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Successfully Fail to Succeed (i-mail article)

By Doug C. Grant

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SUCCESSFULLY FAIL TO SUCCEED!

(from the i-mail' files)

by Doug C. Grant

"So why haven't you done it?"

The question arrived by i-mail shortly after I had settled down to read the paper. Unlike e-mail, which I can read whenever I feel like it, i-mail demands instant attention. It comes from my Other-Self and is all internal. It can, of course, be ignored. But this simply intensifies the nagging.

I put down the paper and irritably responded, "Done what?"

"That article you've been thinking about writing."

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"Oh, that. Well, truth is, I didn't think I could do a good job of it. The article probably wouldn't be accepted and I would have wasted a lot of time."

"So you decided on instant failure. Is that it?"

Other-Self had tweaked a nerve. "I did not decide on any such thing. It's just practical wisdom. Like somebody said, 'Anything worth doing is worth doing well.' I didn't think I could do it well so I didn't consider it worth doing. That to me is sensible logic."

"That's not logic. It's borderline stupidity."

"And I suspect, without any urging from me, you're about to guide me down what you consider a far superior road of reason."

"You're quite perceptive today. Consider this. Anything worth doing is worth doing poorly...in the beginning."

"Oh, come now! Talk about your stupid logic. Why would anyone start out to purposely do something poorly?"

"Excuse me. Did I say purposely'? I don't think I heard that word."

"Okay, so maybe you didn't say it. But obviously that's what you meant."

"Not at all. Perhaps an illustration will help illuminate your thinking. You don't remember but what happened the first time you tried to walk?"

"I probably fell flat on my kazoo. So what's your point?"

"Would you say you walked poorly?"

"All babies walk poorly in the beginning." I began to suspect where Other-Self was going with this but I refused to let on.

"Exactly! But according to your logic you should never have taken that first step because all you could do was walk poorly. Which would have left you flat on your kazoo for the rest of your life."

"Nonsense! You're trying to turn a two-step into a waltz. Taking baby steps and spending three days on a no-where article is not the same. Not even close."

"Are you certain?"

"You're triple A' right I'm certain. It's absolute foolishness to spend a ton of time and a bucket of sweat on a project that hasn't got a Hail Mary chance of succeeding."

"So, to your way of thinking the entire effort would be a waste."

"Wonderful! You're finally coming over to my side of the road."

"Before I make such a long journey, let me ask you one last question. If you write the article now, is it possible that an article you write next week will be better for today's effort? And, if so, what about the next article? And the article after that? And then maybe one day you'll actually end up writing something magnificent."

"Okay...okay," I reluctantly muttered. "I see your point. I think what you are saying is that anything worth doing, no matter what it is, is worth doing poorly...at least in the beginning. Is that right?"

"Exactly! Now, about that article."

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new i-mail articles' by subscribing free to Doug C. Grant's bi-monthly e-zine, THE EMPOWERED MATURITY PAGE. It's for anyone wanting to boost their life up a notch or two. Subscribe at: <mailto:empoweredpage@smartautoresponder.com>

Doug C. Grant retired from a successful career as a nationally recognized business writer & marketing consultant. He now helps members of the Over-50', crowd live healthier, happier and more productive lives through his Empowered Maturity Web Site (<http://www.douggrant.com>) and an on-line interactive seminar.

## **Reaching Your Potential**

**By Jeff Hagen**

In today's pressured world, many teens are afraid to fail—and even—afraid to succeed. They don't want to stick out, whether for good or bad. They want to be accepted, and just 'fit in.' This type of mentality will lead you nowhere but the path to mediocrity—and that is nothing to be proud of. As Douglas Malloch so aptly wrote:

If you can't be a highway then just be a trail,  
If you can't be the sun be a star;  
It isn't by size that you win or you fail—  
Be the best of whatever you are!

Each of us have different talents and different abilities, so don't get me wrong—it's not about being the best—but rather about being the best YOU can personally become. The hockey great Wayne Gretzky

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has said "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." Think about that. If you don't try, you have a 0% chance of success! But if you put all your heart into something, and work hard, you can and will succeed in whatever you will. And if it turns out your best wasn't good enough--then at least you tried--and will have no regrets and no wonders of 'what could have been.' The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them, into the impossible.

With that in mind, let me share with you what Michael Jordan has said:

"I have missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game winning shot... and missed. And I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why... I succeed."

So from one teen to another: I encourage you to do today what others won't, to have tomorrow what others never will...And never be afraid to fail!

Jeff Hagen is the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of

, a leading online community for

teens. His vision has inspired many to do better--and is labeled as one of the most powerful teen speakers on the subject of Teen Leadership.

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