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Introduction

Great people have always been people with visions. They have come, they have seen and they have conquered. It is the 'seeing' part that we recognize as visions.

These are the parts that are useful to us.

Envisioning has various aspects to it. One of the chief aspects is that it has to be within the realms of achievable reality.

But what defines 'achievable reality'? Do you only build visions within your possible means? How, then, do people achieve the impossible? How do they go ahead of what their peers and predecessors have achieved?

Find out the answers here, and more.

Chapter 1:

Visions that Work – Realizable Visions

Summary

When you make a vision, the first thought that comes in your mind is whether that vision would be realizable or not. Here we find some answers to what 'realizable' actually means.

Visions that Work – Realizable Visions

“Vision is the art of seeing what’s invisible to others.”

Jonathan Swift

Most people are quite limited in their mental resources. No, we are not demeaning anyone here, but that is the way we have been conditioned to think. Our parents, our schoolteachers, our bosses, etc. everyone tells us to think within the realms of possibility. But what does the ‘realm of possibility’ actually involve? For most people, it refers to what is known, what is seen and what is already achieved. We are told to move within that perimeter. We are told we cannot go beyond that. And that is why, when we make our goals early on in life, we don’t do anything else but just emulate other people. Our goals are simply what other people have already achieved.

Does any child make a goal about being a discoverer of a new scientific breakthrough? Does anyone tell that they would bring a new invention in the world and make that into a multibillion dollar business? Does anyone set goals that are beyond the achievements that others have already made?

The answer is a staunch negative. Our goals are the commonplace things – we want to become doctors, software engineers, astronauts, pilots, sportspeople, etc. We don’t want to run beyond the conventional. The people around us force us to stay within conventional limits.

When we are brought up in that manner, our natural mental progresses are stifled. As babies we are inquisitive about everything around us, but as we grow this natural inquisitiveness withers away. But that is really quite detrimental to human progresses. If the great discoverers and inventors had all left their curiosities in their childhood, they would not have made the world what it is in our present age.

Where is all this leading? This is pertinent to us, because it is the way we condition our minds that limits our visions. When we make our visions in life, we stay within the 'realms of possibility' and don't dare think beyond that. For us, only those things are realizable that others have already done.

But hasn't history shown time and again that humans have broken the barriers of existing norms and methods and gone beyond? It is quite possible for us to do the same as well.

Hence, the term 'realizable' is quite relative. But if we were to apply that in a general context, 'realizable' would mean 'limitless'. We shouldn't limit our thoughts. Just because someone else hasn't achieved something yet, it doesn't mean that we won't be able to achieve it too.

We have to bear that in mind when are establishing our visions in life. Nothing is impossible for the human mind; nothing is unattainable, nothing is unrealizable.

Chapter 2:

Building Your Vision – What Would You Need?

Summary

What are the ingredients you would need to establish a great vision?

Building a Vision – What Would You Need?

Everything has certain requirements. Building visions have those requirements as well. So, what are the things you would need to equip yourself with in order to make clear visions in your life?

Listen to Your Inner Calling

Everyone has an inner voice, but only few of us can hear it. The inner voice tells all of us what it wants us to do. It tells us what we want in life. You can hear your inner voice at any time, and the more responsive you are toward it, the more clearly you can hear it.

Start with an Idea

You need inspiration to begin. Again, this inspiration can come from anywhere. You might read something and think that there's something you want to do. You might see something somewhere and get inspired. Something you read in the paper might give you an idea to visualize something new that you can do. Keep your mind receptive to all such ideas. Don't shun possibilities; think over them and see what you would like to achieve.

Be Innovative; Be Outrageous

They did not put humans on the moon by being conventional. Someone thought of it and when they thought of it, everyone else considered it to be outrageous. Global businesspeople did not do it while everyone was agreeing with them all the way. They took bold steps and followed them through. They thought new things and did not listen to other people's detractions about them. They hung on, and achieved. You have to be outrageous too. And you have to be innovative.

Don't Follow, Lead

When you establish your vision, you must have one thing clear in your mind. You cannot be a follower; you have to be a leader. It is your vision. It is something you want to make your own. So you need to be a leader, a pioneer.

See Things Your Way and Stick to It

Consider an artist who paints pictures. Artists are visionaries. They take the most mundane things in life and 'see' it their way and then 'show' it to others. Artists have a canvas on which they paint their visions. When an artist sees something and wants to paint it, they already have envisioned it in their mind's eye, much before it takes form on the canvas. You have to be that way too. Your vision will be built in your mind – it will be something that only you will be able to see at that time – but then you have to bring it on your canvas. You have to make sure you bring it on canvas. If all the great artists had died without putting their visions on canvas, the world would have been bereft of all these wonderful paintings. Make sure your vision doesn't die with you. You have to determine yourself to realize it so that you can 'show' it to others.

Chapter 3:

Passionate Thinking Vs Rational Thinking

Summary

We can think as far as we can, but things that hold us back are the confinements of this practical world that we live in. How can we overcome this impediment?

Passionate Thinking Vs Rational Thinking

Imagine that you want to build something that has never been built. It will be something that will benefit humankind in several poignant ways. But, at present, you don't even have proper funds to pay your monthly home installments. Will you ever be able to build that thing? This happens with each and every one of us. We build visions in our mind, even talk with our friends about it, but then we have to stifle them because of something as trivial as lack of money.

If this is something that is holding you back, you have to read the [Law of Attraction](#). Here you realize that nothing is impossible. The limitations are only in our mind. But, if we try vigorously to achieve something, if we think consistently about having something, if we want something so bad that we can taste it, we shall surely have it.

This Law repudiates all conventional definitions of rational thinking that we have been fed upon. People tell us not to think more than our means because we won't be able to attain those things and we are just wasting our time. But, should we stifle our passion on account of that?

Should we stifle our mind's utmost desires, however outrageous they are, just because people tell us they do not fit in the present day world?

This is where we need to understand the difference between passionate thinking and rational thinking. When we are thinking passionately about something, we are trying to put our innermost desires out in the front. We aren't thinking about the limitations. According to the Law of Attraction, if we think about our desires too strongly, nothing can stop us from achieving them.

Rational thinking, though it might seem the proper way to think in the world we live in, is confining. It restrains us to what other people have achieved and we merely follow in their footsteps.

If we want to become a visionary, we need to let our emotions move ahead of us.

“It is appalling to see how most people with sight don’t have a vision.”

Helen Keller

Chapter 4:

Taking Your First Strides toward Reaching Your Goals

Summary

Action must supplement our thoughts; if not, the thoughts go to waste.

Taking Your First Strides toward Reaching Your Goals

You have now been coerced into thinking as unlimitedly as possible. Since there shouldn't be any boundaries on the goals you set yourself, your visions may seem insurmountable to most, but they shouldn't seem that way to you, because now you have to begin realizing them.

Make an Assessment of What You Will Need

This is your primary step. Sit down and analyze what you will need to bring your plan to fulfillment. This could be a very tall order – the things that you will need might seem unattainable to you at present. This is step one of the process, though, and most people fail at this. However, don't restrict yourself. Make a list of the things you will need, however much difficult they seem at present.

Make an Assessment of What You Have

You will already have a few things that will be useful in the accomplishment of your goal. You might not be able to see them probably, but these things will be with you. Sit down and think. Maybe you know someone indirectly who can help you with something. Maybe you are eligible for a financing option that you don't know about. Maybe you have some materials that you can use for building an initial model of whatever you are thinking about. Think in depth about what you already have. It brings you closer to your goal.

Read, Research and Reread

Reading is important. See what other people have done in similar circumstances. Read about the lives of famous people. See what you can do. This can give you a lot of inspiration.

Strategize

Now, it is time to build your strategies. How will you go through in your mission of accomplishing your vision? What will help you and what won't? Set milestones for yourself. See how you can reach from milestone A to milestone B. Every step might need strategies. If you are zealous about this, you will be soon having a proper blueprint of how you can go about things. Again, remember that you must not restrict yourself.

Chapter 5:

Getting People to Envision with You

Summary

Following a vision could be a lonely journey, but you need anchors all the while.

Getting People to Envision with You

This could be a very difficult task, considering that your vision could be very much out of the ordinary. However, you will need people with you, if not to think then to implement what you have thought. You will need people to be a support system as a morale-boosting system. But for that you will need to convince people. This is going to be tough, but there will always be someone who thinks at your wavelength that you know of. Speak to some select people. Listen to everyone, and incorporate good suggestions. Don't think much about what the cynics tell you. There will always be plenty of those.

Your initial journey might as well be alone. But if you do it diligently enough for a while, you will see your own band of people forming. It might be a slow process, but it will happen. The only requirement is for you to begin.

There are some methods in which you can bring people to your fold, especially in the initial stages.

1. Speak with your friends. Don't do it in a group; do it individually. Don't tell them your entire plan. It is best to speak generally. See what they say about it. From their responses, you can find out if they are interested. You could actually invite them to a related seminar or workshop and see how enthusiastic they are. If someone evinces some interest, you could work upon that.
2. Attend meetings and join clubs that cater to the subject of your choosing. This is where you can find really enthusiastic people. Don't hold back on making friendships even with complete strangers and getting to know them. You might be building a potential loyalist group or at least getting some new ideas for yourself.
3. Use the Internet communities. On the social networking sites, you can find thousands of people interested in each and every niche possible. Try to add

them to your community. Discuss with them. You might also find chat rooms. Use them. Find people who suit your tastes.

Chapter 6:

Like Noah to Your People

Summary

Noah heard God's voice and used that to deliver his people. All visionaries do that. They are all Noahs building their arks when people are ridiculing them.

Like Noah to Your People

Everyone is acquainted with the Biblical story of Noah. He heard the voice of God and obeyed it. In analogy, we have to hear our inner voice. We have to understand what is being spoken to us, even though there are no words in that. And we have to understand how that will benefit the people around us, the world that we live in. When we begin doing things philanthropically just how Noah did, we will be able to achieve our goals in a much better way. That's because we will be working not just to get a desire of ours fulfilled, but we will actually be doing something for the betterment of people.

Is it possible that we can do so? Yes, we can do it. In our small ways, we are already bettering the people around us. When we are working, we are doing something that adds to society. What our company produces, or what we produce, is used by people in some way. If we are providing a service, that is helping them too. So, in our own small ways, we are already doing things. But, we may not be able to call those things philanthropic just yet. To be able to call them that, you need to plan on a large scale. You have to think in terms of the Buddhist philosophy of *Bahujana Hitaaya, Bahujana Sukhaaya*, i.e. "for the greater benefit and happiness of the majority". That is when you become a visionary.

Making a vision is one thing. But making a vision to benefit people is another. In most cases, the two things coincide. No one makes a vision for themselves, however mean it might sound initially. When fulfilled, visions always benefit the broad majority. When you are planning your vision, it is best then that you think of this aspect in advance. Your vision will take humanity forward in its own way.

With the pressure of this philosophy on your mind, you will be able to achieve your goals better. You will know that God is somehow guiding you through. Like He guided Noah to deliver people, He is probably guiding you as well in order to achieve your vision and take humanity one step forward.

Chapter 7:

The Roadblocks and the Cynics

Summary

What do you do when people and things begin putting obstacles in your path to achieving your vision?

The Roadblocks and the Cynics

On your road to achieving your goals, you are definitely going to meet obstacles. The bigger your vision is, the more complex these obstacles will be. And they will come in different forms. They will come in the form of people who will try to talk you out of fulfilling your cherished ambition and they will also come in the form of things, practical difficulties. You will need to overcome these problems if you want to make any kind of headway in reaching your goals.

Here are some things that you must think about:-

1. The people who try to deter you from your path are most likely people who haven't achieved anything themselves. Even if someone with a lot of so-called 'experience' tries to make you 'see reason', you must think about what that person has achieved themselves. In any case, if every great visionary who achieved would have listened to people around them and then stopped in their tracks, the world wouldn't have been what it is today.
2. Actions speak louder than words. Once you know that a person is trying to pull you down, stop communicating with that person in this context. Don't update them on what's happening, however close a person that might be. When you achieve your successes, you can tell them. But if you speak with people who have negativistic tendencies, you will be only stopped in your tracks and nothing constructive will happen.
3. Practical difficulties will come in your way. You will find that the finance is lacking, the technology that you want isn't accessible or even isn't invented yet and such other restrictions will occur. But, just keep one thing in mind. This isn't a onetime plan. This is a vision. Visions aren't achieved when the going is smooth.
4. Try making the most of what you have. If you cannot make that big leap just as yet, try to bridge the gap by doing small things. Thomas Alva Edison had more than [1,500 patents](#) to his name. Shocked? Most of his

patents were stopgap things that he made and sold so that he could have money for his bigger experiments. He even sold some things himself. The biggest visionary of any time had to fend for himself by making small things, at least in comparison to his more famous inventions. You must not flinch if you have to do the same. Do small things if that is what it takes to achieve your bigger goals.

Most importantly, read Stephen Covey's [*The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*](#). It will give you great insight on what you must do to overcome your difficulties and reach your goals.

Chapter 8:

From a Visionary to a Leader

Summary

Visionaries have to lead. They have to shepherd their flock from their conventional confinement to a world where the concept of limit has no existence.

From a Visionary to a Leader

You cannot be a visionary without being a leader. The very concept of having a vision means that you have to be a pioneer. You have to think about something that has not been thought about and have to implement it. Well, even if it has been thought about by someone before, the difference between a visionary and a thinker is that a visionary brings that particular thing to fruition.

Right from the start, you have to have leadership qualities. When you are thinking, you are thinking something that the other person hasn't thought of. You are leading them in your thoughts. Later, when you will probably speak about what is in your mind to a selected few people, you are speaking about things that other people haven't thought about. You are taking the lead in this conversation even as you are speaking because you are speaking about something innovative, something that hasn't been attempted so far.

It is later that your leadership talents will become much more important. This is when you have chalked out your plan and you need people to help you implement them. This is when you begin reaching out to people in real need.

When you get your initial successes, you will find people getting influenced by you. These are the people you can use to achieve your goals. They will help you if they know that you are earnest. When you begin your journey in realizing your vision, you will find that a lot more people begin following you. This happens because people are getting convinced, and some are even getting inspired. The human mentality induces people to associate themselves with successful people. When you begin succeeding, people will want to cling to you.

At this time, if you aren't a leader, if you cannot motivate them to take forward strides, you will become a failure. Achieving your vision's goals will become more difficult for you.

You have to lead those who want to be led.

This is what successful people have done all through the ages. This is what will actually make you a visionary who has realized his or her goals.

Chapter 9:

Reaching Your Goals – Does Your Vision End There?

Summary

What do you do when you have achieved your vision?

Reaching Your Goals – Does Your Vision End There?

It can happen soon or it can happen late. It may not happen at all. We are talking about achieving your goals-About fulfilling your vision. You dared to dream and then you endeavored to bring it to fruition. Your vision is accomplished. Now what? Do you stop there?

No.

If you have achieved what you set out to do, you must take it this way – What you envisioned was not to the extent of your total capacity. You could have set bigger goals for yourself. Since you achieved what you thought was beyond your capacity, you definitely made a miscalculation about your capacity. You are capable of much more.

A real visionary won't stop at that. The improvement process never stops. Even if you step on the topmost pedestal, you must now think of something else. If you could swing to reach this branch, probably you can swing to reach the branch that is further beyond as well. This is how a visionary would think.

An athlete does not stop at a record they have broken, do they? Do they go and rest and bask in the glory of their success? They don't. On the other hand, they begin working harder so that they can break a better record. This is what a visionary must do too. Once you achieve a goal, set yourself a bigger one. If that is not possible in your own realm, try diversifying. Do things in some other area that you think you can.

You owe this to humanity. Speaking from a philanthropic point of view, if you have achieved something that can benefit humankind, it is now your responsibility to achieve something more. You owe it to humanity to take them

another step forward; a soldier does not rest on his laurels and neither should any visionary.

Chapter 10:

Visions 2.0 – New Trends for the New Millennium

Summary

Everything is changing, getting revamped. Visions are too.

Visions 2.0 – New Trends for the New Millennium

Any person who thinks that there is nothing left to be discovered in this world because everything has already been discovered is the greatest fool. They are the frogs in the well who think only about that which is seeable. They don't see beyond what can be seen. They will never be visionaries.

As new things keep getting invented or discovered, as new records keep getting broken, as people keep achieving new glories, the benchmarks for other visionaries are only expanding. It is not that everything has been invented or discovered – there are many other things waiting to be unearthed out there – only a true visionary will 'see' them and then 'show' them to others.

In the modern age, it has become a tall order to build visions and strive to achieve them, but at the same time things have become simpler too. It has become a tall order today because we have a lot of technology at our disposal. In the 1400s when someone discovered a continent, it was a vision. Before that, when someone postulated and proved that the earth was round, it was a vision. Today, such things don't even pass muster, because our technology can find these things out with the greatest ease. So, it has become difficult for visionaries because they have to think various wavelengths away from what we already have in order to bring something new into the world.

But, the very same technology that has made envisioning difficult has made it easier as well. Today, it is easier to reach someone anywhere in the globe within the blink of an eye. It is easy to reach into the universe; it is easy to delve into the atom. The infinitesimal and the infinite both are ours for the calling. Our technology has made it simpler for us to improve and even improvise upon things. This is what makes envisioning a challenging but stimulating process.

Whether it is sport or science, whether it is business or the Internet, you can envision a million things and possibly achieve them too. It all depends on what heights or depths you would be willing to go to.

Conclusion

Vision isn't for everyone; it is for those few who dare to dream and dare even more to achieve.

Don't fetter yourself with the known, the achieved, the talked-about. Look northward, where no one has reached yet.

It is only when you dare to think about un-trespassed territory will you be able to achieve and stay faithful to your vision, however much outrageous it might seem to you and to others at the moment.

All the best to you!!!

