

What do you Want?

All of us live in a land of opportunity, yet we choose to remain chained to the familiar, the known. In thinking about life, I often ponder why we stay chained when we could realistically do anything. We could choose to be anything, yet often we opt to settle for what is instead of stepping outside of the box and exploring what could be.

Typically, while growing up, we are asked: “what do you want to be when you grow up?” At some point, we are not asked this question, usually after graduating or leaving high school. I wonder why we stop asking, even if all we asked was “what do you want to be?” or “what do you want to do?” And if we continued to ask, how different our life would be. How much would we ponder and dig deep within ourselves to answer those questions?

Have you ever asked yourself “what do you want to be?” If you have – did you answer? Did you take the question seriously or did you joke around with it?

What if we took that question seriously? We might not be able to answer it right away, and if we did, then our next question to ourselves should be “What are you waiting for?” Right up front and center our brain would go into panic mode and start a dialogue that would tell us all the reasons why we could not do it. All the reasons we are waiting. All the excuses. It would do so because, if nothing else, we are creatures of habit and unless a change is thrust upon us, we don’t take the initiative to bring it on.

War tears through countries and destroys many lives. Those who live there walk miles or take extreme risks to leave behind what they know. They do so because to stay where they are could mean death. There is nothing left to make them stay. They are willing to start a new life, often learning a new language, and settling in a country across the world. They do so with great courage and hope. Hope that they can have a better life not only for themselves but their children.

Perhaps this is why those of us who live in the land of opportunity stay chained to what is familiar. We have never known strife or felt the need to push ourselves to have a better life. It could be we don’t want to get our hopes up; we might have pushed ourselves to do something only to have failed one too many times. It might be that we are told by too many peers, family or bosses that we are not good enough. Or is it?

Perhaps we are truly happy and ok with where we are in our lives, doing exactly what we want to do, being exactly who we want to be.

Chained or free, is a perception. One that only we can place upon ourselves. Others do not hinder us or limit us. The only person who can totally understand and know if your life is enriching you is you.

Today I saw a car brightly painted that said “Dog Taxi.” Immediately I thought, COOL!! And then wondered how the person who thought of that came up with it? Did they want to be a vet when they were young but too many setbacks brought them to this? Were they entrenched in Corporate and one day woke up and decided “screw this! I am going to start taxiing dogs around!” I love seeing diverse things and what people dream up. To be able to live those dreams must feel fantastic. Oh, I am sure there are days where they would like to be doing something else. And perhaps on those days, they ask themselves “what do you want to be?” and within their heart having a taxi for dogs outweighs all the other options.

Ask yourself “what do you want to be?” Then take the answer that comes bubbling out of you seriously. It might seem like a crazy harebrained idea, but so were automobiles, electricity, computers, flight, and the telephone – never mind cell phones! If those who dared to dream gave up, our lives would look a lot different. Every day, someone out there does something that seems totally crazy to the rest of us and makes a success of it.

Don't settle when you could stretch the boundaries in small increments and become something so much more. That is what it means to let your light shine. Each of us is unique, and all of us have an internal desire to be something, to do something.

So go ahead dare to dream and have the courage to follow your dreams to the end of the earth if necessary. Be who you are, without judgement or guilt. Shine just a little brighter in all your beautiful unique glory so that we may see and be inspired by you!

*Namaste*

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