

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a hand holding a pen, writing on a document. The document has some faint, illegible text on it. The hand is positioned in the center-right of the frame, with the pen tip touching the paper. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the writing action.

## Stop Not Till Your Goal Is Achieved

**I**t has been a common experience that many elements of the human progress have resulted from unpopular decisions. All the great men or the great movements, which this world has known, have been great or successful because they have believed in themselves, their convictions and have shown remarkable strength, tenacity and resilience in the face of stiff resistance, even humiliation and carried on with their dogged persistence and perseverance to achieve the goal set by them.

Be it Jesus Christ, Galileo Galilee, Socrates, Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela or the movements they launched or led, have all succeeded after surviving the opposition to snuff them or their movements out. So, once we have set a goal or purpose for our life, we must believe in our self and our capacities to realise the same and pursue them sincerely till we have really achieved them or got somewhere close to it. It was Swami Vivekananda, the great Indian mystic, who had said, 'Wake up, rise and stop not till your goal is achieved'.

We should always remember that life never comes with a 'User Manual', so we are bound to commit mistakes. And those who don't do wrong, they don't do anything at all. As Ratan Tata, one of the most successful Indian industrialists, said, 'experience saves us from wrong decisions. But we gain experience through wrong decisions only'. So we should not be afraid of mistakes or criticisms. After all, no stones are thrown on a fruitless tree. People would not just come to us and start criticising us for our mistakes. The very fact that they come to us and don't go to million others show the importance they attach to us for the worth we have because of whatever we have set out to do or have already achieved.

We should always remember the fact that we can't please everybody. So, we should never let criticisms bother us beyond a point. Criticisms should be seen as guiding suggestions for further improvement. We should just weigh them dispassionately for what they are worth. If they really point to some of our flaws and foibles, we must try correcting them. And if they are just vicious ramblings of some motivated minds, we should simply feel amused because we have arrived, making many go green at our success.

Two rules are said to be helpful for a better life. Failure should never go to heart (depression) and success should never go to head (arrogance). The biggest enemy of success is the fear of failure. So, when the Goliath of fear knocks on the door, we must send the David of courage to open the door. Success shall walk in to stay with us forever.

We should always remember that if we are not failing, it means that we are not taking enough risks. And if we are not taking risks, we are not taking the opportunity beckoning at us. So, we must take risks in our life. If we win, we can lead. If we lose, we can guide. A ship in a harbour is safe, but that is not what ships are built for. We should often remind ourselves that we cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of our shores.

As they say, the only way to avoid mistakes is to gain experience. And the best way to gain experience is to be prepared for mistakes. Mistakes are painful when they happen but years later a collection of mistakes is called experience, which leads to success. We should remember that only those who do nothing, do not make mistakes. And those who don't make mistakes usually don't make anything. As Albert Einstein said, 'If someone feels that they had never made a mistake in their life, then it means they had never tried a new thing in their life'.

We should not forget that the Leaning Tower of Pisa is actually the result of a big mistake, but it has immortalised its architect. We won't win if we don't begin. But if we don't begin for fear of failure, success shall never come our way. As they say, 'winning is not everything. But wanting to win definitely is'. And winning does not always mean coming first. Winning means we are doing better than we have done before, as also believed by Bonnie Blair.

Someone rightly said that, 'even when everything is lost, the future still remains'. Ergo, we should take interest in 'future' and secure it by our hard work. After all, that's where we have to spend the rest of our life. Therefore, we should always be ready to take failures in our stride. Fall we would, but we should definitely not stay there. We should get up and move ahead to move up to realise our coveted place in the sun. We all know very well that the sun is very hot. So, before claiming and settling our place in the sun, we should prepare and anneal our 'Self' like the gold in the fire.

We should also remember that success never goes to any Tom, Dick and Harry. The number of those who fail exceed by many times than those who succeed. So, one has to have all that it takes to make it big and be successful. That is why, not everyone is meant to savour the fruit of success. If all the flowers, which blossom, were to become fruits, there would be no room on the earth for them. But we should remember that a successful person is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at him/her. Some people shall always throw stones in our path. It depends on us as to what we make with them—a wall or a bridge? After all, it is completely up to us as to whether we wish to be the best architect of our life.

As they say, success is nothing but a few simple disciplines practiced every day. Similarly, failure is nothing more than a few small errors repeated every day. Failures or mistakes in themselves are not much of a problem unless and until we get stuck with them. The best way is to derive right lessons from them to effect suitable changes in the ways we conceive and do things. Once we start doing that on a more regular basis, we shall be more comfortable with the reality of occasional failures in our life.

We are all made to fly—to realise our incredible potential as human beings. But instead of doing that, we sit on our branches, clinging to the things that are familiar to us. The possibilities are endless, but for most of us, they remain undiscovered. We conform to the familiar, the comfortable and the mundane. So for the most part, our lives are mediocre instead of exciting, thrilling and fulfilling. So let us learn to destroy the branch of fear we cling to and free ourselves to the glory of flight. After all, if we don't get into water, how would we learn to swim? With dogged determination and consistent perseverance, we shall definitely be able to achieve any goal that we have set for ourselves.

### **Salient Points**

- Many human successes have resulted from unpopular decisions.
- Once we set a purpose in life, we must believe in our self to realise the same.
- Life never comes with a 'User Manual', so we are bound to commit mistakes.
- We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of our shores.
- The only way to avoid mistakes is to gain experience. And the best way to gain experience is to be prepared for mistakes.
- A successful person is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at him/her.
- Success is nothing but a few simple disciplines practiced every day.

### **Glossary**

**Tenacity:** persistence or determination

**Resilience:** capacity to recover quickly from difficulties

**Rambling:** lengthy and confused speech

**Beckoning:** gesturing

**To savour:** to taste or enjoy

**Dogged:** showing tenacity

**Perseverance:** persistence in doing something despite difficulties