

Let problems be your launching pad

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Quite often many people give in to the problems that affect their lives. They let the inflicted damage of problems impact them in a negative way rather than using their problems as a launching pad for success. What they may not realize is that problems, in a basic sense, can give meaning to things, people, and ideas. They can certainly serve as a condition or generator for creative thinking, problem-solving, and goals.

A wise philosopher once commented that an eagle’s only obstacle to overcome for flying with greater speed and ease is the air. Yet, if the air were withdrawn and the eagle were to fly in a vacuum, it would fall instantly to the ground, unable to fly at all. The very element that offers resistance to flying is at the same time the condition for flight. The same holds true for a powerboat: its main obstacle is the water against the propeller, yet if it were not for this same resistance, the boat would not move at all.

This law of resistance and strength (that obstacles are conditions for success) applies to human life as well. A life free of all obstacles and difficulties would reduce all possibilities and powers to zero. Eliminate problems, and life loses its creative tension.

Without the problem of mass ignorance, we wouldn’t have an educational system. The problem of ill health gives meaning to medicine. The problem of social disorder gives meaning to government. The problem of concussions gives meaning to advancements in football helmet design. The problem of weak cell phone batteries gives meaning to portable, stand-alone chargers. I can go on and on and on.

Perhaps it isn’t a problem that is challenging you at the moment, but rather a designated responsibility. The responsibility of raising a child could give meaning to having a job. Or the responsibility of taking care of our planet could give meaning to one’s chosen field of study.

We all have a tendency to want to get rid of our problems and responsibilities. However, it is many of those problems and responsibilities that enable us to think creatively for solutions--or to buckle down and make goals that we can start working towards. It’s those problems and responsibilities that pave the way for us to grow and improve our lives, for both us and those around us. It’s those problems and responsibilities that drive our passion and ultimately lead to our success.

A young teenager, trying to learn more about life, once questioned a lonely old man: “What is life’s heaviest burden?” The old man answered sadly: “Having nothing to carry.”

So don’t be afraid of problems, responsibilities, or burdens (or any other label you give to obstacles). They just may be your fuel to soar, succeed, and lead.

~ The End ~