



Live An Extraordinary Life



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What Is An Extraordinary Life?

Living an extraordinary life may have different meanings to different people. Here are some definitions of an extraordinary life.

An extraordinary life is:

- ✚ A life in which you are fully YOU in all your glory.
- ✚ A life that takes your breath away.
- ✚ A life of purpose, passion and fulfillment.
- ✚ A life so perfect for you that you could not imagine a better one.
- ✚ A life that makes you feel truly alive.
- ✚ A life that beckons you awake in the morning and gets you excited to start your day and keeps you up at night dreaming of eternity.
- ✚ A life you love.
- ✚ A life worth living.
- ✚ A life of happiness and authenticity.
- ✚ A life in which your dreams are realized.
- ✚ A life that supports you being at your best, living in the moment, and evolving beyond your wildest imaginations.

What An Extraordinary Life Is Not

It is not a life doing what you think everyone expects of you. Nor is it a life doing what your parents, boss, teachers or anyone else tells you to do. It is not a recycling of someone else's ideas of the perfect life for you. Nor is it what your culture, generation or society says you should aspire to.



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What An Extraordinary Life Feels Like

When you are living your extraordinary life, you feel deep inside you are on the right path—that you are exactly where you should be and you are doing what you were always meant to be doing.

Certainty replaces doubt. Invisible hands start opening doors for you. Mishaps become happy accidents and you are pulled along by the current of your life for a ride that is truly better and far beyond your dreams.

Events begin to unfold which allow you to discover who you really are and the power that resides inside of you. Extraordinary people start showing up in your life at just the right time. Signs guide your steps and you start to live within the flow of the Universe.

But what is truly amazing is that an extraordinary life is a life you truly love, not just settle for. And to make it a reality takes work. Fun, exciting, challenging, work ... work you love ... but nevertheless hard work ... recognizing and following the signs, taking each step with courage and from a strong foundation.

Pursue Success, Fulfillment Or Both?

In the next four lectures, I will analyze two choices that most of us take with our career path. You might fit in one of the two scenarios. If you do, this will help you to see where you are now, and to make the transition to where you want to be.



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And if you're just starting out with your career, then great! You will see the advantages and disadvantages of both and choose the path you're comfortable with.

The two strategies that we can choose with our career path are to either pursue success or to pursue fulfillment.

In our society, we're taught to pursue success first. Once we're successful, then we can find fulfillment. So we pursue success and we either find fulfillment or we don't. If we do find fulfillment, then we're successful and fulfilled. Wonderful! But if we don't find fulfillment, at least we're still successful.

The other strategy is to pursue fulfillment first. If we pursue fulfillment then maybe we'll also find success, which is awesome! But maybe we won't, in which case we have no money. But of course we are fulfilled. This is the starving artist strategy.

So, you can choose whether you want to make success your primary pursuit or fulfillment your primary pursuit. In our society, we have tremendous structural support for pursuing success first, and we have very little societal support for pursuing fulfillment first.



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In Pursuit Of Success

Let's take a deeper look at the journey of those who choose to pursue success first. You work hard now and once you've made your fortune, then you'll be able to do what you want.

It sounds like a great theory and it does work for those who choose a traditional career that happens to be the one they love and are passionate about, such as investment banker, scientist, doctor, lawyer, etc. But for those of us who are not interested in traditional careers, this doesn't seem to be a good strategy. In fact, it can be a dangerous strategy. Here are some reasons why:

1. We gradually engage in self-deception. You might say something like: "I dislike bankruptcy law but I am going to do it for 20 years, and then I will retire and do what I want." Twenty years later, you reached your goal; you have enough money to retire at the age of 46. Ironically, at that point you are convinced that the thing you dislike most, bankruptcy law, is really the thing that's going to save the world. You managed to convince yourself that the thing you disliked was what you really wanted to do. One of the test for that is to ask yourself and you have to ask yourself before you engage in self-deception: Would you still do this thing if you weren't being paid?
2. When you have a deferred job, your psychological identity gets wrapped up around that and if you do that for 10 or 15 years, you begin to define yourself as a lawyer or as a banker and it will be hard and stressful to get out of it. You become very psychologically deeply invested in the deferred job, not in the life that you want to have.



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3. Another problem with deferring what you really want to do is what if you never develop the skills in the job you want to do. If you're putting off in becoming the dancer or singer, you're not necessarily spending the time to train your body or your voice and getting to the point where you can do that. Also, you're not building a network or creating the infrastructure that would allow you to do that easily. So, when the time comes to make the switch, you're not part of the professional and social network.
4. The deferred job will not allow you to live an extraordinary life, because after working at it for 20 years, you forgot what you truly wanted to do in the first place.
5. We are trapped. The more we defer things, the more we do something we don't like, the more we built systems, and we built a life that has a certain shape and we fit comfortably in it. This is a double edged sword. The good news is that we built a system that helped us with whatever we wanted to do.

But the unexpected consequence of that is that if we want to change and do something else, we're locked in to the system that we've created. The most powerful obstacle to us changing our life and doing something extraordinary is not fear. Fear definitely plays a role, but the larger role is played by habits and by systems.

The habits and systems that work for you in your 20's may not work for you in your 30's, and the ones you've established in your 30's may not work for you in your 40's.

Do A Deliberate Shift

The most powerful systems aren't even the external ones; they're the internal ones. They're the beliefs that we have. Let's say that you want to leave your banking job and become an entrepreneur; this has been a dream of yours for quite some time.



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But, you're not ready because you have small children you have to take care of. Another excuse can be that you have a mortgage on a house. These are the sort of excuses that you don't want to leave the comfort of perceived security of a corporate job and take an entrepreneurial plunge. There will always be excuses.

That's fine if that's your choice, however, it's a habit that will keep you in the comfort zone. If you want to take a leap, you have to change the habit because there will always be an excuse on why now is not the right time.

If you want to start building an extraordinary life, you need to do a deliberate shift, and you have to do a shift in your habits and in your system. The particular things that comprise our habits and our systems are our beliefs, the commitments we've made to other people and other organizations.

Sometimes commitments are legal like taking on a mortgage, sometimes they're informal like volunteering to be the chairman of the board or they can just be commitments that we made to ourselves. Commitments can keep you stuck in living a life that you don't want.

So if you need to do a shift, you need to look at the commitments you've made. You need to look at your expectations. If you need to change your life, changing your expectations is critical.



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In Pursuit Of Fulfillment

Let's examine a real life example of someone who is living an extraordinary life, Stever Robbins.

Stever performed an experiment on living an extraordinary life.

The conditions of Stever's hypothesis:

- ✓ Pursue the perfect 10.
- ✓ Choose for the journeys, not for the goals. (The journey is the reward!)
- ✓ Put fun, passion and meaning first.
- ✓ Don't engage in hard work. ("Hard work" in his case is work that he doesn't enjoy doing. It doesn't mean that he doesn't do things that require a lot of effort or a lot of hours. He can spend hours doing things that he loves and to him, it's not hard work. I think that most of us feel the same way.)
- ✓ Let go of planning and instead create luck. (In his case, luck is people, places and conversations that he has).
- ✓ Money is Okay!

Stever's Hypothesis: If I live according to these conditions, then this will lead to having an extraordinary life and hopefully making a living. At the very least, it would lead to an extraordinary life.

Stever set aside 3 years of living money. For three years, he removed money from his decision making and lived according to the above conditions to see what would happen. He did and what happened was nothing short of extraordinary.

During the three years of experiment, Stever produced a podcast on personal productivity which 3 weeks after launching became the #1 business podcast on iTunes. Based on the podcast, he got a book contract, and he wrote a book for a major publisher.



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One day during the 3 years, Stever walked out of a musical play and started crying because he wanted to be on the other side of the stage. This was bizarre because he had never acted in his life; he never sung. Some part of him felt strongly about it, and he started taking singing lessons. As a result, he's been in 4 college productions in the community theater, including having a lead in one of them.

Stever joked to a friend about his book. His friend responded, "Wouldn't it be fun if you have a one man musical based on your book that you could perform that has real business content in it but also dramatic and fun?"

It turned out that his friend is a musical theater writer in New York. He didn't know this. And long story short, Stever eventually performed "Work Less and Do More", a zombie musical about personal productivity and zombies. He co-wrote it; he produced it and he starred in it, all not only having never done it before but it wasn't even on his radar screen.

Then Stever and another friend of his found a company and ran it for two years. The company got up and running with a 15 person staff and they had a total capitalization of \$5000. It was a very successful company. He also got involved in a company as an angel investor and advisor that did some amazing green technologies as well.

So in those 3 years, Stever did more stuff than he thought would be on his entire bucket list for the rest of his life, and he always found a way to make a living. At first, it was terrifying because he never knew where that next dollar would come from. It just seemed to happen, but yet it did happen and in the process he lead an extraordinary life.



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So the experiment was successful. It showed that following that unusual set of conditions in fact would produce an extraordinary life. The only thing it wouldn't give him is the illusion of security which he seemed to crave.

Pursuing Your Dream Career: Key Takeaways

Maybe you work in the performing arts or pursue any creative activities that do not pay much or hardly anything. The hard work in this scenario is finding the way to make money while you continue to pursue your fulfillment.

Here are the ways some people have done it:

- Work as a substitute teacher
- Work at fast food
- Be a tutor
- Produce films
- Work as an investor by day and act by night
- Tour guide
- Work tech on shows
- Manage theater company
- Provide services to other production company
- Do consulting



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Key Takeaways:

1. Pursue whatever is the perfect 10 for you. Your head is not good at setting long term directions because your heart has to be in it, so let your heart set the direction. Once your heart has set the direction, your head has an important role in figuring out how to get there. If you're pursuing fulfillment and then finding money, your heart will show you where the fulfillment is.
2. There is hard work involved. The hard work for those on the path that choose success first is doing 20 years at the wrong job. For those on the path that choose fulfillment, the hard work is figuring out the monetization factor, so that you can continue to do what you love, but also monetize it. I do not believe that if you do what you love, the money will necessarily follow. You still have to apply yourself to making sure it follows.
3. It's not the goals that matter, but the journeys that matter. Adhering too closely to your goals can actually blind you opportunities that aren't part of that goal. So, you continue to pursue a boring goal even when better things come along because you're so blinded to the other things.

Instead of thinking of a goal as the thing you have to accomplish. Think of a goal as a compass that motivates the journey. A goal tells you in which direction to walk in at any given moment. You can change the goal and it will change the journey.

4. Choose fulfillment first, then money. Make your own luck but make it by choosing people and places to spend time that result in luck.
5. A traditional job in a traditional path is easier. Our society is set up to help you get a job, but it's less extraordinary. It's predictable. It feels predictable; it's comfortable and what you're doing is swapping money stress for the possibility of not having an extraordinary life.

If you're living an extraordinary life, the journey is really the reward.



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Facing Extraordinary Life Challenges

Several challenges may pop up when you start living an extraordinary life. Two of the most important are being able to face your biggest fears and embracing the extraordinary moments of your life.

I want to share the following quotes and poems to help you face these challenges.

Facing Fears

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light not our darkness that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world.

There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear,

Our presence automatically liberates others.

—Marianne Williamson



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Embracing The Extraordinary Moments

"There is a great secret that beings throughout time have announced, the secret of an extraordinary treasure, the treasure of the nectar of eternal life. It is the nectar of pure beingness, recognizing itself as consciousness and overflowing in the love of that recognition."

—Gangaji

An Affirmation Of Realization

At the innermost level of my being I am serenely peaceful.

I am completely fulfilled because soul-satisfied.

No longer blinded by delusions, I know what is true.

No longer confused by illusions, I see what is real.

Established in the Infinite, I live effectively

with flawless skill and easy grace.

I knowledgeably cooperate with the supportive laws

of nature and spontaneously demonstrate total wellness.

—Roy Eugene Davis



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*Once the journey of soul recovery
is begun in earnest, Life itself
conspires to support us. It is up to
us to learn to cooperate with it.
For one who is surrendered to
God, a change in consciousness is
inevitable. It comes like the
approaching dawn. There is a long
time in the dark, then slowly,
barely perceptible changes occur
until finally the entire landscape of
our life is illumined.*

—**Ellen Grace O’Brian**

Extraordinary Life Reflections

The key to living an extraordinary life is to identify and appreciate the extraordinary things that are already part of your life. I would like to offer some simple reflections for living an extraordinary life.



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The Beauty Of Nature

Spend time in nature to experience its magnificent beauty and splendor. Nature rejuvenates and supports our frequency and energetic make-up.

The oceans, mountains, streams, rocks, trees and leaves release high vibrational rays of light that both calm and energize the soul at the same time. The power of nature is boundless, for it also centers our being and supports our intuitive faculties, bringing through important insights, downloads, creative breakthroughs and spiritual directives in our life.

As we awaken to our interconnectedness with Nature and All That Is, we merge more fully with Divine Consciousness, creating a better world for all souls and creatures of the planet.

Nature is a reflection of humanity, so take the time to be a steward of the Earth. Mother Earth is ALIVE and assesses every step we take on her sacred ground, gauging our level of commitment and willingness to be of service.

As we open up to Mother Earth and communicate our intention for being alive, our path is lit. So love, tend to, honor, cherish, commune and replenish the glory that she has so graciously provided, as she has faithfully supported and held watch over us while we have journeyed on this planet.



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Love Is The Answer

LOVE is the most powerful force in the Cosmos. It dissolves all separateness. When we speak with the voice of our heart, we embrace the uniqueness of everyone on the planet, joining together in a unified global cause.

As human beings, we each have a basic soul purpose to love. As we allow ourselves to love and be loved, we open up the secret chamber of our heart, revealing our deeper personal mission and divine spiritual blueprint.

LOVE is the most precious gift in the Universe. When we realize this, we activate a dormant password well known throughout the cosmos. As we activate this portal of higher light knowledge, we place ourselves in the direct flow of the universal language of light, and our path is lit, for our heart is the seat of wisdom and connection to the Source through the subconscious mind. Through our heart, all of our questions shall be answered.

LOVE is the constant steady stream in the Cosmic tide of energy. As we love ourselves and others, we raise our energetic vibration, allowing our Eternal Self to shine light on humanity. As we open up and merge with this I AM Presence, we become our Eternal Self.

Everyone that we encounter on our journey came to Earth to awaken to the Light of Spirit, to bask in the divine energy of Oneness and to evolve into a higher dimensional being.



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LOVE transmutes all negative energy. Be kind and gracious to one another, all around the world. Where there is forgiveness, there is calm. Where there is peace, there is love. Where there is tolerance and equality allowing all people to be who they are, there is unity.

The Seventh Golden Age is upon us! Shower love on all of our planetary brothers and sisters, for this will assist Mother Earth immensely in making her shift into the higher dimensional atmosphere.

Live Your Light

You are a Magnificent Being of Light placed on Earth to assist the planet's transition into The Golden Age. You emanate light to all you meet, preparing them to awaken and activate upon their divine timing in days to come.

As you shine, meditate and pray you become an Ambassador of Light in the evolutionary plan for humanity. Do not be pulled away and distracted by the chaotic energies of the world around you. Send love and blessings to all people and beings everywhere, and to the planet.

Humanity has become distracted from Self through busyness and outside forces. It is time to turn inward to the quiet space within and bask in the glory of the Divine.



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You are born to Shine. Your soul is infinite and continually guides and nudges you in every moment to expand and glow in the immensity of the extraordinary Being that you are. The greatest gift you can give to humanity is to Live Your Light.

You manifest your infinite reality when you empower yourself to live your dreams. Every moment you are given on the planet is a gift. As you live your light, you assist Mother Earth as she makes her Ascension in the Great Shift.

As you live and share your marvelous talents with the cosmos, you transmute your energy to a higher vibrational state and automatically assist the Ascension of the planet.

As you hear the call of your internal song and honor the truth within your heart, you automatically serve others.



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