

THE 35 GREAT LIFE-EDUCATING WORDS

BY

UNKNOWN (OR ANONYMOUS)

AUTHORS

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Disclaimer

I wrote and edited this ebook myself. Therefore, there are possibly some spelling, grammatical and layout errors. If you find one or some, send me an email to bkeaitaya@gmail.com and tell me the page number, sentence and mistake and I will attend to it straight way.

The author designed the information to present his opinion about the subject matter hence the advice contained in this ebook might not be suitable for everyone.

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1. Who the ebook is meant for

The ebook is meant for everyone, from students to adults. The wisdom accruing from the quotes touch our lives without any discrimination whatsoever.

2. Introduction

Almost all great books have quotes integrated in them. Quotes are a valuable source of knowledge and inspiration from other people who have walked the same road that we are in now.

We learn from quotes.

We get inspired by quotes.

We pin uplifting quotes on our walls (physical or digital) to comfort us in times of need. Quotes are words and words of wisdom.

This ebook follows on the post I wrote for my [blog](#) mid-march of 2019. In this book, we shall document quotes by authors who for some reason are unknown or not credited for their inspiring and life giving words. We don't know definitively why some quotes have not been credited to their owners. It may be for a number of reasons; one of which may be fear or threat of persecution by powerful zealots who couldn't stand other's great ideas. Or it may be the "works" somehow got separated from its author leading to the source being credited as unknown. We can never know, but what we know for sure is; these words have been inspirational and educational to millions of people throughout time.

The quotes aren't arranged in any particular order or theme.

Let's dive in and be inspired...

3. Quotes & Commentary

1 You can judge a person's character by the way he treats people who can't help him or hurt him.

This is a version of the proverb;

“One can easily judge the character of a person by the way they treat people who can do nothing for them”

We get hurt when other people don't treat us properly. We also don't feel okay when we don't get the help we seek from others or the state. But we are not judged by how hurt or angry we can be, but how we respond to the way we have been treated or to those who treated us. One of my former bosses used come down heavy on us to the near point of insult whenever she was verbally accosted by her bosses (elected officials/politicians) over some public issue. The way she treated us showed her character- and it wasn't good. The way we treat others reflect on our character regardless of how they would have treated us. The quote doesn't tell us how we should behave but it's a great quote. Perhaps this great book, The Speed of Trust, by Stephen M.R. Covey can offer us insight into how we should behave (character) when we have been hurt or rejected.

2 No amount of money or success can take the place of time spent with your family.

Family is one of the most important relationships one can ever have. The family has evolved so much a person you have a strong and spirited relationship is family. Without other people in our lives, we can never truly enjoy our success or money. There are tales of successful and rich people who committed suicide because they felt their lives were hollow with no one to share with.

In his great book, *The Millionaire Fastlane*, author M.J. DeMarco, outlines family, fitness and freedom as the three F's at the core to his definition of the wealth trinity. Many other authors in their books also seem to be in agreement that family is at the core of our lives-nothing can come above it in importance.

3 The Stone Age didn't end because they ran out of stones.

We still have stones and yet the Stone Age ended.

Why? Because change happened.

This quote teaches us that change will happen though it doesn't mention the word "change". As we know those who fail to embrace the change will be run over. If we don't adapt, changes

will make us irrelevant like those who stuck to the use of stones when iron and bronze were already at their door step.

4 Love your family. Spend time, be kind & serve one another. Make no room for regrets. Tomorrow is not promised & today is short.

This quote has the same meaning as quote #2. The family is an important facet of our lives- the third leg of the wealth trinity. The quote goes on a little further to advise us to love and spend time with family now as we don't know how long almighty will allow us here. *Today is short*, it tells us - we have only 24 hours today.

It's a great informative quote.

5 I refuse to please others at the expense of my emotional well-being. Even if it means saying no to people who are used to hearing yes.

In today's life, we spend considerable mounts of time and resources to please people, some of who we don't even like. We go into debts to please others. We agree to help others with their college assignments when ours are left unattended to. We lend

people money who we know will likely not repay, only to leave us emotionally in tatters. Family members used to hearing yes from us all the time take advantage of us. And them being family, we can't say anything so we stay bottled inside and hurt.

I refuse to please others at the expense of my emotional well-being.

Do you?

This is a great quote.

6 Don't let someone else control what you do in life. It's your decisions, your outcomes, your life.

Control is something that is liked by people. Control is power. Those who seek power always want to control others. Be it friends or family or members of the wider society- those who seek power always seek to control others. We have allowed ourselves to be controlled by these people because we either fear them or just that we want to please them as said in the preceding quote. And yet when things go wrong, it is not them who take responsibility and account for the wrongs – it is us. If you don't want to be controlled by others, apply the moral of this quote.

7 No one has power over you unless you give it to them, you are in control of your life and your choices decide your own fate.

This quote basically says the same thing as quote#6. As I said, those who seek power always seek to control others. If you give them control over you, then you have given them power over you. But it is your choice to give them power and control over you.

Are we in control of our lives?

Are we?

Are you?

8 Watch your thoughts, they become words. Watch your words, they become actions. Watch your actions, they become habits. Watch your habits, they become your character. Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

In a number of sources this quote is sometimes credited to an unknown author. But in other sources it is credited to Chinese Philosopher Lao Tzu or alternatively to Americans Frank Outlaw Jackson and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Let's assume for our purposes, it is by an unknown author. The quote doesn't need further explain as it is lesson enough on its own. Commenting on it "will spoil the broth".

9 Don't allow others to control the direction of your life.

This quote is a replica to quotes#5, 6, 7, 8 and 10. We can be in control of our destiny if we don't allow others control over it. Period.

Solid and instructive quote.

10 People don't listen to you speak; they watch your feet.

This quote is an equivalent of the common saying;

“Actions speak louder than words”.

It is true that people watch your physical movements and cues instead of listening to what we say to discern if we are the real deal. If we are scared and yet we speak of courage, our feet will certainly sell us. If we are lying, they can determine that with our feet.

11 Life is a game, play it; Life is a challenge, Meet it; Life is an opportunity, Capture it.

Life is a game, the more you play the more the chances of winning. So that is why the quote accordingly advise us to play it. Life is hard, we have to face it and win. Cowards don't win in the game of life. If you live life, you will come across many opportunities that you can take advantage of. The scale and scope of opportunities life presents is beyond comprehension. Play.

12 Sometimes you have to do what's best for you and your life, not what's best for everyone else.

Commentary as at quote 5, 6 and others. Whilst they may be times we sacrifice our time and resources to help others, most of the times we must do what is best for us.

13 Indecision becomes decision with time.

Let's say tomorrow you are undertaking a long distance driving trip. And you are driving yourself. You know you have to rest with over 8 hours of sleep to be fresh and alert enough to drive safely. For some reason you don't decide to rest. Tomorrow you set out on the trip as planned and 200km into the trip you fall asleep and have an accident. Your indecision not to rest is now a decision to have a sleep caused - accident. By not deciding, thinking we have escaped the burden of decision, we are actually deciding to fail in whatever we dodged deciding upon in the first place.

The power of decision affects us even if we don't want to use it. If we don't decide, life decides for us. If you don't decide, life decides for you.

14 If you don't like the situation you are in, change it.

You are in control of your own life.

Change it! You have the power over yourself. With the power over yourself, any situation you are in, you can change. Let me give you an example, last year I was at place that I felt had no opportunities suited to my life purpose. I felt I was stuck in quicksand so I took the decision to get out of the place and relocated to another place which I felt would usher a new era in my life. Guess what? On my first trip to seek accommodation, I landed a publishing deal for my 3 math books. The situation I didn't like in my case - was the place where I had lived for the past 4 years; I changed this place with another suitable place. My life changed before I even moved. Anywhere I moved late January 2019 and things got even got better.

If we don't like situations we are in, we must change those situations. Great quote.

15 Take control of your habits. Take control of your life.

Our habits are what make us. Habits determine how we live our lives. Let's take an example of a smoker. Smoking starts as habit, and then progresses to addiction. Eventually smoking damages our health with the many cancers it is known to cause. Without

health, we have no life. Generally our habits determine the output we produce relative to resources we invest in whatever we do. Bad habits generate low output at the expense of more time, money and labour. Bad habits are often accompanied by procrastination, excuses and damage to our health (as the smoking example demonstrates). Great habits however help us produce more output with the least expense of time, money and labour or effort. Time and money are crucial to life- and as we have heard. time is freedom and money is the great enabler. It is difficult to take control of our life without time and money.

Once we are in control of our habits, then we are in control of our lives.

Another great quote.

16 In business, you don't get what you deserve, you get what you negotiate.

This quote also applies to other aspects of our lives. In life you don't get what you deserve, you get what you negotiate. In sport, highly valuable (and well paid) athletes can go for months delaying to sign on the dotted line unless the offer amount is adjusted upwards by some percentages. By so doing, they are negotiating what they deserve.

This quote teaches us that we deserve what we negotiate. We negotiate all the time, at times we are unaware that we are negotiating.

17 Simplify your life. Learn to say no.

In quote #5, we say NO for our emotional wellbeing. Here we say NO to simplify our lives. We have only 24 hours in a day competed for by many life priorities; self-care, family, work, business, community, etc. Any request imposes an extra burden on the not-enough 24 hours and on our wellbeing. We are human beings not machines, so we a limited supply of energy to drive extra tasks arising from requests from others.

18 Cherish your yesterdays, dream your tomorrows and live your today's.

Even if there were very painful and deserving to be forgotten, our yesterdays are still valuable to us. They serve as lessons to learn from. If we don't learn from our yesterdays, we may end up repeating same mistakes from the yesterdays today. Our today's are the most important because they are what we have. We are the one we have - to live - as we are not guaranteed our

tomorrows. That being said, we need to dream our tomorrows. Dreams give us the hope that we shall reach our tomorrows. A super quote that super informs.

19 If you want more time, freedom, and energy, start saying no.”

Quotes #5 and #17 actually sum up this quote. But it is worth commenting on the freedom aspect. Time and freedom are like two sides of the same coin. You can't lose your freedom without losing your time. The example of a prisoner can help here. A prisoner jailed because of a crime committed, loses his or her freedom. Because of the loss of freedom, he or she loses control over his or her time. His or her time becomes the prerogative of the state. The same thing happens with people who want our time, they take away our freedom to do their stuff. If you give them 2 hours of your time everyday, you lose your freedom two hours everyday. And with energy as mentioned at #17, we have limited energy reserves in our bodies to go around. So let's say NO.

20 Don't wait. Make memories today. Celebrate your life!

This is the last part of quote #18, which says,
“..... and live your todays”.

We can make memories today by living our todays. The quote advises us not to wait but to start living today. By living today, we celebrate life.

A great quote to learn from especially for us who are ever complaining just about everything including the price of gum.

21 Your words have power. Speak words that are kind, loving, positive, uplifting, encouraging, and life-giving.

This is profound.

We often underestimate the power we have with our words. Words themselves are neutral, it depends on how we use them, we can choose to use them for hate or for good. If we speak words that are kind, uplifting and life-giving, incredible changes happen in our lives and the lives of those we touch.

Earlier in the month 2019, I went to the nearby clinic. That day, the clinic counselor was addressing patients about health matters.

She told patients on the healing power of forgiveness. As she was speaking a patient raised her hand and asked her:

“How do you manage to forgive? I can’t ”.

In a heartbeat, the counsellor answered back;

“You can’t forgive because you just said you can’t forgive. There is power in what you said”.

The response by the counselor demonstrated that there is power in our words.

From today, let’s speak words with positive power.

Great quote.

22 The largest room in the world is the room for improvement.

Indeed!

Upon coming across this quote, I instantly found something to be wrong with the saying “practice makes perfect”. No wonder Chamberlain Wilt, the all-time NBA great, said these insightful words;

“They say that nobody is perfect. Then they tell you practice makes perfect. I wish they’d make up their minds.”

Regardless of how good or great we are at our craft, there is always that room for improvement. If you just graduated from university, you must never stop learning. In fact, graduation

should now be the beginning to improve and improve that which is your craft. If we look around, we shall find that almost everything keeps on being improved; cars, house designs, the art of playing sport, clothing, food to name a few. You may have heard of how the important Japanese doctrine, *Kaizen*, has come to refer *continuous improvement*.

Improvement is indeed the largest room in the world.

23 The only person you should try to be better than is who you were yesterday.

There is an element of improvement and competition in the quote.

Let's begin with the competition part...

What this quote tells us in a way is to never compare ourselves to others but only to our immediate selves. Psychology says no two are the same; even identical twins are not the same. That alone presents problems to comparing ourselves to any individual- because no two people are the same. One could add that we all begin somewhere, the somewheres that are different for many people. Let's say you compete with someone from a rich family by means of acquiring shiny electrical gadgets and you are from poor family; the chances are, you will outcompeted by this person. But if you compete with whom you were before, and try to be better, then you will win if you commit.

With improvement, the quote speaks to us to improve whom we were yesterday to become better us today and tomorrow. We need to keep improving to be better than us before.

24 If you follow the crowd, you might get lost in it.

The crowd is driven by what we commonly refer to as *mob psychology*. Their stand on a particular issue can change at any time depending on how circumstances play out in real time. If you follow the crowd on principle, it is feasible that hours or days later the mob may have changed their stand on the issue. I have seen it happen in life. It is easy to get lost if you follow the crowd that you don't even know where it is going. The great Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius, in his works, *Meditations*, says that; **“The object of life is not to be on the side of the masses, but to escape finding oneself in the ranks of the insane”.**

There is a story of one lady who was undressed by the mob at a bus terminal in my country of Botswana just because they felt her dressing was far too revealing and therefore according to the crowd some action was needed. Though I don't have all the details of the incident, it appeared many people took part unaware of the consequences that would follow once law enforcement intervened. And it is quite possible some innocent people landed in hot soup just because they happened to be with or near the offending crowd. They followed the crowd and they got lost in it.

Great words of wisdom.

25 An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

This quote is an upgraded version of the saying;

“Prevention is better than cure”.

If we ask survivors of a dangerous disease to choose between prevention and cure, they would certainly choose the cure. Thus the quote tells us that important as it may be, prevention can't be better than the cure. It also tells us to prevent because when there is no cure, prevention will offer a pound (a worthy fraction) of the cure. As we know, a number of diseases, some dangerous have no cures leaving us with prevention which is not a complete cure but a fraction (pound) of cure.

Isn't this quote great and informative?

I believe so.

26 Forgive yourself for the blindness that put you in the path of those who betrayed you. Sometimes a good heart doesn't see the bad.

This is just a great quote to comment on.

When something bad happens to us, we are tempted to come hard on ourselves. Our thoughts race in our minds with many questions we have no answers to;

- *Why I didn't I see it coming?*
- *How could allow it to happen to me?*
- *Jesus I was stupid.*

With no answers, we then tend to direct the anger building inside us against ourselves. It is normal state of emotion for most of us. This is where the wisdom of the quote comes in; it teaches us to forgive ourselves and show us that sometimes the things we do with good intentions end up bad.

It's a great quote and it doesn't only educates, it heals.

27 We waste time looking for the perfect lover, instead of creating perfect love.

That is what we do – looking for the perfect partner. I don't know for sure about the second bit, as I believe there is nothing perfect in life. That being said, we can adapt the second part of the quote to mean that we should create or build the best possible love.

28 The only man who sticks closer to you in adversity than a friend is a creditor.

No personal problems can drive the creditor away from our door steps when owe them, and they are determined to get their money back.

If you owe the creditor, the creditor will always sticks closer to you. In good times, the creditor will entice you to increase your credit with them, and in bad times the creditor demands their money day and night. The creditor may even hire goons called sheriffs to harass you day and night.

It is during financial trying times that people close to you disengage with you, and on the positive side of it, the creditor is there to keep you company.

29 It's your life. Don't let others tell you how to live it.

This quote is direct. Since it is similar to others that I have commented on earlier I will skip.

30 Love is like a violin. The music may stop now and then, but the string remains forever.

I would like to believe the quote means two people in love may still stay attached emotionally even after they split up. As we know, not all the time people split because they don't love each other; it may be due to other circumstances such as interference by family members who may disapprove of the love.

A great quote indeed.

31 Thoughts have energy. Make sure your thoughts are positive and powerful.

I believe we know by now how powerful our thoughts are. Quote 8 taught us that. Our thoughts determine the actions we take. If our thoughts are bad, our actions are likely to be bad. If our thoughts are positive, our actions are likely to be positive.

32 Don't talk, just act. Don't say, just show. Don't promise, just prove.

Talking without action is cheap talk. Saying and promising are cheap talks if they are not backed by action. The quote doesn't encourage talk but action only.

33 Don't fall in love with his words; fall in love with his actions.

Ladies, let them show their love with actions than with words. If I say I will buy you a train, see the train first before falling in love with me on the basis of my words. Though the author directed these words of wisdom at ladies, we can apply them to life as a whole. Doing is boring and talking is exciting and cheap, so naturally we gravitate to those who talk especially if they say what we want to hear. We can apply this quote to public politics as well. Politicians like using powerful words to lure us to vote for them and yet they will fail us when it is time for action.

A great quote.

34 You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go and see what happens.

Though planning in whatever form is important, nothing trumps execution. They may be circumstances that don't present you time to craft a plan, and in that case you just have to act and see what happens. And you take it from there going forward.

35 Incredible change happens in your life when you decide to take control of what you do have power over, instead of craving control over what you don't.

We spend our time and resources chasing after things we have no control over. We worry about things we have no control over. We worry that a neighbor's TV is bigger than ours. But we have power over ourselves- we can push ourselves to achieve anything and just about anything we wish to achieve. This can be achieved with a mind-set shift- and focusing more on ourselves than external factors.

I hope you enjoyed the words of inspiration. If you are aware of any quote by anonymous author that we didn't feature feel free to send me an email at: bkeitaya@gmail.com or head straight to the [blog](#) and leave a comment by the article: *30 great quotes by anonymous or unknown authors.*

Thank you.

4. About the Author

Boiki M. Keaitaya runs a self-development blog called [My Personal Development Tips Blog](#). His blog is still in its infancy. It helps people achieve their optimum health and personal success by sharing life insights and life-relevant information with his audience. Beyond blogging, Boiki publishes math educational books for grades 1 to 10 through his publishing business, *Boiki Publishing*.

Boiki is trained teacher of mathematics and school counselor with vast experience in both areas. He is also an avid reader of philosophy and occasional amateur photographer.

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