Coffee Pilgrims
Sharing the Journey
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I have a dream today....

'One life. Just one. Why aren't we all running like we are on fire towards our wildest dreams?'
Omar Khayyam.

In scripture it is said that 'without vision, people shall perish'. By this we assume that our lives involve one big thing, a singular purpose defined from above, a calling of sorts. And the scary thing is what if we chose the wrong path, did something different, would we therefore be forever cursed, destined to spend eternity in the midst of an eternal pyre, surrounded by history's evil creatures.

'Hell is not fire and brimstone, not a place where you are punished for lying or cheating or stealing. Hell is wanting to be something and somewhere different from where you are.'

Stephen Levine.

What this highlights, is the importance of finding out and becoming who we are, nothing more and nothing less. And, to do this we have to begin this journey called life, taking the first unsteady step towards developing greater balance, learning how to navigate unchartered waters and remaining out of harm's way. It is all about trials and errors, focus, courage and commitment, as character gets formed over time. Character is not strengthened through the reading of books, watching others or staying put- one has to live life, encounter challenges and fall on one's face from time to time on the quest towards a worthwhile destiny.
Like farmers know so well, it is about preparing the soil, sowing seeds, time, patience and then harvest comes, never early yet never late but always...just on time. However, sometimes our fears take the better of us and lead to impatience which could lead to earlier actions that often, in turn, precipitate undesirable decisions and outcomes.

Very few people are born with a clear view on who they are or what they want to become. We are very often born into someone else's chaos and have to extract ourselves from that early noise, find a quiet place and begin to learn to listen to our inner voice, recognize its faint murmurs. Silence is perhaps the most valuable aspect of life and yet people shun it, do not find comfort in solitude as they mistake it for loneliness. However, it is often in that place, devoid of distractions, that we can

see and hear more clearly, let imagination flourish, and make the decisions that can help us find a path of destiny. And then leave the safety of the nest and take a few more steps towards destiny.

And, destiny can have many roads that lead towards it, it is, thankfully, not a mere single track. Mistakes, failures are an inherent part of every meaningful journey as what is joy without pain, smiles devoid of tears and hope without fear.

'That which doesn't kill us doesn't have to make us bitter, unless we let it. Those fires show us what we can survive and clear the field for new growth. For a better harvest.'

Sherrilyn Kenyon

It is the journey, not the destination, that matters most. It is in the course of this adventure that we tend to find ourselves. We encounter an array of emotions that impact our soul with such power that, as it shatters the skin we have hidden within, we begin to see our true reflection in the world around us. It is those emotions that mark us most, populate our memory bank with images that control our behavior, our words and deeds. And it is those actions and sentences that help formulate our identity as our character begins to be reflected back to us, through the eyes, words and gestures of others.

And, as that character begins to take shape, solidifies into a personality, we begin to take a few more steps on our path of destiny, where purpose awaits.

Just like the young man Martin Luther King Jr all these years ago.
'I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.'
Reverend King lived for a greater cause, which is why he had no fear of either people or even death. He lived life as per St Francis of Assisi's motto- 'in light of eternity'. And his dream came to be even though it happened long after his earthly body had passed. Reverend King is the one that planted the seeds that were harvested by latter generations. He was the visionary, the man of courage who rose above adversity, found his path and lived for a greater cause.

And, whilst we may not all be suited to this higher calling, we can always do better, strive for more and start developing a legacy of our own. This could be accomplished by being great parents, friends, partners, business people, doctors or janitors, presidents or taxi drivers, farmers, bankers, nurses.....doing whatever we do with joy and to the best of our ability.

And, in our little coffee world, whether you be a barista, a coffee owner or the CEO of a large chain, simply do it well, be a force for good in all that you do and with all that you meet.

'So that is what hell is. I would never have believed it. You remember: the fire and brimstone, the torture. Ah! the farce. There is no need for torture: Hell is other people.'

Jean-Paul Sartre

Kamal Bengougam
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