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Don't Play The All or Nothing Game

By Michael D. Pollock

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A few nights ago, while surfing the late-night television offerings, I found myself entranced by a rather astute looking, young man giving all he had as he delivered an incredibly passionate speech. The topic of his speech was civil rights, and it was being televised by C-SPAN.

In the bottom, right-hand corner of the television, the name of the speaker was displayed as "Jesse Jackson, Jr., Rep. Illinois." I quickly realized I was listening to the 36 year-old son of civil rights activist, Reverend Jesse Jackson. It caught my attention because I didn't even know Rev. Jackson had a son, let alone that his son was a U.S. Congressman for the state of Illinois.

The young Congressman Jackson spoke eloquently, authoritatively and passionately. With the television camera focused only on him, I couldn't see his audience, but I imagined him to be speaking to hundreds or maybe thousands of people.

He spoke without notes, and his words flowed smoothly. His thoughts were clear, concise and respectful. He confidently addressed questions from the press as passionately as he delivered his speech.

As Congressman Jackson completed his remarks, and the host thanked him for his time, the C-SPAN camera began to "pan out" and take in a wider view of the room in which Mr. Jackson gave his speech.

Don't Play The All or Nothing Game

Within seconds, the camera showed the entire room. As it turned out, the audience I imagined to number in the hundreds or thousands was actually about 4 people, as well as about a half dozen members of the press.

A total of only 10 people sat before Congressman Jackson as he passionately poured out his heart and soul to them!

At first, I was amazed that Congressman Jackson could get himself so "in the zone" for such a small audience. It made me think how discouraged I might feel if I were to

give a speech and only 10 people showed up to hear me.

Then it hit me . . .

I was guilty . . .

Caught red-handed . . .

I caught myself playing the "all or nothing" game. Maybe you know this game. It's when I tell myself there are only certain times I can put myself "out there" completely, passionately and authentically.

Usually, it's only when the stakes are high and the game is big. Or I can only be totally who I am in certain situations or with certain people. I'm a master at the game. I know exactly where, when and with whom I can totally be who I really am and speak my truth with the same passion, authority and eloquence as did Congressman Jackson.

I know the game well.

I also know – and too often forget – the "all or nothing" game is one big illusion. The reality is as author Richard Bach writes:

"Your only obligation in any lifetime is to be true to yourself. Being true to anyone else or anything else is not only impossible, but the mark of a fake messiah."

Further, the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson suggest:

Don't Play The All or Nothing Game

"No matter what your work, let it be your own. No matter what your occupation, let what you are doing be organic. Let it be in your bones. In this way you will open the door by which the affluence of heaven and earth shall stream into you."

To me, the message is clear. Be myself. Completely. Always.

Speak my truth. Passionately. Authoritatively.

We get to the "big game" only by giving our all in the "little games." If we don't play "all out" when the stakes are low, can we really believe we will when the stakes are high?

General Electric CEO Jack Welch was recently asked by a

Fairfield University Business School student what advice he could give regarding a successful business career in today's world. His reply, which he repeated 3 times, was simply: "be yourself."

Do you play? The "all or nothing" game – do you ever play it? Take a good, hard look at your life.

If so, these words – again from Richard Bach – are cause for contemplation:

"Every person, all the events of your life, are there because you have drawn them there. What you choose to do with them is up to you."

See, what I believe is that each moment presents us with an opportunity. It's the opportunity to authentically and passionately express the totality of all that's within us. All that we've been created to be.

The Creator yearns for it. Begs for it. Waits for us to be all (s)he's created us to be. That's the real game. The biggest game. Those are the highest stakes. That's when we're most fulfilled. Most complete. Most abundant.

The world waits for it. Just as the world waited for other great leaders. Leaders like Jesus Christ, The Buddha, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Theresa and

Don't Play The All or Nothing Game

Winston Churchill to name a few.

The world is waiting for YOU. So, don't play the "all or nothing" game. Be yourself. Always. Speak your truth. Passionately. Authoritatively.

Give all of who you are. In each moment.

It's Your Life! Make it Great.

Michael D. Pollock is an Executive Success Coach. He works with business leaders, managers, executives and entrepreneurs to help them make a profound impact on the world while achieving a new level of success and fulfillment in their own lives. To learn how he can help you and/or your organization, visit his website at: <http://www.michaelpollock.com>.

Up Close And Virtual

By Jonathon Hardcastle

Computer gaming has given birth to one of the most competitive and flourishing industries in the world. Game developers have been busy trying to take their games to the next levels in order to compete with their counterparts and earn their markets shopping dollar. With ever improving graphics, additions of improved artificial intelligence, better game play and game speeds, rigorous enhancements to game details and captivating story lines, each new computer game seems to become more addictive for gamers.

This huge success owes a lot to the feedback given to the game developers by the gamers. Clearly no one can understand what improvements a game requires for it to become even more attractive, than the people who play the game themselves. The game developers themselves can not notice the slight details that gamers can. This is why the big names in the industry have started giving more attention to testers and their feedback. So much so that they gave rise to a whole new study called "Game Study" and also "Play testing".

It has become more like war between the game developing companies and 'everything is fair in love and war'. Because higher-quality games tend to sell better, game developers are increasingly looking for ways to improve their games. Thus, to improve the quality of their games some game developers also tend to seek help from psychologists to study the patterns of how the minds of gamers work and what might make the game more addictive. One such way is to make the game more challenging yet easy to learn and use.

Multiplayer games tend to be more successful. The key to develop a successful and mind blowing multiplayer game is to maximize the quality of game play and adding strategy to it. For example Counter Strike by Valve has proven to be one of the most successful multiplayer games ever made, because anybody can learn how to play it, requires very little pc resources and thus most computers can run it, has an exquisite game play and with a little team strategy can be pretty fun to play.

Don't Play The All or Nothing Game

Thus there is a lot to making the perfect computer game. Game developers are always aiming to improve all these aspects to make their games perfect. With developing technology, improved graphics cards and monitors, the game developers tend to make use of these to make their games as real as possible with ever improving graphics. It seems evident, that computer games one day will soon reach a point, where they become close to virtual reality.

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