

LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST

The fabulously rich Malcolm Forbes lived well. He did lots of things his way and hardly minded if people often thought him to be outlandish and weird. He didn't care what they thought. When he dies, he had four words etched on his tombstone, "While alive, he lived."

So many of us don't really live while we are alive. We wander through life, not giving it our best. We remain rather content in the fog of mediocrity. So long as life is just okay, we are satisfied. So much of our talent remains untapped because we are lazy to actualize it or because we do not believe enough in ourselves to make the effort. Scientists tell us common observation confirms that we rarely put to use most of our talent.

We are alive, but not really living. To truly live, we need to shake off the feeling that what we are is good enough. We need to tell ourselves that, like the seagull who was given wings to fly, we are put to good use the talent that the Lord has given.

Still, we hesitate. We get frozen in our mediocrity and learn to accept it as an inevitable part of life because we don't believe we can do better. Or, if we do believe, we are not convinced that it is all worthwhile.

We, of course, do want to be successful, but we cringe at the sight of the effort we will have to put in to get there. The prospect of having to work hard frightens us. And what if we fail? We perhaps fear failure more than the sacrifice and pain that we know we will be called upon to make. If only there was a swift and easy way to success.

But there rarely is. Everywhere we look, there are no easy paths to success, only long, difficult roads that are not at all inviting.

This is why success is gotten only by the brave and the determined. Only those who are convinced that the road to success is always tough, but that they can overcome the obstacles and the difficulties if they reach deep into themselves and draw upon the courage and the determination they know is there; only those persons who have guts to embark on the long journey to success.

Quick and easy success is somehow tied to massive amounts of luck or to the devious and dishonest practices. You cannot build a life on luck because sooner rather than later it is bound to run out. The legions of losers who are enticed by the prospect of quick and easy success at various games of chance are testimony to that.

Success which is the result of cheating isn't success at all, even if one does not get caught. It may look like success, but the cheater knows it isn't and that makes all the difference in the world.

Successful persons don't even mind failing every now and then. They see failure more of a learning experience than anything else. They even see difficulties working in their favor as they serve to discourage the faint-hearted and leave the way open to them.

How satisfying if at the end of our lives, they can write these words on our tombstones, “He lived.”