

The Balance Of LIFE



A Few Thoughts Around Christmas 1983...

In 1947 Dean Brels taught me the Kachin philosophy: deeds you do but must not even think about – else you in sufficient number in this lifetime guarantee reincarnation.

Thirty-six years later, in 1983's best selling In Search Of what man really fears is not so much extinction, but extinction.

Can we tie these two thoughts together?

All we have – you and I, kings, clowns, conquerors, cowards.

The question is...what to do with Them.

You could, for example...

(1). Amass money. Wonderful. First, you should figure out how to do it. And be sure to work yourself to the bone, weekends, holidays. Your family will love you for it. After all, you're doing it for them.

(2). Avoid art galleries, concerts, live theatre and such. Someone someday may desperately need your narrow shoulders. By the way, you will be remembered for all this dedication.

(3). Or you could wander. And wonder during your piece of time why you don't feel Excited – why no Enthusiasm, or no Energy today!

You might try Taking Charge...no matter what "time it is" in your life.

Ray Kroc started McDonald's at age 54. A man got his Prime Minister of Israel at 71. At 85 Coco Chanel was 94 when one of his plays was produced. Benjamin Franklin was a signer of the Constitution at 81. Recently at 87 and booked the Palladium for his 100th birthday party.

You were saying, "It's too late"...COME ON!

(4). You could accept being average. Nothing wrong with that. Keep your same routine. Keep out of trouble. Keep your head down, your eyes averted and your mouth shut.

In 1947 Dean Brels taught me the Kachin philosophy: eternal life is based on Unconscious Good – the decent deeds you do but must not even think about – else you lose your "points in heaven." But which if performed in sufficient number in this lifetime guarantee reincarnation and a happier status next time around. Lovely thought.

Thirty-six years later, in 1983's best selling In Search Of Excellence, psychologist Ernest Becker says... what man really fears is not so much extinction, but extinction without significance.

Can we tie these two thoughts together?

All we have – you and I, kings, clowns, conquerors, courtiers, catholics and kamikaze pilots – is chunks of Time.

The question is...what to do with Them.

You could, for example...

(1). Amass money. Wonderful. First, you should figure a way to devour it here, or, arrange for a take-out later. And be sure to work yourself to the bone, weekends, late nights, holidays. Your family will love you for it. After all, you're doing it for them, right?

(2). Avoid art galleries, concerts, live theatre and such foolishness. Just stick to your furrow, specialist. Someone someday may desperately need your narrow knowledge. I hope. By the way, you will be remembered for all this dedication won't you?

(3). Or you could wander. And wonder during your piece of time why you're not "Making it" – why you don't feel Excited – why no Enthusiasm, or no Energy today!

You might try Taking Charge...no matter what "time it is" in your life.

Ray Kroc started McDonald's at age 54. A man got his Harvard degree this June at age 89. Golda Meir became Prime Minister of Israel at 71. At 85 Coco Chanel was 94 when one of his plays was produced. Benjamin Franklin wrote his first newspaper column at 16 and was a signer of the Constitution at 81. Recently at 87 George Burns wrote How To Live To 100 – Or More and booked the Palladium for his 100th birthday party!

You were saying, "It's too late"...COME ON!

(4). You could accept being average. Nothing wrong with that. Keep the same car. Keep the same friends. Keep your same routine. Keep out of trouble. Keep not Volunteering. Keep not doing the freebies or favors. Keep your head down, your eyes averted and your mind neutral. And die an average death.

(5). Or you could do a whole bunch of things!

Work at what you want. You'll get richer faster. Open your mind. Ask, "How does that work?" Accept invitations. "Sure, I'll go. Where is it?" Collect people. "Let's be friends now!" Give away ideas. "How about this?" Listen more. "Tell me..." Bury the hero. Stop "topping" other people.

Act On Impulse:

see a foreign art flick have a picnic at night visit the zoo on a weekday convert an evening stay in bed two extra hours of a Monday have a suit tailor made sit on the grass and watch bolster someone else's ego make love at night and in the morning go to church alone call up two people you almost forgot give something with no chance of return make a kid feel important – listen quietly think of someone you love...and tell them today.

How many lovely exciting things to do!

Be significant for yourself in 1984.

RAY CONSIDINE

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