



It's time to get back on that road to success

1 October 2020

We are coming towards the end of the year 2020. A year that has shocked and rocked and knocked millions of people. And while some people are still trying to recover from the damage the pandemic has wrought on their lives, it is, I think, a time for us to start renewing our hopes and dreams. Hopes and dreams which may have been squashed, or even downright bludgeoned into nothing because of Covid-19. It is time to leave the past behind and get going again. Some aspects of our lives we may have to reinvent because some of us are going to have to start new businesses and get new jobs. However, Covid-19 may have knocked your finances, your sports goals, your recreation plans, and time for your hobbies as well as your career. If it has, then it's time to pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and get going again.

If you are feeling despondent because so many plans and dreams for this year came to nothing, remember that there is always next year and the year after that. A pandemic, thankfully, does not happen often and all those from the past have ended. The current situation will not last forever. Don't let the pandemic put your life on hold any more. Don't let the pandemic shrink your goals and dreams for your life. Continue to think big. Continue to imagine. Continue to dream. And then start working on how to make those dreams come true. The truth is that life is hard. Whether it be the pandemic, or something else, life is always throwing challenges our way. Challenges are not meant to stop us. They may mean we have to put some things on hold for a while, but they do not have to stop us. Delays of our dreams are not denials of our dreams. They are just delays.

Consider the people below and the challenges they faced in following their dreams.

1. Walt Disney was fired from his job at a newspaper because the editor said he, "Lacked imagination and had no good ideas". Did he give up? Did he take to heart what the editor said and agree with him? No. He stuck to his dreams and eventually made

history. He was nominated for fifty-nine Academy Awards and is considered the greatest animator of our time.

2. Stephen King had his book "Carrie", rejected by thirty publishers. He gave up and threw the manuscript in the bin. Later his wife retrieved it and urged him to try one more time. He did and eventually published "Carrie" to huge success.
3. Early in her career Oprah Winfrey lost one of her first jobs in TV when a producer declared she was, "Unfit for television". And look where she is now.
4. JK Rowling had all twelve major publishers at the time reject the Harry Potter manuscript. A year later Bloomsbury accepted it and gave a small advance. It went on to sell millions of books worldwide.
5. Colonel Sanders was sixty-two and living on social security when he pitched his chicken recipe to restaurants. According to sources, over one thousand people rejected the recipe. He eventually did find success with a restaurant which became the first Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet, and the restaurant tripled sales in a year mostly due to the KFC sales.
6. Thomas Edison was told by his teachers that he was, "Too stupid to learn anything." Edison went on to hold more than one thousand patents including the electric lamp, and many consider him one of the greatest inventors.
7. Albert Einstein didn't start speaking until he was four and reading until he was seven and was at first thought to be mentally handicapped. Yet he went on to win a Nobel Prize and changed the world's approach to physics.
8. When Elvis Presley performed for the first time he was told, "You ain't goin' nowhere, son. You ought to go back to driving a truck." Yet he went on to become a legend and one of the world's biggest stars.
9. In high school Michael Jordan was dropped from his school basketball team. He went on to become what many consider the greatest basketball player of all time.

If you are feeling hammered by this year and the effects of the pandemic, then just remember this is one year. It's not the end of your life and it's not the end of the world. There is next year and the year after that. If the goals and dreams you had for this year are lying in pieces, pick them up, dust them off, and look at renewing those goals and dreams for next year and the year beyond. Life is hard. Life is unpredictable. You have no idea what will happen. You cannot let life circumstances get you to give up your goals and drop your dreams. No matter what happens. Every person who has ever experienced success has had to overcome immense obstacles. In this life nothing comes easy. But if you stick to it, if you persist, if you refuse to give up, you do eventually get to realise your goals and dreams.

This year may have been a blip on your path to success. You are still on that road. Get back up and keep going.