



A PURPOSE DRIVEN-LIFE IN A PURPOSE DRIVEN WORLD

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When I ask my students about what drives them to study English which is generally a quirky, nuance-filled language, their classic answer is: to get a great job in the future. One of the most unlikely (and unique!) answers I've ever elicited was: to communicate well with a beloved studying in a country where the native language is English. This is why I love my job, folks!

But kidding aside, any conscious effort to do anything under the sun typically starts from a single germ of motivation, which grows until a plan is conceived, evolves until an action is carried out, and gives an individual immense satisfaction when it attains fruition. However, the thing about motivation is its cunning ability to package itself as good and noble, even when it essentially isn't so.

Take for instance the drive to succeed. There's nothing wrong with that at all. The motivation can be propelled forward by a desire to make life better for the family. But what of those who wish to succeed so they could see others around them turn green with envy? So they could ultimately look down on other people as puny and as children of lesser gods? So that those who have done them injustice would one day get their comeuppance? The operative word here is success, and motivation to attain that becomes a double-edged knife.

Remember that motivation is inherently good, but the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

What drives a husband to murder his wife? Jealousy. What drives a teenager to lie to his parents? The fear of getting scolded/punished. What drives a criminal to do a dastardly deed? Money, lust, anger. What drives a politician to steal from public coffers? The selfish desire to enrich himself.

What drives a mother to rise up early everyday and do housework? Love for family. What drives a teacher to prepare her lessons everyday? Passion for work. What drives an artist to hone his skills? The satisfaction of knowing that his craft is something that would potentially inspire people in various ways, too. What drives a doctor to seek for the best therapy, cure or technology to alleviate his patients' suffering? The sincere obligation to first do no harm and consequently prescribe a regimen for the good of the patient. What drives a writer to create penned works? The desire to somehow change the world even in the tiniest ways.

In conclusion, let your motivation, inspiration, aspiration, ambitions drive you. But let that push bring you ever closer to the Omnipotent Creator who put you here with a purpose. Your purpose in life is to find that purpose. And when you fall, don't stay bitter: GET BETTER!

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is your greatest motivation for studying English? Is it identical to what was mentioned in this essay? Elaborate on your answer.
2. How do you get your motivation? Are you motivated by what you see and hear about?
3. Can motivation always lead to success in an individual's endeavors? What are other things that you have to consider to reach your goals?
4. Why is motivation important? What ultimately happens when motivation is lost? Support your answer with examples.
5. Is it easy to tell whether one's motivation is good or bad? Can the end ever justify the means? Explain your answer.