

Dreams

By Michael Tse

名正言順

Many people have dreams and, one day, they would like to make their dreams come true. For example, once someone told me that they would like to travel the world and see all the interesting things and cultures. There are others that want to make a lot of money, to be a millionaire or there are others who want to be a famous actor or actress. There are some who want to become writers or even a martial artists or a devout religious person. We can have whatever dream we want - all will work but first we need to put our dream in action. If we just dream without doing anything about it, then this is only illusion.

Some people just talk about their dreams even to the point it annoys other people. It is far better to do something to make your dream a reality and then when you have success, you can talk to others about it. People may even come to ask you how you accomplished your goals. This is real. If we only tell people what we dream of doing, but never show any action, that is not good.

Really successful people will work until they have success and only then will they tell other people about it. These people generally keep quiet until they feel comfortable. Usually they do not like to talk too much, they wait until they feel comfortable with the situation and they feel they know the people well enough, then they will start to talk more. It does not mean they are not good communicators, actually they are very clear people and they can express themselves very clearly. Part of their success is because they have a very clear and focused mind.

So when they feel the situation is safe and the people are trustworthy they will open up themselves. However, it does not always mean that quiet people are successful people; it can sometimes go the opposite way. If someone is so quiet, then this too can be a problem. If after a few times of asking this kind of person a question, and they still cannot respond, it means that even when they opportunity comes, they might miss it. However, if someone talks too much, it might be that they are nervous or insecure, trying to make themselves appear to be something more than they really are.

We should also be aware of people who are ready to sweet talk us, particularly on the first meeting. Usually this kind of person cannot handle difficulties easily. If we

find someone who cannot open up to talk to a group, but only likes to be one on one, this person can be very cunning and like to play games.

Those people that do things very carefully can handle problems better than others. This is because their attitude is a bit like a cat which is a very sensitive and careful animal. Cats will observe first, then test the water and then hunt. They are very patient and will not make a move until it is very safe. If they sense anything wrong, they will run away. Actually this is the right way to do things.

In our journey through life, we are trying to improve ourselves all the time to make our lives better and better. There is only one disease that can stop us and that is laziness. Having a dream is very important but it relies on hard work to make it come true. When we come to difficulties, we must overcome them or we cannot have – or deserve - the real dream. I have seen people who give up when they come to a problem. If someone gives up so easily, it means they can easily give up on the next project, the next job or the next dream.

When we face a problem we should be able to find a way. We should never let the words 'give up' be in our dictionary. If there are no other solutions, then we can lower ourselves (maybe to take a lesser job) or step back to give ourselves space to think how to go forward.

I have a student who lost his job and his relationship and he was very depressed over it. I told him to go find another job and that if he cannot find the same kind of job, he should lower himself. As the Chinese say "When the horse dies, then get on foot and walk." Survival is the most important. Once we can survive, then we can carry on until another situation comes up then we can catch it. Then we can slowly crawl back up. There are many successful people who have suffered either physical or financial problems. Some even have lost their hearing, eye sight or part of their body. Some have been bankrupt, but in the end they have become successful and even become multi-millionaires. Anybody who cannot go low also cannot go high.

Regarding losing a relationship, there are millions of people in the world and I am sure we can find one who will



match us. If someone does not love us, eventually we will find someone who does.

If we do not give up, we will eventually get our dream. There is another secret for making our dream come true that can I tell you. It is simple really. The secret is to be around those people who are good at what your dream is. For example, if we want to a musician, we must find the best musician to study with and then also be around with a lot of good musicians. Then we can learn from the best. If we want to be a good martial artist, we should then study with the best martial artist. If we want to be rich, then we need to around a lot of rich people, or successful actors and actresses if you want to be a good actor or actress.

We cannot make our dream come true that easily but these talented people will help us a lot; they are our teachers and mentors. They will save our time and cut down all the mistakes we might make. Of course, we will still make some mistake but at least they should not be so big.

With our teachers or mentors we sometimes need to lower ourselves and let go of our pride. Many people cannot let go of their pride and so in the end, they lose. Before we make our dream a reality, we are nobody and so we should take good advice that will help us improve ourselves. Only when we have success and others say we are good, can we have position. Someone who is truly successful does not need to say how good they are as others already say it for them.

Actually all success is based upon two things:- quality and opportunity. Good quality means hard work to make our knowledge and skill higher so we can go all the way to the top. Opportunity makes good quality shine. We cannot miss either one.

If we have good quality of skill but miss the opportunity, then others will not know about our skill, and so it will not shine. In the world, there are many people who are very talented for music, painting or writing, but if they have no opportunity to introduce and show their talent, then they will not have success. They might enjoy what they know, but they may never be good enough to be high level.

Opportunity is not just about chance, it is about relationships. If we have good relationship with all the people around us, particularly our teachers and mentors, then we have more chance to develop ourselves. We also have to respect and keep the good relationship with our teachers no matter what. Maybe they can be moody or have a different opinion for certain things but we should lower ourselves and be tolerant. The more we can get along with people, the more people will like us. The more people that like us, then how would we not have opportunity? When these come together, this is real success and the real dream comes true. We can all do this. Any obstructions are because of ourselves.