

The Kite Story

Freddy and his Kite

A story about entrepreneurship, creativity, and
life

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Freddy and his Kite

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CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Learning Kite Flying	p.1
Chapter 2: Losing the Kite	p.7
Chapter 3: Building a Kite	p.17
Chapter 4: Creating Fun Kites	p.37
Chapter 5: Developing Fun Kites	p.49
Chapter 6: Growing Fun Kites	p.61
Chapter 7: Going Beyond Fun Kites	p.71

Dear Readers,

Thank you for choosing to read this book.

It is about entrepreneurship, creativity, and life.

I encourage you to read with an open-mind.

Let your thoughts flow.

And enjoy.

1 LEARNING KITE FLYING

Freddy and his parents were celebrating his tenth birthday.

Father: "Happy birthday, Freddy! We got you a kite."

Freddy: "Awesome! I love it! Thank you so much! Dad, let's go fly it now!"

Mother: "Freddy, I don't think this is a good idea. The weatherman said that it would rain today. Besides, it is not a windy day to fly your kite."

Freddy: "But I really want to fly it. Please can we just try? It might not even rain."

Father: "OK, let's do this. The park is not that far away. We can always hit back home if it starts to rain."

Mother, shaking her head in disagreement: “By the time you reach there, it will be time to go home. What a waste of time.”

Father: “Why are we letting someone or something else dictate the plans in our lives? Yes, we should consider opinions and situations but we should not stop doing what we want to do. If we keep hesitating and waiting, we would indeed be wasting our time. I am sure a little rain will not hurt us. It is about learning to adapt to the situation and using the resources we have at hand.”

So, off they went. While walking towards the park, his father explained to Freddy the different parts of the kite and their functions. At the park, he showed him how to set the kite in motion and how to fly and control it. Freddy was extremely excited to try it out and was getting impatient with his father.

Freddy : “Dad, I get it. Come on, let me fly it now.”

Father: “Hold on. Let me show you how to reel the kite back and you will get your chance to fly it.”

After showing Freddy all the basics of kite flying, his father handed the kite over to Freddy. Freddy tried many times but his kite would not fly up in the sky. Freddy, getting frustrated, complained: “There is no wind, Dad. Just like what Mum said.”

Father took over the kite and replied: “Your mother might be right, but it is you who choose to believe what she said.”

“If you assume what she said was true, then why are we out here in the first place? It was because you hoped that the predicted outcome would be untrue. However, you cannot just hope and wish. You are responsible to change it.”

“There is always wind. You need to be prepared for it. Listen to your surroundings, see the movement of the trees, and feel the wind. Observe and be aware of yourself and your surroundings. Let nature reveal itself to you and adjust your actions to the conditions.”

“When I was showing you how to set your kite in motion, you were impatient and distracted. You were letting your imagination run wild and focusing on the future of your kite flying high up in the sky. You failed to pay attention to your present.”

“It is good to aspire and have goals but you cannot just focus solely on your goals and the outcomes. You have to focus on the processes. There are five steps – observing, setting the kite in motion, flying the kite, reeling the kite back, and reflecting on your actions.”

“Your lesson actually starts right from the beginning when I was describing you the different functions of the kite. Instead, you were selective in your learning.”

“Learning how to fly a kite consists of many steps. All these steps are related to one another. To achieve what you want, it is essential to learn things that you may not want to learn.”

“You may find certain steps redundant but you will never know when they might come in handy. You may not comprehend everything now, but in time you will understand. Hence, do not skip any step but enjoy the whole learning process.”

“You ought to respect the time and effort spent on teaching you. Let me show you again. This time observe, listen, and ask any questions when you are in doubt.”

Freddy nodded and gave his full attention to his father. When it was time for him to try, Freddy excitedly took over the kite. At first, the timing of setting his kite in motion was just too early. Then, it was just too late. Freddy practiced several times. Finally, he got the kite up in the sky. At that moment Freddy was so proud of himself.

An hour later, dark clouds were gathering up in the sky.

Father: “It is going to rain soon. Let's pack up.”

Freddy: “But I just got my kite up flying. Don't we get the strongest wind during a storm?”

Father: “Yes but it is too dangerous and risky. We have to pick our battles. There will be better days with stronger winds. Talking about this, we should establish certain rules.”

Freddy: “Rules? Oh no...”

Father: “Rules will direct you in the right direction. They are supposed to help you and not restrict you. Let's pack up and we can work together on coming up with a set of rules

on our way back home. I want your input and your suggestions. In this way, you will be committed.”

Freddy and his father came up with the following simple rules for kite flying:

1. Freddy will only fly his kite after he has finished all his homework and chores.
2. His father/mother/designated adult must be present when Freddy is flying his kite at the park.
3. Freddy must be considerate to other people at the park.
4. At any moment when Freddy feels unsafe, he must stop and talk to his father/mother/designated adult.

For the next few weeks, Freddy learned the techniques of kite flying with his father. Each time, he learned:

- when to reel in the spool and when to release it
- when to run with the kite
- when to stop and observe
- when to change direction, be it against the wind or with the wind
- when to go backwards so as to move forward
- when to do nothing
- when to stop flying to replenish his strength
- how to have fun and enjoy the moment

Freddy realized that every second of kite flying required effort and attention. This would start even before flying the kite.

First, he had to understand the weather, pick a good spot at the park, and observe his surroundings. Then, he would set his kite in motion.

Every flying experience had limitations and rules to conform. One could either play the game or have the courage to break the old rules and set new rules. To break old rules and to set new rules, Freddy learned that he must first gain trust, trust from his parents and trust of his own skills and abilities. It was about being flexible and firm, understanding when to control and when to let go, and being aware of the surroundings while focusing on the kite.

Several weeks later, Freddy had mastered the art of kite flying. He could set it in motion during the first try and was able to control it well. Freddy loved kite flying and set his sights on flying his kite higher and further.

2 LOSING THE KITE

It was another day at the park and Freddy was flying his kite with his father.

Freddy: “Look! It is so far high. You can hardly see it.”

Father: “That is awesome. Remember to control it.”

Freddy was so happy because that was the highest point that his kite had ever reached. Then, Freddy felt a touch of the wind. He knew that he had to pull the line back. However, hoping that he could get his kite higher, Freddy changed his direction and started running.

Father: “Stop! You cannot outrun the wind.”

Freddy: “No Dad, I can do it! I am going to fly my kite higher.”

Freddy refused and turned. He tugged the line and it snapped. The line fell on the ground and the sail flew away.

Freddy was shocked. He frantically chased after the sail but it was gone. He burst into tears and ran back home.

For the next few days, Freddy was extremely sad and angry. He could not understand why the very day when he had reached his highest point was the very day he lost his kite. He was mad at himself and at the world.

Freddy: “The very day I reached the peak was the day I lost everything. All my effort is gone. This is silly. I hate myself. I hate my life. I hate the world.”

Mother: “This is what happens when you put all your eggs in one basket. You put all your passion, time, and effort in kite flying. When it failed, it destroyed you completely. Being passionate about something does not mean you can be great at it. You were never meant to fly that high. Is OK to hate your life. There are millions out there who are hating their lives too.”

Father: “It is perfectly fine to feel angry and sad. I want you to vent all your feelings out now.”

Freddy: “All those weeks that I have spent practicing kite flying was so stupid. Just like what mum has said I was never meant to fly that high. I hate my life.”

Father: “Now, I want you to think about what you have just said. And I want you to laugh.”

Freddy: “What are you saying? I do not get it.”

Father: “You spent days crying about your defeat. It is time to stop and laugh at your defeat. I want you to laugh because you know those statements are untrue. Because if you don't, then are you saying that you truly honestly hate

your life? That those weeks when we had fun flying your kite was really stupid?"

Freddy: "Well..."

Father: "Indeed, deep in your heart you know those statements were untrue. Yet you spent days repeating those statements. Be careful of what you choose to say. Your words have unforeseen consequences. You could have unknowingly hurt yourself and other people."

"We experience life through our feelings and perceptions. Life is a storage of moments. Realize that a moment is just a moment itself. Thinking about a moment is different from the moment."

"Losing your kite is just losing your kite. It has nothing to do with your thinking. By thinking negatively, you have given up your power and your choice of understanding the moment."

"You kept asking why did this happen to you. Well, why not? What is so special about you that you should not lose your kite? It is true at that moment, you were not meant to fly higher. You need to acknowledge your limitations and know where you belong at this point of time."

"But were you never ever meant to fly higher? Do you know that? Does your mother know that? No one knows that. The world has infinite possibilities and the world is constantly changing. One day, it is possible you may even fly your kite up to outer space."

"You do not always get to know the reasons behind the failures. You just have to move on. Being passionate about

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