

# My Future by Hitoshi Yasuda

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Social Problems – 5

## MY FUTURE

This is briefly how I feel about my future; it may work out, and it may not, as no one can be sure, or even partly sure, of his future. If we all knew what the future had in store for us, it would take all of the joy out of life and leave us in a far different world, from what is today. One's future, is affected by a countless number of things. A seemingly trivial incident might change one's whole life overnight and carry him to the top of the ladder, or send him crashing to the ground.

My future depends greatly on me. It will depend on my characteristic traits, such as trustworthiness, loyalty, helpfulness, friendliness and the other traits which I have; on how I look at different problems; and on how I will be able to carry myself on. Other people may help me and open the door to success, but it is up to me, and me only, to take advantage of this. As the old saying goes, "Opportunity knocks but once." It depends on my ability to work hard and in harmony with my fellow beings. In practically every instance, I will have to think by myself and for myself, as no one knows your own mind better than yourself. I will have to be able to face the world on my own two feet, without flinching and take the ups and downs of life in my stride and if I am floored, I'll have to get up and come back fighting. I will gain these traits or abilities through a variety of ways, some of which, I am now acquiring, or will acquire, in the very near future.

Before the war, my immediate future was fairly well decided, and that was to work for a while and then try and go to some college and obtain more technical training and knowledge in some specialized field. As I said before, one cannot tell what the future may have in store for you, so the war came, and shattered my somewhat still flimsy plans for the future. The evacuation, a few months later, threw a dark cloud over my future and it seemed that I was doomed to spend the war years in idleness and waste. By waste, I mean that my mind would slowly deteriorate through want of things to do and this was partially true for a while. While still in town, we knew the evacuation was coming and so I hadn't any incentive, or desire to study hard and so my time and energy was wasted. The new policy of the army, in taking evacuees into the service, may change the course of my life again.

At the present time, I am going to school and working on Saturdays and Sundays for a little spending money and to pass the time away. My Saturday and Sunday job, will prepare me for most types of objectional jobs that may come my way. What I am now learning in school, will help me in whatever field I should chose for my life work. My science and math gives me practical and theoretical training, because of the fact that we use some equipment. In town, we used precision instruments and so I learned how to use, as well as knowing how to take care of them. The English and Social Problems

classes should help me adjust myself to society and give me a better chance to express myself, both on paper and in speech.

Today, education is more important than ever, as there are many more specialized jobs and certainly, one needs a high school diploma to enter any college of good standing. Highly trained men are needed in practically every industry of today. This is truly an age of specialization and men with more technical knowledge and training are needed now and will be needed in the future. The person with the best qualifications has more of a chance to succeed and secure better positions than people with little, or no education. Today, with the war going full blast and men working day and night, new fields will be opened to those who can qualify.

So far all through my high school years, I have been taking a course that would have enabled me to enter any college in the country, of course, providing that I would have passed the entrance examination. While I was taking all these subjects it seemed like drudgery because of the amount of homework I had, but now I am glad I did as they have and will repay me a thousandfold in the future. Every little thing at school has helped me. The shops gave me a little knowledge of machines and tools; gave me manual dexterity and its practical value has been well worth the effort spent. The other classes that I took have helped me overcome many defects in my character, that otherwise would be a great handicap later on. These defects were replaced with more desirable assets. Physical education keeps me well in body, as well in mind. A brilliant mind is handicapped by a poor physical makeup. Athletics have given me a thin, but sound body, every sport develops not only the muscles, but the mind too. One obtains perfect coordination between mind and body, fast reflexes, steady nerves, and a "cool head", which is the ability to think fast and cool and keep calm while under pressure. This is very essential in this modern age of speed and worry. If athletics cannot develop these traits; it at least develops sportsmanship, which is essential in any walk of life. My school life has helped me in everything I have done, or will do. I am grateful for the chance given to me to educate myself.

So far in my life, aside from the jobs I've had here, I have had only one type of practical training outside of school and that was in the agricultural field and outdoor labor. This leaves me a limited field to work in if I were suddenly thrown on my own and so I want to continue my education. Because of my various classes at school, I have a fairly well rounded technical background. Because I stayed near home and made things and did minor repairs, I can use the more common tools fairly well and this may help me in my future years. Since I have not had too much practical training in one field, I must continue my education at some trade or business school or some college. I would like to relocate and go to some college and continue my education there. In this way I would be better adjusted to the postwar condition and have more incentive to really try and study. Then, after graduation I could really be of use, instead of a hindrance to society. Seeing as how we do not have too much money now, I cannot relocate and go directly to college, but must first find a suitable job at some things that does not require too much training. There are many people who have worked their way through college and have been successful, so at least, I can expect to do the same even though, I may not be successful. One appreciates and receives more good out of school if he has to struggle and work for it/

I think college is very essential today. Even if one does not complete the college, course, I think he will be well rewarded because of this college life. There one will meet all kinds and types of people and learn to live in harmony with the future leaders of the country. In this way one can more readily adjust himself to society and take his rightful place there and thus do more good, than if he had no college training.

My opportunities here in Manzanar for the future, are somewhat limited. I have no incentive for working harder, as there is no chance of advancement or raise in pay. The vocational jobs here are very limited and one cannot learn a trade here, so the future seems black, but on the other hand, we have pretty good education facilities here for a Relocation Center.

After graduation, I plan to attend the Manzanar Junior College and get as much knowledge as possible. While attending Junior College, I attend to wear the library out and by going there so often, the librarian will think I live there. My great handicap will be trying to concentrate on what I am doing. With no incentive, I'd rather go out and play all day, so I will just have to concentrate more than ever. Besides going to Junior College, I would like to work where I can meet people, so I'll be more at ease in meeting strangers.

My most important problem is my future after the war. After the war men will be coming back home from all over the world and there will be a job shortage and it will be very hard to find a job. Even before the war jobs, for us were not too easy to find. After the war, there is bound to be some racial prejudice and we must overcome this in order to find suitable positions. In the near future, we too may be in the army. (By we, I mean those of us who are in Relocation Centers). Even then the postwar conditions will not be altogether favorable for us. On the other hand, there may be new inventions and industries with a corresponding increase in the number of new jobs being created. If this be the case, we might find it easier to obtain a job.

Regardless of what postwar conditions may be, my future will depend greatly on what I, myself, do. I can't go around moaning and feeling sorry for myself and expect opportunities to come running to me, so while I am here I must make the most of my opportunities, little as they may be.

So, wherever I am and whatever I do, I must try to do my best, regardless of conditions. Lincoln said, "Whatever I am or hope to be, I owe to my darling Mother." This is true in most cases and very true in mine, but after the war I will be mostly on my own and I will have to do my own thinking and work, and depend on my own judgement. While here, I must develop myself to the utmost of my ability so I will be better fitted for postwar America.

This is a brief review of my future and what I would like to do in the future. I will always try my best, even tho' my best, is not too good. So my future is still uncertain but I can do a great deal to make my life a real success for me and if I don't, the only person I can blame, is yours truly.