

THE PATH OF OVERCOMING



“The way of overcoming is one of self-discipline and inward transformation. The Path of Victory can be trod only by those who are willing to become entirely changed within, and to build up a new character, disposition and personality, after the Divine Likeness”.

HT Hamblin - From the Introduction to “The Path of Victory”

Introduction

The ordinary person is a victim or toy of circumstances; blown about by every wind; carried this way or that by every current in the sea of life. If the winds and currents are favourable, the person is happy and contented, unless they are chronic grumblers and fault finders. If, however, the winds are adverse and the current against them, they go off course and, if they give up hope, they become shipwrecked on a desolate, unfriendly and barren shore.

Will o' the wisps

It is not only the winds of adversity that cause someone to go off course, but also false pleasures and apparent shortcuts to happiness, such as the pursuit of material wealth, especially if this involves the sacrifice of honour or ideals), power and vanity. All are mere baubles which break in their eager, clutching hands.

Getting sidetracked

The glittering baubles of life come floating by, and we think we are fools, or very 'slow', if we do not go after them. So off we go, only to find ourselves in the greatest of difficulties and suffering as a result of getting out of the true path of life. It is only by dealing with adversity and temptation that we can become strong and wise. It is only by being wise now and by steering a straight course, in spite of adverse winds and currents, and in spite of temptations to strike off at a tangent, that we can live a truly successful, happy and satisfying life, learn wisdom, and become strong, without being submerged in trouble, suffering, disaster and sorrow.

Strength

Strength, wisdom, and a disciplined will are needed in order to steer a straight course and to arrive at our destination all the better for our experience. We all have the strength, for within us is the power of the infinite. There is a divine something within us which can, if we will, connect us up with the powerhouse of the universe.

Wisdom

Wisdom is also available to us, for the Divine part of us can at all times make contact with the Infinite Wisdom itself.

Our will becomes disciplined if we steadfastly choose the good, the beautiful and the true. Although at the time, to do so may appear to lead to loss, it leads only to the highest and richest gain.

Strengthening the will

It must not be thought that the experiences of life can be avoided. If we attempt to run away from life's experiences, they pursue us, becoming more acute and painful, until they may culminate in disaster. Life demands our attention, and the sooner we give heed the better it is for our comfort, happiness and peace of mind. Although co-operation instead of resistance is counselled, every experience has still to be mastered.

Master our thoughts, and we master our life

It is only by being victorious and self-disciplined that life becomes satisfying and satisfactory. There is a great need for discipline in our thinking. If we master our thoughts, we master our life – we become victorious. And what satisfaction there is in that! Victory, overcoming, self-mastery, the unfoldment and development of Godlike powers, with all our old weaknesses and bad habits trampled underfoot, never to trouble us again!

Glorious possibilities

Thousands are proving today that this is possible. By guiding our thoughts towards reality and the infinitely perfect, contemplating eternal things, developing a true spiritual vision in place of the distorted vision due to ignorance of truth, constantly directing the attention away from our limitations and difficulties to our Divine Source, (in whom there is no limitation or difficulty at all), declaring truth instead of error, speaking the truth instead of falsity: by doing these things – and they become comparatively easy in time – the life becomes transformed.

A steadfast mind

Be assured of this – everything has to give way to a steadfast mind. If your mind is fixed upon a certain goal, and your attention is never allowed to waver, your life will, and must, become moulded in correspondence. It does not matter how great your present difficulties, circumstances or troubles may be, if you fix your mind upon higher and better things, more perfect expression, greater efficiency and higher and more responsible service, then nothing can prevent your life from becoming truly successful.

Character development

By looking to our Spiritual Source, choosing always the best and true, guiding our thoughts upwards, being steadfast, and being practical in our everyday life, we become healthy, happy, wisely prosperous and truly successful. We also build up that which is eternal.

Practicality

We must be practical in everyday life. We must never be mere visionaries, seeking to retire from the conflict of life. It is in the hurly-burly of life, and amidst its exactions and calls upon our strength and service, that we become built up in the strength that endures. We must be practical men and women, with our feet firmly planted upon the earth, even though our head reaches up into heaven.

Nature's laws

We must also obey Nature's laws of health. We must have enough sleep, proper food, regular meals and sufficient exercise. We must be practical and sensible; and then, if we apply this inner knowledge, nothing but good can result.

Note: The original material for this article was sourced from Simple Talks on Science of Thought No. 12, by HT Hamblin, mystic, writer, and successful businessman. The text has been adapted in places to make it more accessible to a modern audience. The principles contained in the teachings remain as relevant today as they were when they were reaching thousands of his followers around the world until his death in 1958.

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