



ONE

THE REVOLVING DOOR

When one door closes, another opens. This is one of the Golden Rules of life on Planet Earth, home of the human race.

Some people, however, see not a hinged door but a revolving one, making them unable to decide on which side to exit, or even whether to exit at all.

Thus we often return to the same room that we were in the process of leaving, not recognizing it at first because now we are coming into that space from a different direction, facing towards it instead of leaving it behind us.

We stumble back from whence we came, needing a while to orientate ourselves anew and to realize where we have arrived this time, namely back to the point of departure. Our eyes slowly adjust to the light; our minds reluctantly struggle to acknowledge the similarities between here and where we had just left.

Life's lessons get repeated until we learn them.

Learning is often a process of trial and error: some of us need more trials and make more errors before we learn to avoid adverse situations and progress toward the ones that will benefit us. Life has a way of confronting us with apparently random tests; readying ourselves to deal with them is an integral part of mastering ourselves and coping with life itself.

It is thus of eminent importance to consciously sit for the exams and to be prepared for them. Some examinations have a set date, communicated

well in advance; others are unexpected and with short, or sometimes even no, forewarning. Simply expecting twists and turns in life already helps you better handle any upcoming situation.

The Stumblers through Life have not set a target or chosen their goals. Your destiny, however, is determined by your destination. If you have a target and a map, you can decide how to reach the destination of your choice, based on your personal and spiritual beliefs, needs, and emotions. If you have neither, you will constantly have the feeling that life conspires against you.

*“When a man does not know what harbor he is heading for,
no wind is the right wind.”*

— Marcus Annaeus Seneca

Imagine this: arriving at a busy airport, checking in, going through the security check, making your way to the departure lounge, showing your boarding pass, finding your seat, putting your hand luggage in the overhead compartment, fastening your seat belt, and settling down for a snooze after takeoff. The flight attendant wakes you up when it is time to land and asks you to put your seat in the upright position. The pilot touches the plane down gently, and you gaze out the window wondering which airport you have just landed in.

You do not know because you did not bother to choose a destination before you started your journey. You had no goal. So do not be surprised when you discover that you have landed at the same airport you just departed from: it was a round-trip, a sightseeing tour, and you even managed to miss that because you slept through it!

If you do not decide where to go, someone else will decide for you, and they won't be sending you on a holiday ...

Life's lessons get repeated until we learn them; then we can move on to the next one, all the way through until we graduate.

People say, “The same problems crop up in my life over and over again.” This is, however, not something to complain about but something to be grateful for. If we had to hop, skip, and jump before we could walk,

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how far would we get? We all fall over while we are learning to walk; we do not, however, give up and resign ourselves to the fate of having to crawl on our hands and knees for the rest of our given days but keep getting back up until we have mastered this activity which is so essential for getting on in life. The same attitude is needed when stumbling across problems and challenging situations that present themselves repeatedly in our lives. They are there for a good reason.

Until we change, things will not change. Until we solve the problem, it will keep presenting itself, like the warning light in the car when there is not enough petrol in the tank. Turning the key on and off in the hope the light will stop blinking is a waste of time and effort. It will continue blinking until you put petrol in the tank. If you ignore it and drive anyway, you won't get very far; but when you come to a spluttering halt on a busy highway during rush hour, or in the middle of nowhere on a dark and rainy night, at least the light will not be blinking any more. You will have solved that problem by exchanging it for an even bigger one. Will that make you happier?

A problem remains a problem until you start working on its solution. In that moment it becomes the source of a better opportunity. A lesson remains unlearnt until you find the answer; then you can turn the page and tackle the next question. The revolving door will deposit you back in the same room until you choose to exit on the other side.

Keep repeating the same thing, and you will get the same thing, even though a small change in the direction of your thinking could get you out of the revolving door to the other side and to new adventures (and thus to new lessons), rather than back to the same side and more of the same problems.

Change your thinking! Take control of your own life and create it! Set a goal and do whatever has to be done in order to achieve it! But most of all, believe in yourself and your gifts, talents, and abilities; develop these and you develop yourself.

The more you grow and develop, the more rooms you will be able to visit while learning the lesson specific to that space; there are many

rooms and thus many doors to pass through on our journey through life. Some are big and wide, but they can get smaller and narrower the further we go and the higher we climb.

The view as we approach the summit is breathtaking; we can easily start overestimating our own abilities and importance. Stay grounded.

The path to the highest leads through the portal of humility.

With this in mind, do not strive to learn all your lessons and to pass through all the doors to serve only your own elevation, power, and satisfaction, but do so for the well-being, and in the service of, all of humanity. There is more than enough of **everything** to go round; we can **all** profit from your personal self-development when it is done in a spirit of creating something new, not competing against something old.

Playground Earth

Lessons get repeated until they are learnt,
Bridges are to cross until they've been burnt,
Status is provisional until it is earned,
What you don't make your own must be returned,
Some people were there, but many just weren't.

“When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has just opened for us.”

—Helen Keller

The revolving door was invented and developed in the early 1900s to counter the loss of heat in skyscrapers whenever the main doors were opened, which caused a draft and the suction of warm air from inside the building to the street outside.

Its main characteristic is that it is at one and the same time always open and always closed.

You decide which one of the two the revolving door represents for you at any given moment according to your attitude. It is no act of genius to identify the person who sees therein an open door as someone with a

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positive attitude and someone who sees it as a closing door as having a fundamentally negative attitude.

Advanced students of the art of positive thinking will, however, revel in the joining of these two distinct and primarily separate possibilities into one glorious unity: open and shut simultaneously! It provides an ongoing exercise in transforming the negative into the positive, not only in the very moment of its occurrence, but each time one deliberates the question of which side to exit on.

Eventually, of course, the act of leaving a room becomes such an engrained habit that the Learner of Lessons customarily enters the revolving door in a state of joyful anticipation, secure in the knowledge that they will emerge on the other side into a room containing new challenges and new lessons, the mastering and learning of which will enable them to find and pass through the door that leads to the next room ...