholds the power to create a significant impact in your life.

Going by definition, 'false knowledge' illustrates a 'false mind' that is predominated with disbelief, negativity, fear and phobia. It often leads to a sense of false pleasure that habitually turns to pain and suffering over a period of time. On the other hand, 'ignorance' is 'a lack of knowledge' or 'the state of being unaware'.

Introspect yourself and try to analyse what makes you intelligent. Is it the knowledge and wisdom you have? Or the false praises from people around you that makes you feel competent? Don't lie to yourself because your soul knows the truth. Let's say, your friends and relatives tag you as a health-conscious individual because you drink four to five glasses of milk and more than ten litres of water a day. You too feel confident about yourself and keep boasting about your fitness ideologies. But what about the hidden truth? Firstly, milk is not a necessary ingredient required by the human body but only one of the many sources of Calcium and Vitamin D. However, there are many other ways to meet the Calcium and Vitamin D requirements of your body. Secondly, an overdose of water can be dangerous as it dilutes the salt in your body and may cause swelling in your brain, which can lead to coma or death.

Analysing the situation, there are two ways you can deal with it. Either stay happy with your disbelief or false knowledge and cause danger to your life or remain ignorant of the facts and seek advice from someone knowledgeable. The key here is recognizing the limits of your knowledge.

Which one do you feel is dangerous - False Knowledge or Ignorance? It's up to you to decide and act accordingly.



BEING CURIOUS IS AN IMPORTANT AND POWERFUL TRAIT



Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.

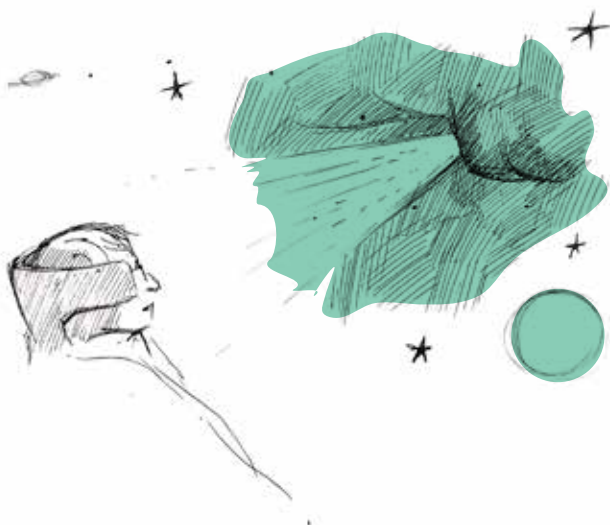
**-- Stephen Hawking
English Physicist**

Indeed, curiosity is the mother of invention. Going back to the history of humanity, there are many live examples to portray the essence and impact of curiosity. Considering the Law of Motion, Isaac Newton was curious to know the science behind the fall of an apple. Then, Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

There was curiosity in understanding the science behind nuclear energy and nuclear power. Take a peek into history and you will come across many such super brains like Galileo, Ramanujan, CV Raman, Aryabhata and many others. They made significant contributions to the world of science.

Another excellent example of curiosity imparting the true lessons of life was Stephen Hawking, one of the greatest Physicists . He was diagnosed with a deadly disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) when he was just 21. It was a time when the doctors stated him to have a lifespan of not more than two years. At this stage, he was confronted with two options: look up at the stars and see the glimmering light amidst the darkness and stay positive or embrace the darkness and bring his mind to a standstill. With all his humbleness and wittiness, he chose to see the light in the night sky. That's when he realised that despite all the challenges life throws, there is always a way to deal with it and win the challenge.

Living life against all odds and ends, he completed his doctorate even with his death hanging around his neck. Moreover, he lived for more than 50 years with this deadly disease while opening new doors to fresh perspectives and innovations. The only reason behind his legacy and the fame he has acquired is his way of looking up at the stars and making sense of everything around him. He never looked down at his feet, he never turned his back to challenges, he never stood beside pessimism and came up with influential inventions and meaningful lessons of life.



WE REAP WHAT WE SOW



Just as treasures are uncovered from the earth, so virtue appears from good deeds, and wisdom appears from a pure and peaceful mind. To walk safely through the maze of human life, one needs the light of wisdom and the guidance of virtue.

-- Buddha

Buddha is the incarnation of Love, Temperance, Modesty, Diligence, Compassion and Happiness; a belief that always stays woken up to reality.

His teachings have always been a source of inspiration to live a life full of virtues and wisdom. Abiding by the same teachings, the inspiration driven from the Earth treasures gives an entirely new world of wisdom, understanding and moral values.

Throughout history, we have listened to stories about revealing treasures like gems, metals, and power from the Earth. A lot has been cultivated, nurtured and extracted from humankind to uncover the mysteries of these treasures and their significance in building a great civilization.

A similar understanding goes when we consider developing a character, a virtue or a trait. Indulging in good deeds is sure to make us virtuous, keeping our mind away from vices is sure to imbibe more knowledge and wisdom. To state an example, if we invest today, we will get the returns in the future but without any investment in the present, what will we get in our future? Simply put, we reap what we sow.



WHY RESTRICT YOUR VISION IN A UNIVERSE THAT IS INFINITE



Everything you can imagine is real.

-- Pablo Picasso
Spanish Artist

Have you ever wondered what influenced the introduction of a revolutionary mode of communication that took a transformation from the classic rotary dial to the current day video communication? Have you ever realised how desktops, computers and laptops came to existence?

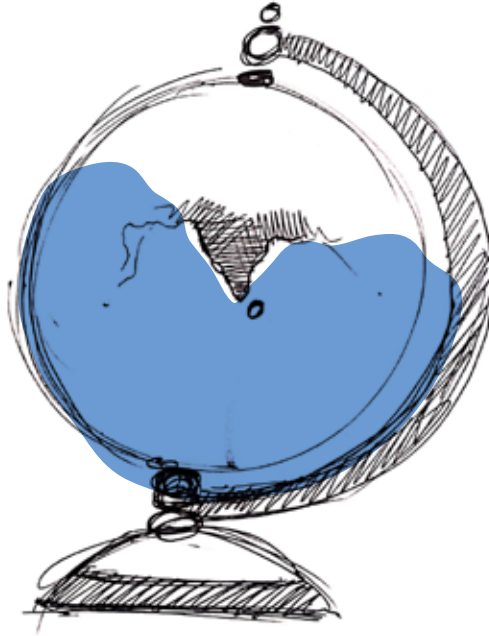
Wherever you are at this moment of reading the book, take a pause and look around you. What can you see? A chair; table, television, curtains, floor; ceiling or what else? Even the simplest of objects that are put to use in daily life are introduced by someone's imagination. So, any object, any creative art, any business, any revolution you see, starts off with a vision.

It all starts from your mind that thinks in mysterious ways. You just have to trigger the chords of your brain and the same further instigates you to come up with something that may be impossible for someone else.

A renowned mathematician and physicist, Albert Einstein, also disseminates the same understanding through his quote, 'Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world'. So, why not open wide the imaginative doors of your brain where all possibilities exist? Moreover, when the universe is infinite, why restrict imaginations and why restrict your vision?



SHARING THE LAND OF PROMISE AND HOPE



People need to be made conscious of a very simple reality: we have no choice but to share this planet, this small blue sphere floating in the vast reaches of space, with all of our fellow passengers.

-- Daisaku Ikeda

Japanese Writer

Are you conscious about reality, the reality of the Earth you live in? How can you explain the world around you, the universe that exists and everything surrounding you on this planet? The perception is arduous to objectify because consciousness is all about the flow of subjective experiences.

Whatever you think, whatever you see, whatever you hear and whatever you experience helps you perceive reality, the reality from which you create a definition of yourself.

Amidst varied subjective experiences triggered by your senses and perception, one thing you are bound to accept is that you share a common planet. Whatever you do and perceive, creates an impact, though small yet significant, in the shared struggle to conserve Earth's finite resources and make Earth a better place to live.

A live testimony to this belief of sharing the small blue sphere with all fellow passengers in the vast reaches of space is the recent introduction of Union Budget 2021-2022 by Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India.

Intending to share equal rights and responsibilities towards the small portion of Earth defined as India, the government sparks the beginning of a new era. With a strong focus on India's fight against COVID-19 that continues to showcase the intertwining of health, economy, infrastructure and innovation, the Government of India highlighted 6 core areas in the budget this year. These include Health and Wellbeing; Physical & Financial Capital, and Infrastructure; Inclusive Development for Aspirational India; Reinvigorating Human Capital; Innovation and R&D; and Minimum Government and Maximum Governance.

These core areas are introduced with a view to improve health and well-being of people and infrastructure in India. Moreover, the focus lays towards increasing literacy, reviving skills and knowledge of the population, placing thrust on monetizing assets and making India a competitive global market with a vast employment generation potential.

This is the government's way of sharing the responsibilities in creating a sustainable environment in India and bringing peace. Now, think about your responsibility to make your country well-poised to tackle uncertainties and their implications. What will be your contribution in making India a land of promise and hope and sharing the same with your fellow passengers?



SMALL ACTS CAN MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT



Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

**-- Leo Buscaglia
American Author**

What are small acts? How does that have the potential to create a difference? Think for a while and analyse yourself. Think of a moment when you felt most loved; think of a moment when you felt most appreciated; think of a moment when you felt most confident. These are beautiful experiences that create contagious emotions to turn a life around.

A wise thought and a brightening light to your experiences will certainly make you realise the power of a touch, smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment and other small acts of caring.

Talking about Touch, it helps nurture the feelings of trust and strengthen your bonding. Even science reveals the fact that only 20 seconds of affectionate or encouraging touch is enough to heal, influence and feel loved. Considering the impact of a Smile, it helps calm fear, anxiety, insecurity and hurt. Similarly, small acts like admiration, appreciation, gratitude and respect have the power to change a life.

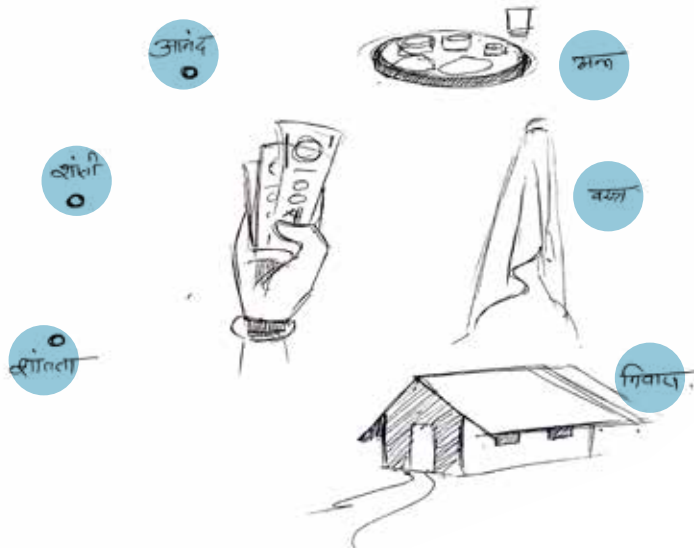
Long back I remember one incident when I saw a rich man purchasing sweets from a feeble old man on the roadside. The man paid him 100 rupees knowing that the sweets were not worth the price. Immediately, the old man ran to a nearby shop to buy a complete meal for his little daughter sitting beside him. The rich man had a gentle smile on his face but the friend who accompanied him gave a surprised look. The rich man gently said, "If I had offered help to him without buying sweets, it would have been a blow to his self-respect. And if I had not bought the sweets, his daughter might be left starving."

This was just a small act of kindness but it left a strong impact. There are many people in the world who are deprived of the basic necessities of life. Look deep into their hearts; they are in need for help, need for love and need for affection. Why not help them if you can?

Every small act of kindness, every thoughtful gesture can change a person's life. Try it, it's worth it!



EXPERIENCING THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHICS AND ECONOMICS



History shows that where ethics and economics come in conflict, victory is always with economics. Vested interests have never been known to have willingly divested themselves unless there was sufficient force to compel them.

-- B. R. Ambedkar

Indian Politician

Indeed, economics has taken centre-stage. Wisely said, money is not everything but do you really think so?

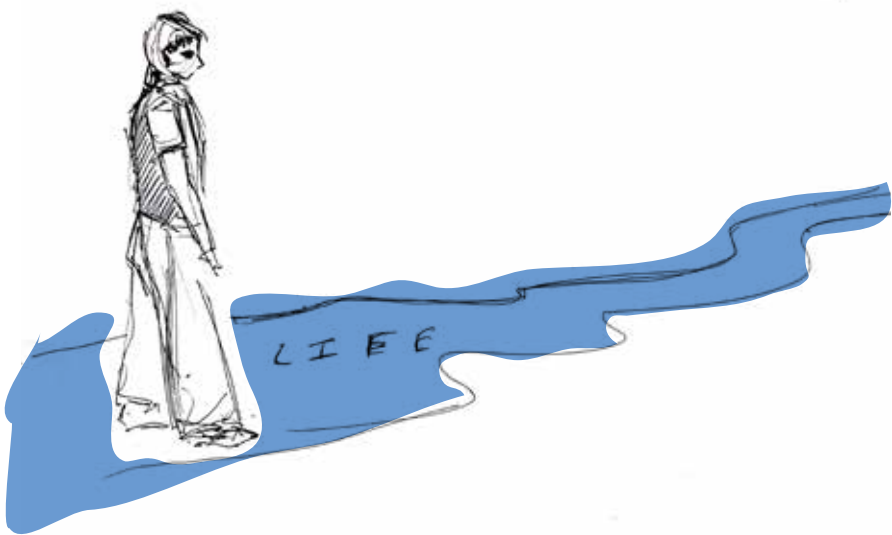
Dig deep within yourself and evaluate the things money could buy for you. Agreed it cannot buy happiness, peace and tranquillity, but what about education, food, shelter and healthcare? Money is not everything but is certainly a strong foundation to help you access the basic needs of life while securing all crucial life parameters. And when it comes to securing your present and future, ethics are forcefully placed on the back seat.

Consider the COVID pandemic era where ethics were just thrown out in response to the growing economy the previous year. Position yourself as an owner of a highly rated film entertainment company. Due to government- imposed restrictions, all cinemas and theatres came to a standstill and the ever-growing demand suddenly disappeared. What would you do then? Would you try to save yourself in the sailing boat? Yes, you would! No matter how ethical you are morally and socially, that was a time when you were compelled to go for job cuts and salary cut-offs irrespective of the financial struggles your employees were battling against. There was a dilemma with the element of morality, but with a vague answer COVID displayed and a little chance to see the best course of action, you were bound to make people redundant.

However, things are improving. The economy is recovering and the nation is emerging with more strength and resilience. But this does not deny the truth that lives in the hearts even today. Undeniably, there was a sufficient force to compel people to forget about workplace ethics and and fight the battle to themselves surviving through the tough times. clearly demonstrates that conflict between ethics economics, economics is win.



THE ONLY TIME TO BE HAPPY IS NOW



Learn to enjoy every minute of your life. Be happy now. Don't wait for something outside of yourself to make you happy in the future. Think how really precious is the time you have to spend, whether it's at work or with your family. Every minute should be enjoyed and savoured.

**-- Earl Nightingale
American Entertainer**

Life is a short narrative with so many twists and turns, bringing unexpected surprises and shocks. But does life take a pause? Does time wait for things to settle down? Does the wind stop at a point to see the impact it is creating around? No, never! Time and tide wait for none and so do the course of life.

The wheels of life simply move on and on, irrespective of whatever comes across. You can always take a short break to look behind but there is no replay, no rewind and no going back. So, the best is to accept and embrace whatever comes, whenever it comes, without bothering where it will take you.

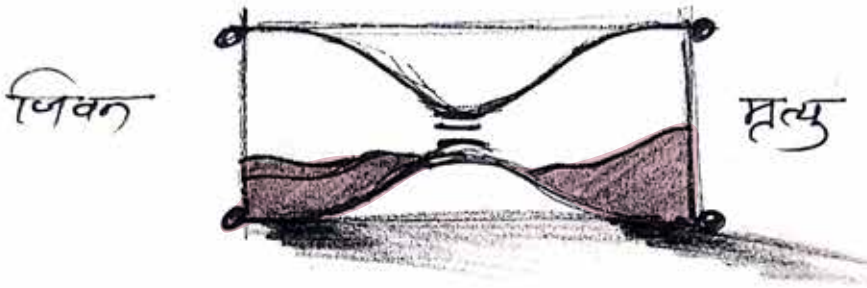
Let's undergo a quick analysis of what matters to you the most? Your job? Your family? Your monetary gains? Your health? There are many who look for monetary gains and are too occupied with making high incomes, ignoring their families as well as their health? Let's assume that you worked very hard all your life, made all attempts and have put in all your efforts to become a millionaire at the age of 55 and are now set to enjoy life to its fullest. So, now you make attempts to invite your old friends for lunch and make attempts to spend quality time with your family. You started enjoying every minute of your life. But because you are still alive, twists and turns are a part of your survival. Five to six months later, you were diagnosed with brain cancer. Sad, but true! So, now what?

You have millions to enjoy the pleasures of life but those millions fail to save your life. You have family and friends around you but you missed all special moments of spending quality time with them. You have your own house, car, bank balance but your health positions you in a cage. The only thought of dying every moment could not let you live happily.

What an irony! At a young age you could not enjoy life because you were busy making money. And at the age of 55, when you have money, you are not able to enjoy every moment because cancer is draining you down every moment. Stop for a while and reconsider, when was the best time to enjoy life. Trust me, the only time to enjoy and the only time to be happy is now.



**EVERY MOMENT COUNTS-
EMBRACE AND FAVOUR IT!**



Do not wait; the time will never be 'just right'. Start where you stand, and work with whatever tools you may have at your command, and better tools will be found as you go along.

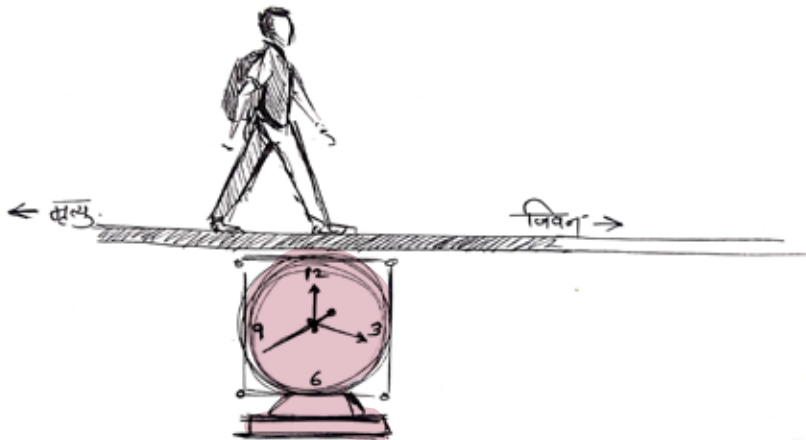
-- George Herbert

British Poet

Indeed, the time will never be just right. No matter how hard you push yourself, no matter how many checkboxes you tick, no matter how many moves you make in the game of life, you won't always have all the stars aligned.

The best example to quote here is the measurement of life and death. Do you know how far death from life is? To be more precise, what is the time difference between life and death? Take a deep breath, and that's where you are! There is only a difference of one second between life and death. This one second can either take you to the continuing journey in this challenging yet beautiful world or a new journey to the heavenly abode. Indeed, every minute, every second, matters in the midst of makeovers and changeovers.

Not every moment can be a bag full of surprises and not every moment will have a trail of tears. So, why wait for the next moment? Why wait for favourable situations? Why hesitate to use the moment to laugh, smile, embrace reality and positively push yourself forward to bring forth a meaningful change in your life? Every moment counts. All you need to do is embrace it and make it favourable.



LIFE IS NOT ABOUT BUYING A LOTTERY TICKET



If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams and endeavours to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.

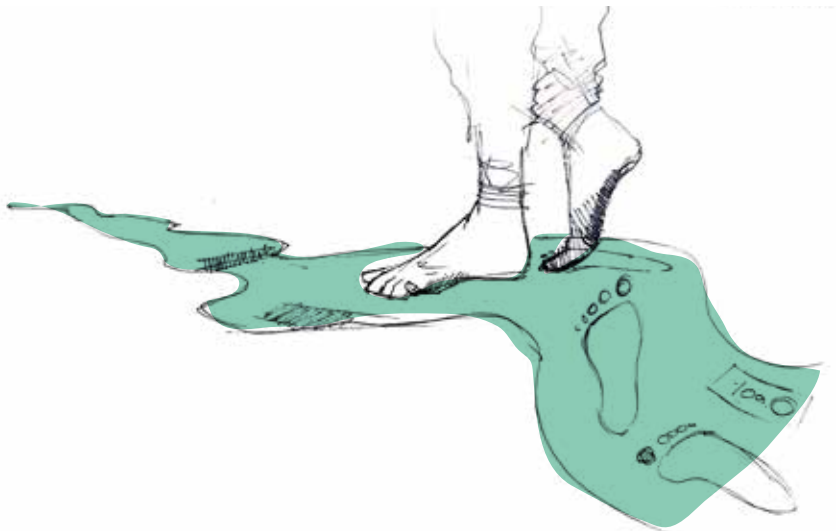
**-- Henry David Thoreau
American Author**

Have you ever come across a moment that has left you shattered and broken? Have you ever come across a moment that has sabotaged your intentions? Have you ever come across a moment that has compelled you to stop after tireless struggles? If yes, then what did you do at that moment in life?

Nevertheless, it is easier to stop than to move ahead in the direction of your dreams against all harsh winds, tiding waves and challenging hours. Never forget that life is a series of surprises and shocks, happiness and disappointments, success and failures. With this series, do you think it is wise to stop battling the reality of life? No! Life has to move on and if you are firm to achieve your goal, you too have to move on and on, irrespective of all the challenges and failures you come across.

So, once you realise your dream, step out boldly. Take one step at a time with conviction and certainty, make honest attempts to achieve your goal, endeavour to live the life of your imagination and start living the life you have imagined for yourself. This is sure to send positive vibes to your subconscious mind while making you stronger and more confident. Moreover, your evident efforts and exertion influences are sure to send signals to the universe with a clear reflection of your seriousness and firmness about pursuing your dream. Try once and you will be surprised to see how strongly and how effectively these signals shared with the universe harmonise to give you unexpected success in the common hours. You have to create your environment geared for success while surrounding yourself with possibilities and opportunities.

Life is not at all about buying a lottery ticket and waiting restfully to win.



SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND THEN TO CONQUER



Know your enemy and know yourself and you can fight a hundred battles without disaster.

-- Sun Tzu

Chinese Philosopher

Wisely said, seek first to understand, then to conquer. This simply means that whatever you aspire to conquer, you need to understand it completely. Whether your weaknesses, shortcomings, competitors or business rivals, you must first know and understand them to the core if you are looking to defeat them.

No battle is ever easy, whether with the self or with the external environment or people. Whenever you stand for attaining something meaningful in life, there will always be someone or something standing opposite. All you need to do is know and understand yourself first, and then the force standing in opposition.

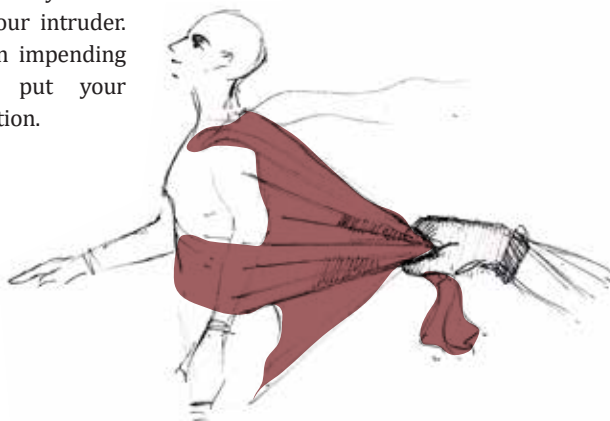
Let us take a simple example of demons and angels. Why is there ever a need for an angel? Angels are mighty creatures who give innumerable favours. They continuously work to deliver messages, accompany the lonely on the planet, fight the evil forces and grant protection from devils. However, these mighty creatures are aware of their supernatural powers and the destructive powers of the demons.

Similarly, you can talk about strengths only when you have weaknesses. You can speak of happiness, only when you have realised the impact of disappointments. Something or the other is always there standing in opposition. But this should never stop you from battling. You should have the heart and courage to fight and win the battle.

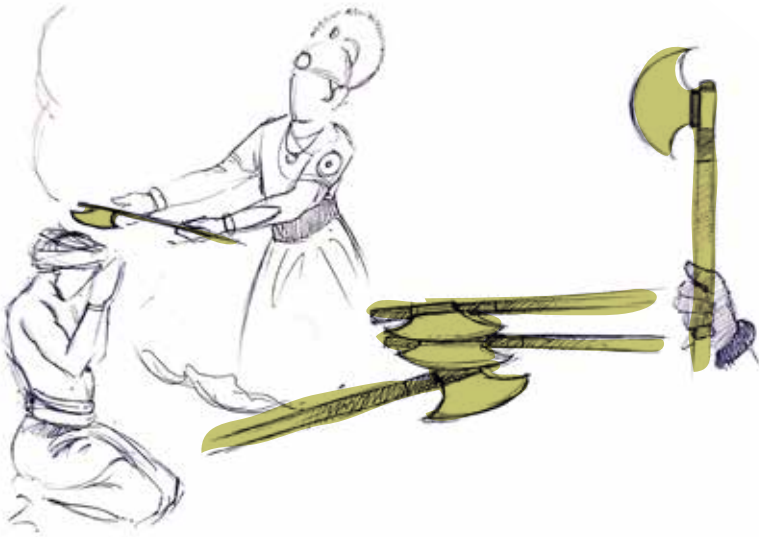
Now the question arises, how can you win the battle? Simply, by knowing in depth who and what is standing opposite to you. Then dig deeper into understanding your enemy. For example, if you feel your weaknesses are pulling you back in life, know your weaknesses. Understand how you are being pulled down, know its impact on your life and learn ways to overcome them. This will help you infiltrate your weaknesses and attack accordingly.

On the other edge, if you have business rivals to compete with, look into their branding activities, their marketing strategies, their profit gains and their social media presence while splicing into their vision.

Whatever be the scenario, you also need to know your strengths and efficiency to pull the strings of the conflict in the right direction and predict the likelihood of your victory. Look into yourself first and then your intruder. You can avoid an impending implosion and put your success in conviction.



LIVE A LIFE THAT REFLECTS YOU - BE TRUE AND HONEST



Truth is a deep kindness that teaches us to be content in our everyday life and share with the people the same happiness.

**-- Khalil Gibran
Lebanese Poet**

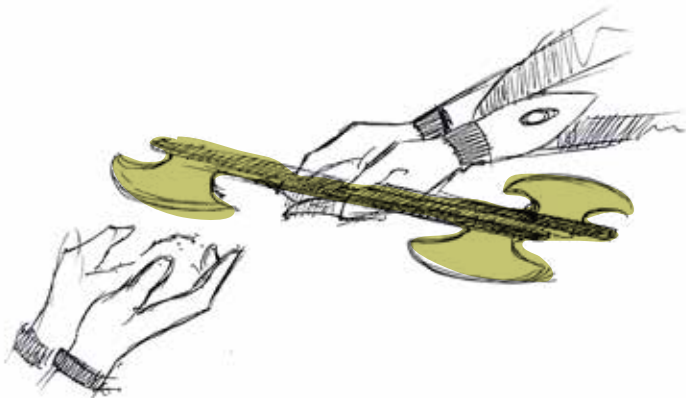
Truth is always absolute, ageless and unchanging. The best example to consider is that two plus two is always four - the same holds for everyone, everywhere and at all times. Even when you consider that the human body is composed of six elements - oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium and phosphorus, no one can deny this truth.

Understanding the aspects of truthfulness, there are two types: being true to yourself and being true to others.

Take a glance at any experience of your life where you have lied to yourself. Then, think wisely how and when were you able to cope with the lies you spoke to yourself? This reminds me of a small girl who was a storehouse of values and virtues, a strong believer of God and a reservoir of love and warmth. However, life's struggles made her do something unethical. Her grip on her values started to weaken. Over time, she had all the love and happiness in her surroundings. Sadly, she could never live that happiness. She was never content. It was because she failed to live in line with her values, while her heart kept excavating her soul now and then.

Considering the second aspect of truthfulness, you live stronger social bonds with a high reputation and respect when you are true to others. This aspect brings to mind a long-forgotten story of a woodman and Mercury. In the story, a woodman lost his axe in the river and was lamenting the loss. Just then, Mercury (the God) appeared and dived into the river, hearing the loss of the woodman. Mercury recovered a golden axe and then a silver axe, but to all amaze, the woodman refused to accept those axes because none of the two was the one he had lost. Mercury again dived and came up with his original axe and the woodman was thankful and happy. Experiencing the honesty of the woodman, Mercury also gifted him the golden and silver axe.

That's the power of being true and honest. It allows you to live a life in harmony with your reflection. Be the person you are in all your reflections.



**DON'T LIVE IN ANGER,
RATHER BREATHE IN PEACE**



Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.

-- Mark Twain

American Author

Is the steamy, sputtering anger cascading over your heart, mind and soul?

Let us take a simple example of boiling milk. Milk is a mixture of many substances like protein, sugar and fats in suspended form. It also comprises a large quantity of water. So, when heating takes place, two reactions come to the picture. The first reaction is the separation of fats and proteins. However, when this occurs, the separated proteins and fats, being lighter than milk, collect at the top in the form of cream. The second reaction is the conversion of water into water vapour. But, because there develops a thick layer of cream at the top, water vapour gets trapped at the bottom. Now, what?

When excess water vapour is trapped, it accumulates to form a hot air balloon-like structure that bursts through the creamy layer at the top after a certain point and it causes the cream and milk to spill over.

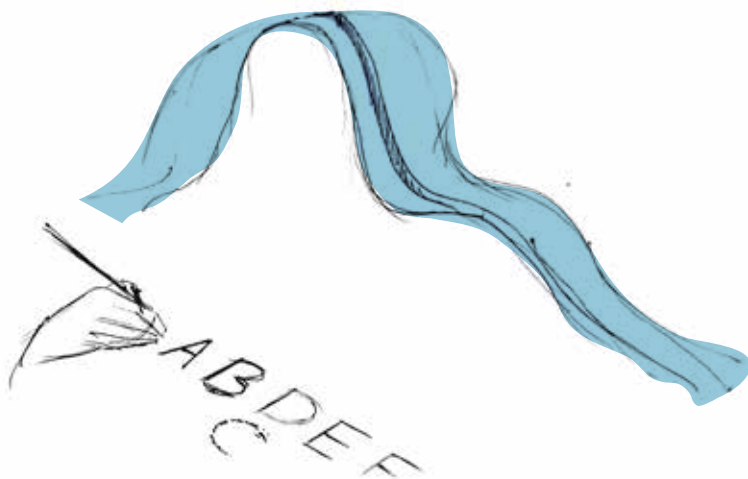
The most annoying part is the burnt portion forming a firm black layer that develops at the bottom of the container in which the milk was boiled. This burnt layer can be hard to get rid of. The stove, the kitchen sink and the kitchen granite only have some spill all over, spills that can easily be wiped off.

Like milk, the human body also has a boiling point when it comes to anger. When it goes above an optimum point, more harm is done to your inner self than those surrounding you.

Indeed, anger is corrosive and envelops every opportunity destructively. So, it is best not to live in anger but breathe in peace.



SMALL THINGS PAVE WAY FOR BIG OUTCOMES



We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.

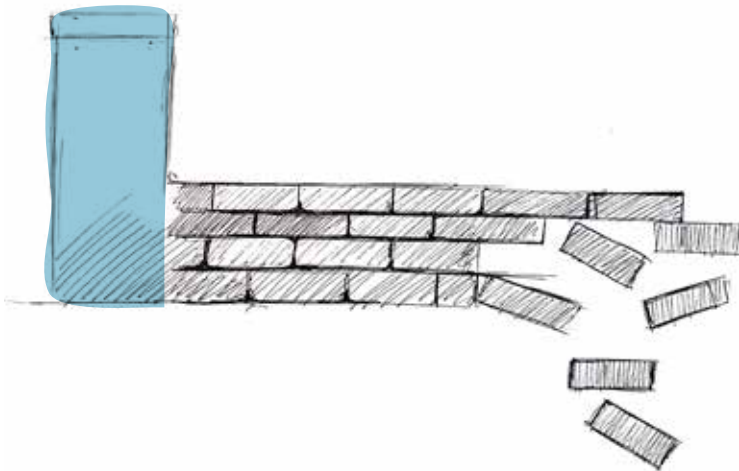
**-- Mother Teresa
Albanian Saint**

Keep an empty bucket under a tap allowing to release one drop at a time. The next morning you see the bucket overflowing with water. Life is also similar in a way that every droplet counts. Nothing goes unnoticed and nothing is negligible.

To quote an example, let's consider opening a Recurring Deposit (RD). What happens when you open an RD? Every month you fix a small amount to be invested for a stipulated period. In return, you get a lump sum amount during maturity. Say you invest Rs 500 every month for 1 year, i.e. 12 months. During maturity, you get a total of Rs.6,193 with an average interest rate of 6% per annum as of date. The interest you earn during the period is Rs.193. And if you miss making your contribution for one month, then the maturity amount over one year reduces to Rs.5,663, with an earned interest of Rs 163. It is a small amount but it did make a difference in the maturity value.

You take an example of a toddler who is learning the basic alphabet. Gradually, those single alphabets turn to spellings and further ahead to display intelligence in all life parameters. What if the tiny toddlers skip learning even one alphabet? Similarly, constructing a building starts from just one single piece of brick. Even with one brick missing in the structure, the structure is certain to have a negative impact. Going on the same lines, there are many evident examples to understand and realise the importance of even the smallest things.

Not to deny, small acts are significant.



KNOW THE 3 P'S OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE



Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

**-- Martin Luther King Jr.
American Leader**

Human progress is all about the growth and development of society in all aspects. Whether you consider societal beliefs, human values, technological progress or digital innovations, the overall progress is no magic. At whatever crossroad in life you are standing today, it's all a part of your persistence or consistency, whether efforts or ignorance is purely your choice.

In a consumer-driven business market where the customer is the king, the introduction of CRM software applications like Salesforce, ZenDesk, Sugar, Nimble, ZOHO, SAP and Oracle has been a blessing. These have proved to be the most efficient and powerful tools for managing customers, improving client relationships, supporting cross-functionalities within a business and reducing workforce cost. An organisation where multiple professionals were connected to streamline operations can now easily place its trust on a single tool to replace maximum manual efforts of running a business.

But did this introduction happen overnight? No! It took years of digging, analysing, evaluating and understanding business analytics to come up with such an integrated and all-encompassing platform. The people involved in introducing such innovations are sure to have navigated through restless sleep, tireless exertions, time sacrifices and an internal struggle with thyself to bring out something meaningful and powerful for the betterment of the global business world. When the business world gets impacted by such applications, society is sure to witness a promising transformation with technological advancements.

The same goes true for human progress. Always fight back when life throws you a challenge, always see failure as a new beginning and wake up with courage and confidence to rise to success. This clearly defines the success mantra as 3Ps - Persistence, Perspiration and Passion.



EMBRACE LIFE WITH OPEN ARMS



Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them - that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like.

-- Lao Tzu

Chinese Philosopher

Do you know what the most certain thing in life is? Something that beholds the power to change your fate, something that beholds the ability to bring a complete transformation? It's uncertainty, the only certainty in life that defines a series of natural and spontaneous changes.

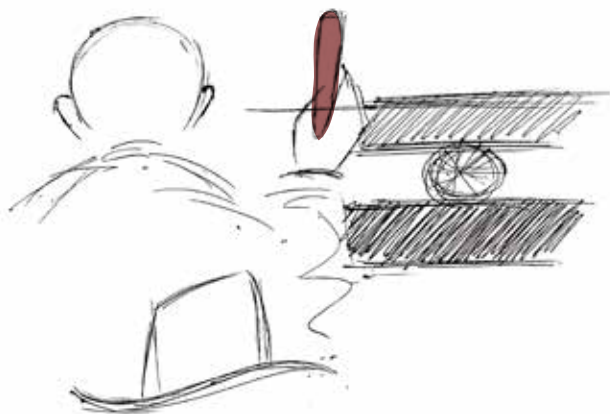
Let us relate life being a vast ocean that contains countless mysteries. It is never still or silent, you meet many people and you come across many things. The only thing you should learn while navigating through the waters of life is to let your life flow spontaneously. On the journey, some people accompany us, there are new people we meet and there are people who teach us the important lessons of life. These can be compared to giant whales, fishes, sea horses and many more who come across as we sail in the ocean of life. Then, there are rocks, ancient treasures, sculptures and sunken submarines that you come across. Each of them plays a different role, each has a different responsibility towards our existence and each has different motives. So, it purely depends on how we interact with those people and things, how we deal with them and how much value we give them in our course of the journey. It is just like experiencing life with all its ups and downs in its natural flow.

But what happens when a strong and powerful wind strikes the oceanic waves? What happens when a hurricane attacks the waves? What happens when underwater disturbances cause the formation of destructive waves? Earthquakes, Tsunamis, landslides or volcanic eruptions become imperative.

With any such obstruction in the path of the naturally flowing waves, you are sure to experience eruptions and erosions. Similarly in life, if you block the natural course with high-expectations, unreasonable dreams and unrealistic approaches, you are sure to experience sorrow and disappointments. So, let your life flow naturally, accept reality and embrace whatever comes across with open arms.



KEEPING YOUR WORDS, PROMISES AND COMMITMENTS



Do what you say you're going to do. And try to do it a little better than you said you would.

**-- Jimmy Dean
American Actor**

Go back to the rich and inspiring Indian history and you'll realise that all successful people have always done what they said. Take examples of known Indian icons: Mahatma Gandhi, who wanted to bring Swaraj into the country; Rani Lakshmibai, who as an epitome of bravery and courage and fought for freedom; Srinivasa Ramanujan, an Indian Mathematician who shaped the

tremendous growth of science and technology; and the business tycoon Dhirubhai Ambani, who lived a successful entrepreneurial journey from rags to riches.

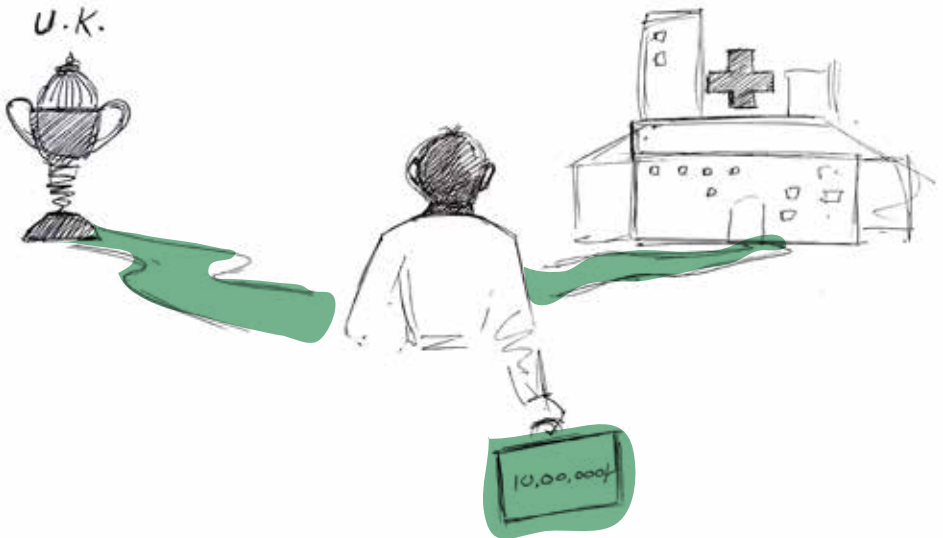
These were the people who promised to do something for the country and be consistent in their approach and commitment. They did manage to do what they said while adding meaning and power to society and humanity. Nevertheless, the list of such people is endless if we take a deep look into the vastness of Indian history.

The reasons behind their incredible contribution to society and the recognition they accomplished were many. They built a strong character portraying resilience and grit while executing the goals and promises set by them. Furthermore, they built trust, integrity and credibility while letting people around count on them in hours of need. This in turn, made them adopt more responsibilities and serve better roles as individuals.

Hence, always be alert and cautious about what you say because what you say is important and eventually, doing what you say is even more important. Whether you make a promise to yourself or others, make sure to keep your words, promises and commitments.



THINK WHAT REALLY MATTERS



Nothing can have value without being an object of utility.

-- Karl Marx

German Philosopher

Value is directly proportional to the worth of the commodities in the market. This statement clearly defines that if a product or commodity is used for people, it has value. But if it has no use-value, then the worth becomes negligible. No one can ever sell anything in the market if it's not an object of utility.

Going on the same lines, you should always know what matters to you. Rethinking, reanalysing and revisiting your goals and purposes helps you channel what is important to you. For example, standing at a crossroad you have 10 Lakh rupees. One road goes to the hospital where you have to undergo an urgent brain tumour surgery and the other road takes you to the UK for a long-desired award you are ought to get honoured with. You have limited funds right now and limited time if you don't choose the appropriate road. Which road will you travel to?

Of course, visiting the hospital and getting your surgery done will have more value. If you are healthy, you can fulfil many more dreams. You can travel more across various global destinations to get honoured at various other award ceremonies. When standing at such a crossroad, your health holds more value as an object of utility. Hence, think wisely about what matters at any given point in time.



IT'S ALL IN YOUR MIND



You have people come into your life shockingly and surprisingly. You have losses that you never thought you had experience. You have rejection and you have learn how to deal with that and how to get up the next day and go on with it.

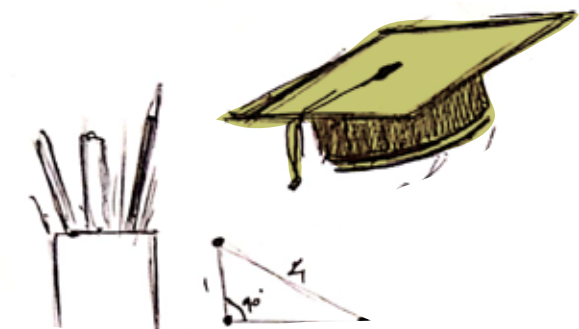
Taylor Swift

-- American Musician

On the journey, some people accompany us, there are new people we meet and there are people who teach us the important lessons of life. These can be compared to giant whales, dolphins, fishes, sea horses and many more who come across as we sail from one shore to another in the ocean of life. Each of them has a different role in our lives, each has a different responsibility towards our existence and each has its own set of motives. So, it purely depends on how we interact with them, how we deal with them and how much value we give them in our course of the journey.

Hence, it is of utmost importance that we learn to deal with anything and everything that comes across in the course of life. You should never allow obstacles to break you, rather accept it as a challenge to strengthen your inner core; never allow tragedies to put you down on your knees, rather be more persistent to convert tears to smiles; never allow failures to rule yourself, rather stay aggressive to overpower failures with success.

It's all in your mind. If your mind is tuned well, even the saddest day of your life can be cheerful; even the biggest shock of your life can prove to be a blessing in disguise. The choice is completely yours.



LET YOUR EMOTIONS STAY IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER



We might as well die as to go on living like this.

-- Charlie Chaplin
English Actor

Consider yourself a pond where fishes of different colours, sizes and shapes can freely swim around. You'll come to see a smiling fish, you'll see an angry fish and following you will come to see a crying fish, a lonely fish, an aggressive fish, an energetic fish, a content fish and many other fishes in their respective shapes, sizes and colours.

Look under the microscope and you'll see the real picture of life. When all the fishes connect in the pond, they form your innermost emotions, each having its role and significance in your life. Let the fishes be the way they are because that is the nature of a pond, allowing all aquatic species to swim around in the shallow water. Never try to remove a fish from the pond; never try to suppress your emotions. By removing one fish at a time, you will end up removing all the fish in your pond and the pond will lose its essence and meaning. Similarly, by suppressing one emotion at a time, you will end up in a volcanic eruption, causing greater harm than expected and imagined.

Also, never try to be a fish of the pond because if you are an angry fish, you may end up hurting others who share the pond with you. One emotion can have a deep impact on the remaining emotions of your inner character.

So, be the pond, let the water flow through and let all emotions of your life swim across at their own pace irrespective of the pains, failures, shocks, anxieties and obstacles that come across. Accept all that is within and learn to deal with it tactfully while giving all your emotions a strong foundation to stay in harmony with each other.



EVERY NEW MORNING WRITE A NEW STORY



Do not say, It is morning, and dismiss it with a name of yesterday. See it for the first time as a newborn child that has no name.

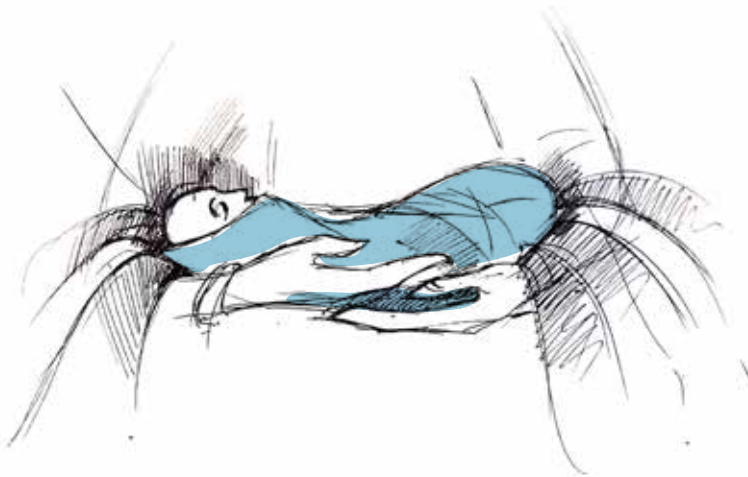
**-- Rabindranath Tagore
Indian Poet**

Every day is a fresh start; a new beginning to start over; a new opportunity to lead. See it with a new perspective so that you can have your canvas to create the picture of your aspirations while leaving behind all your habits, thoughts, relationships and activities that hold you back. Eliminate all your fears, negative emotions and all the pain that has troubled you yesterday. Don't pack it in the small bag of your heart and carry it along to the next day. Every night bury the bag of all unwanted things and wake up the next morning just like welcoming the birth of a newborn baby in your family.

What happens when a newborn baby comes to life? What are the experiences that conquer your mind at that very point in time? Love at first sight is the most common feeling that majorly all parents experience. It's like enjoying the soft touch of ten tiny toes and ten tiny fingers; it's like cuddling your baby in your warmth; it's like holding your baby tight to secure from all negative energies; it's like enjoying every single moment falling in love with your baby.

The same feeling of holding a newborn baby holds when a new day approaches. See the beauty of morning dewdrops, see the birds chirping all around and look around for beautiful flowers. Amidst this beauty in the lap of nature, allow yourself to immerse in the clear blue sky and feel the golden glory of the shining sun. As the newborn baby with no name, don't name the day, rather live the beauty of each moment. See the darkness washed away in the bright sunlight and commence the day with new ideas, new aspirations and a new vision to live the new day.

So, every morning when you wake up, write a new story to add more meaning and purpose to your day. With passion and commitment to live your life the way you want to live, this experience of living every new day like a new beginning of your life will lead you to a more prosperous, joyous and virtuous life.



MOVING TOWARDS AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE



Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.

-- Benjamin Franklin

Author & Inventor

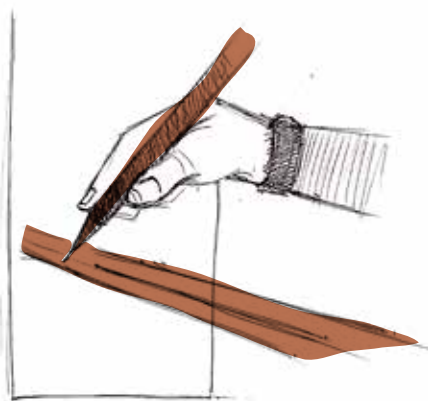
The legendary Benjamin Franklin, in his course of life, was one of the most renowned figures of the western world instilled with a fusion of many artistic abilities. He was a painter, writer, statesman, diplomat and inventor who has many scientific discoveries to his credit. Whether you talk about his discoveries, actions, words or ideas, everything did create a powerful impact on the people, society, and community, irrespective of all the challenges that came across his journey of life. And that's what he tries to impart through his quote - Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.

Being straightforward, it is like getting off the couch, challenging your limits, making something of yourself and creating a lasting impression in the world. This impression beholds an ability to last even after your death. If you want people to preserve you forever, if you want people to remember you in your absence, you have to be extraordinary, inspirational, electrifying and someone to follow by example.

There are many legendary names from political leaders, the fashion industry, Hollywood, Bollywood, the business ecosystem, life coaches and writers, going by examples from the real world. Trust me, you need not be one among them to make a difference. You can be an exception in your backyard.

There are endless stories of how ordinary people live ordinary lives yet creating a difference and bringing forth an unprecedented change to someone or the other. In India, we have Alagarathanam Natarajan, who participated in many endeavours to uplift the underprivileged; Mumbai resident Deepika Mhatre who has made her mark as an inspirational stand-up comic despite being working as a house help in five houses; and Murukan S, who started the Theruvora Pravarthaka Association in Kerala for thousands of homeless children, senior citizens and ailing people. And the list goes on.

So, now look for something that can propel you, go for something that can make you inspire others and walk your path to an extraordinary life.



BREAKING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE



Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.

**-- Ralph Waldo Emerson
American Lecturer & Poet**

Are you in an environment that is familiar, safe and secure? Do you feel at ease in your environment? Then you certainly are in your comfort zone. Take one step out of your comfort zone and you are sure to create the pathway to growth. Indeed said by Roy T. Bennett - You never change your life until you step out of your comfort zone; change begins at the end of your comfort zone.

Let's say you run a 15 year-old auto repair shop. You have been doing wonders with your traditional auto repairing and auto cleaning techniques since inception. But suddenly, one day, you realise that your growth has come to a halt and you are just standing stagnant with whatever you have achieved to date. Have you ever analysed why? The answer here is simple! You are in your comfort zone; you didn't make any efforts to learn new technologies; you didn't put extra energy into staying aligned with the evolving automobile landscape. With the traditional repetition of activities, you are earning well with the brand image you have created but you fail to push your business revenue to a new scale. This, in the long turn, is sure to take away your existing customers who are often looking for better and advanced repair techniques.

So, whatever you do in life, remember you have to keep evolving in your respective domains of life. You have to exert yourself to learn new skills, increase your flexibility, improve your ranking in your field and reach the highest potential, irrespective of the challenges and difficulties you face during the journey. This will help you have new experiences in life while allowing you to expand your horizon.

The thought of breaking out of your comfort zones is well stated in the words of Idowu Koyenikan - Sometimes it is good to be in uncomfortable situations because it is in finding our way out of such difficulties that we learn valuable lessons.



KEEP THE BODY IN MOTION AND THE MIND IN ACTION



Most people don't grow up. It's too damn difficult. What happens is most people get older. That's the truth of it. They honour their credit cards, they find parking spaces, they marry, they have the nerve to have children, but they don't grow up.

-- Maya Angelou

American Poet

"Keep the body in motion and the mind in action" is a very old and thought-provoking saying that reveals a message to keep growing up as you grow old.

From the cradle to the grave, we all grow old but how many of you keep growing as the age progresses? Ask yourself whether you are a grown-up? Let's say, as a toddler, you have been a messy eater; do you still follow the same approach in your 30s? Remember the notion of 'Katti Batti' in your adolescence; do you still respond to situations similarly? Your answers will give you a clear reflection on what it means to grow old and grow up.

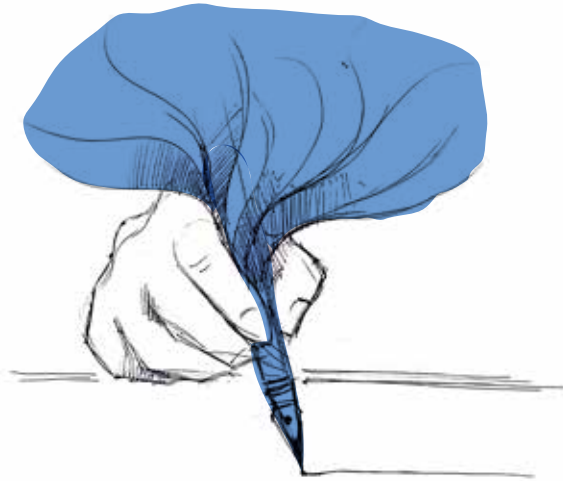
When you grow old, you are biologically growing with age, but you are psychologically growing to a height of consciousness when you grow up. Growing old makes many changes in your body but the vision you have about yourself, and your future stays blurred. You keep celebrating birthdays without even realizing where each birthday is taking you.

Growing up gives you the ability to gracefully accept and adapt to changes taking place, either in yourself or in your surroundings. You become more alert, aware, peaceful, sensitive, compassionate, forgiving, non-judgmental and eventually an adult. The more you grow up, the more you go deeper into the roots of your existence while creating a musical harmonization of your body, heart and mind. That's when you experience a transformation; that's when you become better humans as well as better community members.

Trust me, the world needs more adults! So, grow up and act your age.



WRITING AND THINKING A SEAMLESS COHERENCE



Writing organises and clarifies our thoughts. Writing is how we think our way into a subject and make it our own. Writing enables us to find out what we know and what we don't know about whatever we are trying to learn.

-- William Zinsser

American Writer & Journalist

A quote well-said by Aldous Huxley beautifully reflects the power of words. When you write, you are in pursuit of self-expression and your words as a creative demonstration of information become a clear display of what is going on within you, similar to an X-ray.

In the writing process, you work to put all your nascent thoughts and ideas into an understandable language and a reading format. You tend to dig into your inner experiences and speak the truth of your experience. This empowers you to reiterate, rethink and re-evaluate your thoughts and ideas. You can reconsider whatever you have written and allow your thoughts to flow naturally. This, in turn, helps you organise your thoughts.

Further, when you try to do the editing in the writing process, you tend to structure your thoughts more meaningfully while excluding extraneous ideas. This helps you stay focused on the crux of your thoughts and offers clearer thinking.

This clearly states that there is a miraculous connection between writing and thinking. With the art of writing that requires observation and reflection, your analytical skills and critical thinking skills tend to improve with better chances of survival in the ever-changing business world. So, pen down a thought and raise your collar to add value to your existence.

It's all about Great Writing!



DISCOVERING THE THREE STAGES OF SUCCESS



Super Success Formula - Learn a lot, earn a lot and Return a lot.

Success has no magic formula and no guaranteed riches; it only has perseverance and perspiration. So, if you are ready with such a mind-set, you are sure to meet success. In due course of your success journey, you have to put all your passion, dedication and efforts to achieve what you aspire and dream of achieving. Whether it is to have a luxurious mansion, driving a gold-studded car or becoming a millionaire, everything starts from within you.

Extracting the essence of the phrase - 'Learn a lot, Earn a lot and Return a lot' brings a deep realization of human life. The first stage is to learn a lot. So, what does learning cater to? This learning comes from within and it's not only grasping knowledge but implementing the same into real-life applications. Moreover, learning from your surroundings, your experiences and your mistakes is another approach to have a better understanding of life. As said by Vernon Law, experiences are teachers who give the test first and lessons afterward.

Now, switching over to the second stage of earning a lot. Once you have a deep understanding of yourself and everything around you, you are able to focus on the right measures and strategies to fulfil your career aspirations. A brilliant move in the right direction is sure to help you earn to your maximum potential. However, the only formula that works here is - Try until you achieve your desired result.

Then comes the third stage to return a lot. Wondering where to go and how to go? Look back and see what helped you travel the journey so far. You will come across many people who made you learn the true lessons of life; you will get a flashback of painful moments that made you stronger; you will get to experience the pleasures that gave you a beautiful awakening. Now comes the time to return. And the best way to do so is to share your learnings with others around you, help those who need your understanding, love everyone in your surroundings and support others to build their castle.

Once you get through all the stages, you are sure to experience super success.



IGNITE THE KNOWLEDGE WITHIN YOUR MIND



Knowledge isn't power until it is applied.

-- Dale Carnegie

American Writer and Lecturer

The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be ignited. A well-known quote by Plutarch is a clear reflection of how knowledge acquired should be utilized. Think for a while and you'll realize that there are many things that you have learned in life but never applied the same to your routine. You often spend money and time on various courses, programs, and certifications. But be true and answer how many of you have made proper use of the knowledge attained through various means.

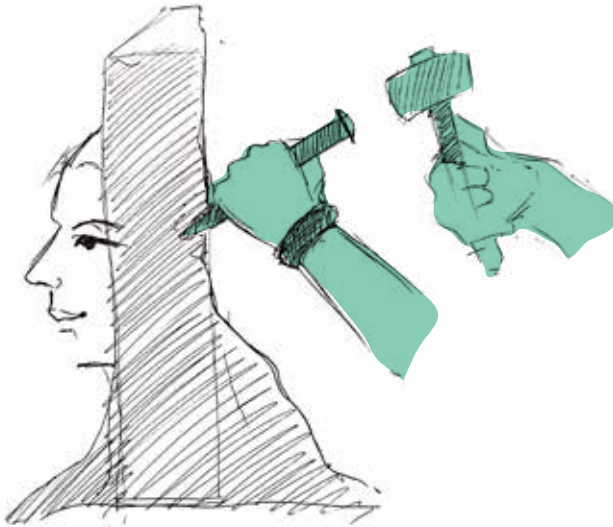
To quote in the simplest possible way, let's say you want to become a graphic artist and you enrolled for a course in graphic designing. But what if you completed the course and never tried to practise? What if you never attempted to master the skills? This either takes you to a different course of your career, compelling you to opt for an alternative career or you land up into professional trauma. Of course, trauma because how can you become a popular graphic designer with no mastery in designing?

Considering the professors, academicians, innovators, and scientists, they always gain tremendous knowledge from their real-life experiences. They not only gain the knowledge but apply the understanding to bring out something unachievable. The best examples here are Steve Jobs and Henry Ford, who made big in life despite not completing their graduation. With the applied knowledge in the right manner, they are better than many educated men across the globe.

So, rather than filling up the vessel of your mind, ignite the knowledge within and you are sure to do wonders.



CONVERT IMPOSSIBILITY TO A SUCCESS STORY



It always seems impossible until it's done.

--Nelson Mandela

Political Leader and Philanthropist

Impossibility is merely an uncrackable shell but only till the time it breaks. Within the shell, it has disguised opportunities that have an astonishing power to create change. That's where Impossible turns to Possible.

There is always a thin line gap between impossible and possible and you never can understand that difference unless and until you try and make it happen. In the endeavour, you may fail, and you may stumble because there is no success that you can achieve overnight. The only trick to success is trying and trying until you succeed.

How many times have you been able to achieve a goal but initially felt you could never achieve it? But you still did it. That's all because your efforts were persistent. However, if you keep thinking that something is impossible without even trying to work upon the same, nothing can help you achieve your goal. But, with constant perseverance, you can achieve the life of your dreams and bring a magical change.

Indeed, said by Mikhail Bakunin - By striving to do the impossible, man has always achieved what is possible. Those who have cautiously done no more than they believed possible have never taken a single step forward.



**Now it's time for you to write something for
yourself**

About the Author

Sunil Raisoni is an educationist and philanthropist who firmly believes in the power of profound education. From handling the dealership of FMCG Conglomerate ITC to imparting quality education under the umbrella of Raisoni Group of Institutions, he has traversed a long and impactful journey with his innovative intellect and entrepreneurial mindset.

Furthermore, as a transformational leader with his idealized influence, he is constantly navigating across and beyond to build a more ethical, responsible, and sustainable society.

This book is also placed with an earnest hope that it will prove to be a source of hope, motivation, and enlightenment while cultivating and nurturing positive and resilient youth, families, and communities.

About the Book

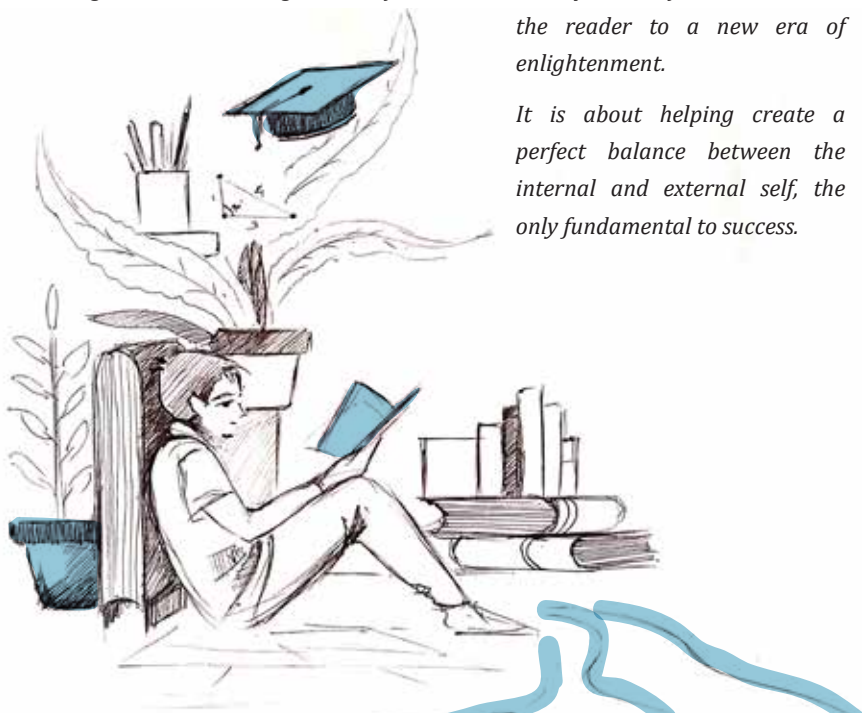
A true manifesto!

Finding inspiration to nourish your soul and learning to hear your inner voice is a never-ending journey with many emotional rollercoaster rides. That's where it becomes important to balance your emotions while peacefully navigating through all challenges and difficulties.

'Wisdom Strokes' comes as a true manifesto to help the readers locate their inner voices and enrich their souls by breaking down all silos that restrict our minds and hearts. Through words of wisdom and thought-provoking reflections on inspirational quotes, the book focuses on self-expression, compassion, supernatural healing, emotional intelligence, confidence, and all important life skills that take

the reader to a new era of enlightenment.

It is about helping create a perfect balance between the internal and external self, the only fundamental to success.



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