

Devil's Best Tool

The devil, according to legend, once advertised his tools for sale at public auction. When the prospective buyers assembled, there was one oddly shaped tool which was labeled "Not for sale." Asked to explain why this was, the devil answered, "I can spare my other tools, but I cannot spare this one. It is the most useful implement that I have. It is called Discouragement, and with it I can work my way into hearts otherwise inaccessible. When I get this tool into a man's heart, the way is open to plant anything there I may desire."

We fear disturbance, change, fear
to bring to light and to talk about
what is painful.

Suffering often feels like failure....
May Sarten

When hope has gone
life has ended,
actually or
potentially

Hope is an intrinsic
element of the structure
of life, of the
dynamic of man's spirit.

It is closely linked with
another element of
the structure of life:
Faith.

End Fromm

● It requires more courage to suffer
than to die.

● Nothing happens to you that hasn't
happened to someone else.

—William Feather

Entering With Handicaps

It is wonderful how many of the elect of the human race the winners of immortal fame entered the contest with a severe handicap. HOMER was a blind minstrel; and MILTON, too was blind. BEETHOVEN was deaf: "Though so deaf he could not hear the thunder for a token, he made music of his soul, the grandest ever spoken." ALEXANDER THE GREAT was a hunchback; and so was ALEXANDER POPE, and a suffering weakling to boot. ST. PAUL was an uncouth manikin, the jest of coarse adversaries (cf. II Cor. 10:1, 10) "three cubits

high," says St. Chrysostom, "yet he touched the stars." And like him for stature were HORATIO NELSON and NAPOLEON. SHAKESPEARE on his own testimony was a cripple; and so were SCOTT, BYRON and KELVIN, to say nothing of EPICTETUS.

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope. And crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. It is the one essential vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change. You see things as they are and say "why?" - But I dream things that never were and ask "Why Not?" RFK

Case of Kitty Genovese

If we are in a crowd of onlookers, it is easy to assume that we're not the one who should get involved. The case of Kitty Genovese vividly illustrates this. You may remember her story. She was the young woman who was murdered in a New York residential section while at least 38 neighbors watched from their windows. During the course of the 30-minute assault, no one even telephoned the police.

Recent studies have uncovered some surprising facts about these people. Interviews revealed that they were not totally indifferent as many had suspected. The main reason nobody did anything was that each person thought someone else would take the initiative to get help.

—Our Daily Bread

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

CHOOSE ONE:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear:
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

- Robert Frost

LIFE -- DIVE RIGHT IN Life's a pretty precious and wonderful thing. You can't sit down and let it lap around you . . . you have to plunge into it; you have to dive through it! And you can't save it, you can't store it up; you can't horde it in a vault. You've got to taste it; you've got to use it. The more you use the more you have . . . that's the miracle of it!

Kyle Samuel Crichton

Men who are "orthodox" when they are young are in danger of being middle-aged all their lives.

-Walter Lippmann

The spur of the moment is the essence of adventure.

-Anthony Armstrong-Jones

Slump and the world slumps with you. Push and you push alone.

-Lawrence Peter

One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar.

-Helen Keller

There are essentially four kinds of risk:
The risk one cannot afford not to take
The risk one must accept
The risk one cannot afford to take
The Risk one can afford to take

“Ah, but a man's reach
should exceed his grasp,
Or what's a heaven for?”

Robert Browning
(1812-1889)
"Andrea del Sarto"

●It is when we all play safe that we
create a world of utmost insecurity.

-Dag Hammarskjöld