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### Wealth and Success

I will never become successful till I am on the deathbed but I will always have true wealth with me as long as I stay grounded to my paradigm. How can one have true wealth while not being successful for one's entire life? Personally, I don't associate wealth with money and success with wealth. To me, wealth is an abundance of different assets in my life that makes my life meaningful. Success is a risk that I take without regrets, where the price that I earn isn't weighed upon money but by the time and effort that I poured in. I take risks daily, whether it's to rush into the subway platform hoping to catch that eight o'clock train, or to bet a dozen Twizzlers in Texas Holdem. Then why would I never consider myself successful till that last drop of IV enters through my bloodstream? It's because, at least in my own eyes, I fear that at that exact moment I consider myself successful, I would stop pushing myself.

"I will always have true wealth with me as long as I stay grounded to my paradigm". This is what I said in the previous paragraph. I've learned what "paradigm" meant for the first time after I read the book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" written by Stephen Covey. As he described his son, who went through series of drastic personality changes, I soon realised that what I went through as a young teenager is scientifically deemed to be a sign of personality

development: starting from seeing that boy that you never considered as a significant other differently to learning how to deal with frustration although I am still working on that. Covey stated that elements of the personality ethic, such as communication skill training, personality growth, and education in the field of influence strategies, and positive thinking are what's considered secondary essences of wealth but not the primary. Without integrity and fundamental character strength, which are the basics of an individual's paradigm, the obstacles in life will cause true motives to arise and relationship failures will consequentially take over short term accomplishments (Covey 10). What is called "paradigm", the way we see the world in terms of perceiving, understanding, and interpreting, brings in an emphasis in the basics flaws of my personality ethic. Trying to change the outward attitudes and behaviours instead of reflecting on my basic paradigms won't solve the essential problem. I had to account that if only I had taken more notice into my basic paradigm, there would've been a positive outcome in my outward attitudes and behaviours from the past. For example, as funny as this may sound to you, I've always wondered why being short is deemed as such a bad thing in the eyes of the critic and soon enough, I stopped questioning myself because I took it as a fact. "Being short has no benefits". This is what I believed for a very long time and I've even developed a habit on tiptoeing when I walked just to look slightly taller and wore heels most of the days. Because of that, I never learned to accept myself by shifting my paradigm. I am aware of my basic paradigm now, and it deciphered the way I interact and harmonize my outward and inner prospective towards the way I look thus procuring what is called true wealth.

When I first read “The Great Gatsby”, I felt like I was reading about groups of people from a different world with different views and goals. To me, Gatsby, the main character, is a successful man. Going back to my definition of success, which is a risk that one takes without regrets with the earning price not being weighed upon money but by the time and effort that one pours in, I do think Gatsby’s life is considered successful. There were times when he stumbled and relied on some temporary band-aids: “ I slunk off in the direction of the cocktail table-the only place in the garden where a single man could linger without looking purposeless and alone”(Fitzgerald 41). But even Oprah, she had those moments as well. What’s most important is how you reflect and see yourself and how you’re going to get up the moment you accept your failures. Gatsby, who fell in love with Daisy, he had a purpose in life that made him take risks, ones that he assumed will get him to her and ones that he did not regret: “Well, there I was, way off my ambitions, getting deeper in love every minute, and and all of a sudden I didn’t care”(Fitzgerald 21). The “Pygmalion effect” intrigues my definition of success even further. This effect is a phenomenon whereby higher expectations lead to an increase in performance (Covey 6). This effect teaches you that we must all look at the lens through which we see the world, as well as at the world we see, and that the lens itself shapes how we interpret the world naturally. Gatsby, falling head over heels for Daisy, experienced a Pygmalion effect, as a result of motivation. Also, Gatsby experienced a paradigm shift after meeting Daisy, which is an experience that moves one away from the previous views towards the world to another(Covey 13). Gatsby quitting his job and going into army and his commitment towards change in himself may be seen as a paradigm shift. He took many risks in order to achieve his dream and even if he might view himself as unsuccessful because Daisy left him, I believe that he is.

The power of paradigm is momentous because we see things diversely, from our own lens which no one else can be based on our experiences(Covey 13). I hope to become successful in others eyes but yet I would never be satisfied of myself nor do I want to be. My wealth is now juggled in between three assets: physical, financial and human. In between every stimulus and assets, having the freedom to make my own decisions, I hope to make the right choices by dwelling further into my paradigm.

Changes for third draft: I used Tanita's advice and emphasized more on how to focus on a well of wealth. I'm not sure if it's still exemplary but I hope I conveyed my thoughts towards the idea of success throughout this essay.

Comments: (Tanita)

I really enjoyed reading your essay. It is filled with personal and informative anecdotes and some good use of rhetorical devices. However, I feel like you didn't address the prompt properly. It's supposed to be a persuasive essay, meaning that you have to present arguments for a certain position. And that position is supposed to be a well of wealth that you believe to be the most important component for success. I know it'll be a pain in the ass to rephrase your essay entirely, because it's so long and already thorough, but again, it's an observation and doesn't mean you have to. Hope this helps.

## Bibliography

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. Royston, Hertfordshire: Large Print hop, 2014. Print.

Covey, Sean. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. N.p.: Turtleback, 2014. Print.