



The Mantra of
Success

The sky is the limit

Posted on 31-Jan-2017

They say that a thousand mile journey begins with one small step. Just as there are no limits to human imagination there are no limits to human achievement. Think that cannot possibly be true? Well, did anyone imagine barely a hundred and fifty years back that they would not only be able to travel in aircraft, but actually step on the moon? Had somebody mentioned that this was in the realm of possibility, they would likely have been laughed out of town. None of the modern modes of transport and hi tech gadgets like cars, aeroplanes, mobile phones, computers and so on, that we take for granted today would appear anything short of magical to people just a few centuries ago.

Yet even back then, notwithstanding the skeptics, many people had visualised and quite often predicted that such astonishing vehicles and gadgets would indeed one day be invented. The great renaissance genius Leonardo da Vinci had in fact, designed a flying machine, a precursor to the modern day helicopter in the fifteenth century! The point that one is trying to make here is that one's imagination is nothing but a guide to go forth and achieve greatness and one would be foolish to not give full rein to it.

Every man and woman can dream the biggest dream and what's more go forward and achieve it. One does not have to look at clichéd examples of world famous leaders, artists and scientists, who dared to dream the impossible for this. Our role models could be

closer home-among our parents, siblings, relatives, friends, neighbors or just about anybody, we come across in our day to day living.

It could be the son of one's subordinate in office, who in spite of not having studied in the best private school gets, admission and a scholarship to an top Ivy league college in America, by the dint of sheer hard work. It could also be one's daughter, who defying all preconceived notions about the place of women in society, decides to become an entrepreneur and ends up providing employments to hundreds of people in one's home town.

Imagination in fact is a powerful means to try and improve one's situation. This is true of everyone, irrespective of whether they are rich or true. While a rich person would be better placed to not only dream big, but also go ahead and achieve those dreams, a not so well off person would probably follow their dreams with unbridled passion and leave no stone unturned in achieving them.

Dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the hearts of men. This quotation by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the German statesman extraordinaire of the eighteenth century exhorts one to dream big dreams, for only then will one be able to have an impact on others. If one's dream is a timid one, one may easily achieve it, but there will be none other than one's own self to celebrate it. On the other hand if one's dream is so grand and big that it touches the lives of many others, its achievement becomes a matter of celebration to so many.

If Nelson Mandela had only dreamt of becoming a wealth man, he would no doubt have achieved it, but who would care about that? Instead, he dreamt of empowering his black South African brethren and obtaining for them the political power held by a racist white government. Against all odds, he achieved his seemingly impossible dream and the world came to revere him.

Choosing to dream small is a crying shame when one can easily dream the biggest dream and what's more, likely achieve it. What would you say of a person who given a choice between a Rolls Royce and a Volks Wagon, would choose the latter? Yet so many millions of us are guilty of that same wrong choice. Because of a lack of self-belief and confidence

and because others tell one that it can't be done we stop dreaming big. It's not that we can't dream big; we all can. But the fear of failure often stops us from doing so.

If we were assured that every dream of ours, no matter seemingly how difficult to achieve, will get fulfilled a 100%, we will let our imagination run riot and dream the biggest ones. Well here's the thing. If we start practicing believing that every dream of ours, no matter how big, will be fulfilled our actual chances of achieving the same dreams shall go up exponentially. When we shall start experiencing this on a consistent basis we shall get used to the idea of dreaming, big and then going all out with full gusto to achieve those dreams.

Who does not get moved by listening to the immortal, "I have a dream" speech by the great Civil Rights movement leader Martin Luther King "Jr". The dream may only have been fulfilled after his death, but who can deny the poignancy of the moment, when he showed his people that they too could dream. Similarly even before he started shouting out to the world, that "I am the greatest!", Mohammad Ali must have first dreamt of becoming the greatest boxer of all time. It would not have been easy for him as a young African American boy to visualize the day when he would lord it over the boxing stage, but dream he did, and look at what he achieved.

Considering that it doesn't cost anyone anything to dream, it is incredible that most people set their sights so low in life, when they plan for the future. If only they realized that by dreaming small, they are condemning themselves to a life of mediocrity. They will never get to experience the splendor and glory of chasing one's big dreams and have the world acknowledge their feat. It is a pity as they could so easily change their fortune by not being afraid to dream big. Don't be limited in your imagination. Do not even follow the advice provided in the title of this article and imagine that only the sky is the limit. One should aim for nothing less than the stars!

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