

13 *secrets*

you should
know about life
before you

DIE

LIVINGSTONE IMONITIE

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13 SECRETS YOU SHOULD

KNOW ABOUT LIFE BEFORE

YOU DIE

LIVINGSTONE IMONITIE

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Most persons pass through life without experiencing anything and sometimes when they are old; their lives are filled with regrets. This book reveals some secrets of living a more happy life, a life filled with stories and adventures.

Everyone will die sooner or later but there are certain things you should know before you are called to glory and that is what this book is all about.

This book covers all areas of life from business, family, relationship, career, and finance to your spiritual life. It reveals some hidden truth and principles about life.

The key to enjoying these secrets is in the 'Doing' not only reading. Take time to study.

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Your **SUCCESS** in life
is directly proportional to
your **SMART WORK**

-Livingstone Imonitie

SECRET 1: TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

TAKE

RESPONSIBILITY

What do you think defines a man?

His age? His ability to make a woman pregnant? Or his ability to work?

Maturity is not in age but in responsibility. Some folks are forty and immature. I see people who grow old but do not grow up; with the idea that life is a playground. Maturity begins when you take responsibility.

How do you respond to situations? Do you blame other people for your actions or misfortune or do you take responsibility?

Joshua and Jerry played in the sitting room and Joshua throw a ball at Jerry. Jerry managed to duck and the ball hit the glass door leading to the veranda and of course, the door broke. When their mum returned from work and saw the mess, she naturally asked Joshua as the older one, who broke the glass. Joshua's response was rather shocking as he shifted the blame to Jerry.

"I threw a ball at him and he dodged and the ball broke the glass, Jerry caused the glass to break." Joshua refused to take responsibility for his actions. The very way most people live their lives. We are so scared; we keep blaming others unaware that only low self-esteem individuals try to avert responsibility.

One major reason we keep breathing in and out is the responsibilities or duties we have to perform. These duties beckon on us day and night waiting to be carried out. Do not wait until you are told what to do like a 3 year old. Do it because it is the right thing to do.

Taking responsibility is an open door that leads to trust. Your mum tells you to watch your younger brother before she leaves for the market. While she is away, you clean the house, do the laundry, feed your brother and help him with homework. Can you imagine the joy that will be on your mum's face when she returns? That is what taking responsibility is all about. Now she is assured that she can travel for a week and you will be able to take care of the house, she now trusts you.

Now imagine it the other way when she goes to the market and returns to a nasty looking house. Things are not where they ought to be and something gets missing to crown it off. How do you think she would react? You most definitely will lose her trust and it will take a long time to earn it back.

Responsibility is a state of being accountable and answerable for your actions. As you grow older, you are accountable for your future. No one can make decisions for you as regards to your life; the ball is in your court. We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our actions.

I noticed that when a student gets a good grade in a particular subject, he takes the glory and tells everyone how intelligent he is but when the table is turned around and he gets a low grade, he blames the teacher or the circumstance he found himself. He accuses the teacher for his poor performance even if he actually did not prepare for the test. Now my question is why the change of attitude? Why do we take the glory of successes and push blame to our failures? It's our life and we should take responsibility for the results we get, be it good or bad. That's the right attitude towards life. A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else.

Everyone yells 'Change' in our society, wishing and praying for it to be better but how many of people really work towards that dream? Some believe it's not their responsibility.

Yehuda Berg said *“our contribution purely depends on our consciousness and our willingness to support those in need, to show vulnerability and accept the support of others, to share without expecting the credit, to give it out all and allow our hard work to decide the outcome, to understand that control can only be achieved with shared responsibility.”*

One's philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one make and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility. We should take responsibility and be the change we want to see.

As a married man, your family is your responsibility. Do not run from your duties as a man, face them.

SECRET 2: HAVE A PURPOSE

find
your
purpose

Every one of us should have a purpose in life; we should have goals in life. That is the essence of living. Your purpose in life should be the reason why you wake up every morning. Each day should have its own purpose and do not go to bed until you are sure you accomplished the goals of that day.

Why are you born?

What are your purposes in life?

What are your short term and long term goals?

If you do not have answers to these questions, then you have a lot of home work to do. Our purpose in life defines who we are. Show me a man whose life is driven by purpose and I will show you a man who will succeed in life. Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction and constancy to purpose is the secret of success.

Imagine what your life will look like in the next 20 years, where do you see yourself?

Do you have a business idea? Do you want to be a millionaire before you clock 40? Do you want to graduate from the higher institution with a first class? Do you want to be the best fashion designer or an Engineer? These should be the reason why you do not remain in bed every morning. Write down your purpose in life and paste it on the wall close to your bed. Every morning when you wake up, take a good look at the things you wrote and say them out loud. "I will be a millionaire before I clock 40, I will own a big company, I will speak and millions of people will listen to me". Say this to yourself every morning and let it be your driving force throughout that day.

Napoleon Hill said, *"There is one quality which one must possess to win, and that is definiteness of purpose, the knowledge of what one wants, and a burning desire to possess it."*

When you have a purpose, you work towards achieving them. Don't just dream; work hard to make your dreams a reality, and then you have fulfilled your purpose. There is always a great joy, happiness and peace of mind anytime you achieve what you aim for. Do not be distracted, remain focus on that dream and you will at the end accomplish it. It is not an accident that musicians become musicians and engineers become engineers. If you can tune into your purpose

and really align with it, setting goals so that your vision is an expression of that purpose, then life flows much more easily.

Surely, there will be distractions on the way, but you have to decide today if you will let those distractions stop you from achieving your dreams. Everything starts with a plan. Back up your purpose with a well-structured plan. It is said that a man who fails to plan for his dreams, plans to fail.

I have a friend who always visits the gym; he doesn't miss any of his sessions. I once asked him why he spends so much money on his body building, he said that he wanted to be an actor and he was to play a role but the director wanted someone who had a good body stature. The only way he would get the role is if he works out day and night. That was his purpose and he was ready to give anything to achieve that.

I meet students who say they want to graduate with first class and they spend most of their time in the library reading, getting knowledge because they want to come out the best. These guys have purpose and they are not going to let anything stop them. Achievement of your happiness is the only moral purpose in your life, and that happiness not pain or mindless self-indulgence is the proof of your moral integrity, since it is the proof and the result of your loyalty to the achievement of your values.

Anything that is without purpose will be thrown away or it becomes load or a problem. Martin Luther King Jr. said that law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress. Once something has outlived its usefulness in one area of life, its purpose for being in existence is no longer the same. The leaf that captures a stream of sunlight, and then transfers its energy to the tree, serves one purpose in the spring and summer, and another completely different one through the fall and winter.

When a baby is born everyone around him smiles but he cries. Why? Because everything is new to him and has no idea of what is going on. But after he has fulfilled purpose and dies, everyone around him begin to cry. This is because he will be missed and has impacted lives, but a man who didn't fulfil purpose will be alone. People will not care of his departure because his impact was not felt. How will people feel when you die?

Everything in the universe has a purpose. Indeed, the invisible intelligence that flows through everything in a purposeful fashion is also flowing through you.

Go, find your purpose and let the world see, feel and relate with it.

SECRET 3: IT'S OK TO FAIL

**IT'S OK TO FAIL
BUT IT'S NOT OK
TO GIVE UP
ON YOUR DREAMS.**

GYMQUOTES.CO

Some people view failure as the enemy but it isn't, failure shouldn't be the reason why you stop trying. Most people are scared of failing so they do not attempt to try anything. A man who has never failed in life has never learnt anything.

“It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well have not have lived at all, in which case you have failed by default” – J.K. Rowling.

Do you remember when you were trying to walk as a baby?

Of course not, you were too little but pretend you remembered. Initially, you started by standing then you took the first step but you fell down. My mum used to tell me that anytime I tried taking a step and I fell, I would start crying.

(Why would baby Livingstone cry because he failed when he attempted to walk? He was so naïve).

Back to our story, so you took another step and you fell again. You didn't cry like me and you didn't give up but you kept on trying and today you are jumping like a frog and running like a rabbit. Failure is the key to success; each mistake teaches us something.

Do not give up because you failed in an attempt to achieve your goals in life. Rather learn from your failures and give it another shot. Failing doesn't make you a failure. Failure gives you an opportunity to learn from your mistakes. I remember when I was learning how to ride a bicycle; it was not a nice experience. I fell close to a million times (of course I was counting) and I almost gave up. But anytime I see my friends riding their own bicycle, I would run to get mine and try again and I kept on trying till I was able to ride my bicycle without assistance or falling.

Use this in your day to day activity, you failed a course in school does not mean that you are dull. Know why you failed that course and use that as an advantage. Go back and retake the course and this time around, score higher. Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.

Most top business men have invested in certain business that they lost money but they did not quit business, rather they learnt from their mistakes and tried again. Today you see them as millionaires. I am not saying you must fail before you succeed, what I am trying to let you know is not to be scared of failing.

Have you not heard that Thomas Edison tried so many times in his attempt to create the electric bulb and failed? But he never gave up and at the end he did it. He said, *“I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.”* Why then should you be the first to quit because you failed an interview test? Defect is not the worst of failures. Not to have tried is the true failure. Will you let your fears stop you from achieving your dreams?

Failure is another stepping stone to greatness. There is nothing wrong with making mistakes but when you repeat the same mistakes, then there is a problem. In the game of chess, every move is important. You only improve your skills by losing. Imagine you were taught the game of chess and after learning the game, you won everyone in your class. You kept on using the same move you learnt and you were winning everyone. You will not improve, you will believe that you are the Queen and no one can defeat you but unknown to you; you are just on one spot. What if you then decided to play with someone from another school and you lost to him. Yes, you would naturally feel bad, but you will study his move and know where you missed it and play again. As you lose, you learn and that’s how you become better. Failure is a privilege to learn and not to quit. Sometimes by losing a battle you find a new way to win the war.

Failure should be seen as an advantage and not a disadvantage. Johnny Cash said, *“You build on failure. You use it as a stepping stone. Close the door on the past. You don’t try to forget the mistakes, but you don’t dwell on it. You don’t let it have your energy, or any of your time, or any of your space.”*

Whenever you fall down, if you are facing up then you can get up. Dust yourself and get up. Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.

I am not saying it’s OK to relax and accept failure with open hands. I want you to channel your energy from your failures to achieve something greater. Let your failures motivate you, let in strengthen you instead of bringing you down.

Skylar Grey wrote, *“Your personal life, your professional life and your creative life are all intertwined. I have gone through a few very difficult years where I felt like a failure. But it was actually really important for me to go through that. Struggle for me is the most inspirational thing in the world at the end of the day –as long you treat it that way”.*

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