

Senior Problems

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Essay
("You Can't Have Everything")

It's amazing how so many of us waste our life away by simply not trying to get the most out of our every day activities. Some through fear of facing present realities and others through hopes of finding some utopia in the future.

It would be hard to enumerate the amount of times one comes in contact with them for it would take years to do so. Daily, there are many who sit bored at the great opportunities opened to them while waiting for something better which may never occur.

Tom, for instance, has made enough to live on moderately for the rest of his years, but wishes to make more before retiring to enjoy life. Dick's wife is the type who is never satisfied with what she has. She envies her friends with their possessions and constantly nags her husband for those things and more. Harry, who believes that he is a natural born actor, refuses to work at other jobs and is waiting patiently until the day when his name will be world renowned.

Yet, just how many of these Tom, Dick, and Harrys really find their future work out as they've planned? Are there any ways by we can be sure of our outcome?

Many losers brood over their past mishaps and do nothing about them; while a Champ, who, although, may have great odds against him, will only think of one thing - meeting the present crisis and give all that's within him to win before the crisis is past. He's the type who'd live while he can and is thankful for his good health, friends, and a right to live; for whether you're poor, rich, or even a king, you can't have everything. You may sacrifice your time and energies to make money or be famous, but you can't take that to the next world with you.

Too often has stark tragedies followed when we forget these truths. There's a story about a little boy who asked his father to help him build a kite. It seems that there wasn't anything his father wouldn't do for his son, but assuming that he would just be wasting his time while building a kite when he could

be doing other important things, and not realizing that what his son really wanted was the opportunity of working together, he told his son that he would help him at some later date.

A few days later, learning that his son had been run over by an auto, he rushed to the hospital and sat helplessly near the bed of his dying son. Bending over, he barely heard his child whisper these last words, "We didn't get my kite built, did we?"

The truth is that there isn't any future of which we can be so certain as to sacrifice our present opportunities; for you've got to face the present ^{'Cause} for you're in it whether you like it or not. As W.M. Marston puts it, "There is just one thing you can take with you into the future and that's the knowledge of how to live. You can win that only by living - in the real world of every day. If you have that knowledge, you hold a magic key which unlocks tomorrow's treasury of happiness when time pushes it into the present." If people who are handicapped, such as Helen Keller, can take it, why can't we?