

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT?

Success and the Challenge of Choice

QUOTES

William Rehnquist to 2002 Graduates of Marymount University:

“Time is a wasting asset. Most of us realize it too late before expending a lot of time very unwisely. The disappointments that come with failure are easy to grasp. The disappointments that may come with success are harder to understand. The regrets of the aged may focus on what was left undone or on the realization that what was achieved was less satisfying than it seems in one’s youth.”

Churchill:

“The problems of victory are more agreeable than those of defeat but no less difficult.”

Alain de Botton, *The Art of Travel*

“It seems we may best be able to inhabit a place when we are not faced with the additional challenge of having to be there.”

Max Lerner:

“It is almost as easy to be enervated by triumph as by defeat.”

David Whyte, *Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Journey of Identity*

“There is nothing stranger than success. The moment the creature arrives, it subtly alters the very work we did to become successful in the first place. Whatever measure of happiness we find in our work, once we have arrived at a goal—whether it be setting up a new business, signing up with a company, or writing a first book—it takes incredible skill not to be captured by the very structures for which we longed so deeply in the first place, and which originally seemed so grand and radical. Human beings seem to have the amazing ability to turn any sudden gift of freedom or spaciousness into its exact opposite. The mantle of possibility descends upon us and instead of warming and emboldening covers our face and our eyes.”

Jim Collins:

“I’ve come to believe there are two approaches to life. The first, followed by most, is the “paint-by-numbers kit” approach to life. You do what other people say. You follow a well traveled path. You stay within the lines. And you end up with a nice, pretty and unimaginative picture. The second followed by few, is to start with a blank canvas and try to paint a masterpiece. It is a richer path, a harder path, a path filled with ambiguity and creative choice. But it is the only way to make life itself a creative work of art. To paint a masterpiece requires a concept, a place to begin a guiding context in the absence of the comforting numbers and lines in the pre-made kit.”

Ralph Stacey, *Managing the Unknowable*.

“Vision...a challenge, aspiration, driving force that arises in the present and requires no knowledge of the future.”

Willie Shoemaker:

“Sometimes it’s hard to get out of bed when you are wearing silk pajamas.”

Dale Chihuly:

“It’s not that you’re searching for something new. It’s that something new comes.”

St. Teresa of Avila:

“There are more tears shed over answered prayers than over unanswered prayers.”

Finding Forrester Movie Quote:

“Someone I once knew wrote that we walk away from our dreams afraid that we may fail or, worse yet, afraid we may succeed.”

Spock:

“After a time, you may find that having is not so pleasing a thing—after all, as wanting it is not logical, but it is often true.”

Rick Eigenbrod:

“You don’t have to know where you are going before you get started.”