OBSTACLES ARE STEPPING STONES OF SUCCESS

Dr. Araham P. Araham
Professor of English

There is a well known story about a man who was walking in the park one day when he came upon a cocoon with a small opening. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through the little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It looked like it had reached as far as it could, so the man decided to help the butterfly. He used his pocketknife and snipped the remaining bit of the cocoon.

The butterfly then emerged easily, but something was strange. The butterfly had a swollen body and shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected at any moment the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened. In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and deformed wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to emerge was natural. It was nature’s way of forcing fluid from its body into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once its freedom was achieved. Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives.

If we were allowed to go through life without any obstacles, we would be crippled. We would not be as strong as we could have been. And we could never fly. So, obstacles are a part of life. Life minus obstacles is meaningless. It all depends on how one faces them. Some time ago one of my friends told me “Show me someone who has done something worthwhile, and I’ll show you someone who has overcome adversity.”

History shows us that the most celebrated winners usually have encountered heartbreaking obstacles before they triumphed. They won because they refused to be discouraged by their defeats.

Beethoven composed his greatest works after becoming deaf. George Washington was stoned in through a treacherous winter at Valley Forge. Abraham Lincoln was raised in poverty. Albert Einstein was called a slow learner, and retarded. If Christopher Columbus had turned back, no one could have blamed him, considering the constant adversity he had to face.

Chester Carlson, a young inventor, took his idea to Haloid, a company in New York. He also flunked English at New York University (NYU) and City College of New York. He also flunked English at the college.

Helen Keller, the famous blind writer said: “Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved. Silver is purified in fire and so are we. It is in the most trying times that our real character is shaped and revealed.” Many other examples like the above can be pointed out from life. So, be brave, do not fear failures and never feel defeated. There is no education like the university of adversity. If the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of one candle I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. Because I cannot do everything. I will not refuse to do something that I can do. Don’t ever forget how very important you are in this world and that ONE PERSON IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GOD.

Some time ago I came across an anonymous poem that I’d like to share with you:

One song can spark a moment
One flower can wake the dream
One bird can herald spring
One smile begins a friendship
One handshake lifts a soul
One star can guide a ship at sea
One word can frame the goal
One sunbeam can light a room
One candle can wipe out darkness
One laugh will conquer gloom
One step must start each journey
One word must start each prayer
One hope will raise our spirits
One touch can show you care
One voice can speak with wisdom
One heart can know what is true
One life can make a difference
You see it’s up to you!

Persistence paid off for General Douglas MacArthur. After applying for admission to West Point twice, he applied a third time and was accepted. The rest is history.

A academy Award-winning writer, producer and director Woody Allen failed motion picture production at New York University (NYU) and City College of New York. He also flunked English at the college.

Forget yesterday and catch what you have missed. Your life is yours. No one can live your life. Only, you have to. So LIVE YOUR LIFE. As successful people do, you can do too. No one is better than you. You deserve to be happy and comfortable but it won’t happen unless you believe that EVERYDAY IS NEW.

This semester is new; therefore you should work better than last semester. You should change your attitude towards things which weren’t good, especially your ways of studying.

Eventually, you should be thankful to ALLAH because He is giving you new day to live and enjoy; so Smile and work hard towards your goals. Yes; it’s really Everyday is New.

Written by: Laila Ibrahim Obaid Ali Gharbi.

English Translation

Dear Time Readers

It’s O.K. to learn English. But do you…? Do you…?

Universities in Oman offer one-year Foundation Programme, of course, to prepare you for the forthcoming four-years of studying, learning and researching in English, in the campus. All the Foreign Language Teachers tend to give you all a relishing Recipe to make your Life better, with more English knowledge. Now, having the recipe in your hands, it’s time for you to show évariety, out of it. Variety?? With your language. Once you are out for shopping, what do you buy? Pens, Shoes, Fashion Outfits, Mobile phones, even a new car every year. No Doubt, you use your new pen everyday; you beat the heat with your new shoes; Certainly, today’s girls are all trendsetters with their dazzling outfits; and, boys roam around with the latest model cars. Mobile phones are multi-purpose instruments in the hands of youth. Anything you buy, you use it. Good Policy!! Keep it Up. We are talking about, Utility, usefulness of something. This includes the point of maintenance, as well. A 2 year-old shoe/dress looks pretty new on you. It’s O.K. to learn English. But do you…? Do you…?

Universities in Oman offer one-year Foundation Programme, of course, to prepare you for the forthcoming four-years of studying, learning and researching in English, in the campus. All the Foreign Language Teachers tend to give you all a relishing Recipe to make your Life better, with more English knowledge. Now, having the recipe in your hands, it’s time for you to show évariety, out of it. Variety?? With your language. Once you are out for shopping, what do you buy? Pens, Shoes, Fashion Outfits, Mobile phones, even a new car every year. No Doubt, you use your new pen everyday; you beat the heat with your new shoes; Certainly, today’s girls are all trendsetters with their dazzling outfits; and, boys roam around with the latest model cars. Mobile phones are multi-purpose instruments in the hands of youth. Anything you buy, you use it. Good Policy!! Keep it Up. We are talking about, Utility, usefulness of something. This includes the point of maintenance, as well. A 2 year-old shoe/dress looks pretty new on you. It’s O.K. to learn English. But do you…? Do you…?

Universities in Oman offer one-year Foundation Programme, of course, to prepare you for the forthcoming four-years of studying, learning and researching in English, in the campus. All the Foreign Language Teachers tend to give you all a relishing Recipe to make your Life better, with more English knowledge. Now, having the recipe in your hands, it’s time for you to show évariety, out of it. Variety?? With your language. Once you are out for shopping, what do you buy? Pens, Shoes, Fashion Outfits, Mobile phones, even a new car every year. No Doubt, you use your new pen everyday; you beat the heat with your new shoes; Certainly, today’s girls are all trendsetters with their dazzling outfits; and, boys roam around with the latest model cars. Mobile phones are multi-purpose instruments in the hands of youth. Anything you buy, you use it. Good Policy!! Keep it Up. We are talking about, Utility, usefulness of something. This includes the point of maintenance, as well. A 2 year-old shoe/dress looks pretty new on you. It’s O.K. to learn English. But do you…? Do you…?

Hi friends,

Everyday is New

Y es! Everyday is new, with a new smile, new hope, new aim and new end. Yester day had passed, but today is here waiting for your new work. Today is in your hand so you have the right to enjoy and fulfill your purposes. You are supposed to get up with an amazing smile, with a hopeful self. There are no reasons and excuses for you to think about yesterday. Thus, it is great to make all the best of your day.

Hi D T Readers,

Hi friends,

Everyday is New

Y es! Everyday is new, with a new smile, new hope, new aim and new end. Yester day had passed, but today is here waiting for your new work. Today is in your hand so you have the right to enjoy and fulfill your purposes. You are supposed to get up with an amazing smile, with a hopeful self. There are no reasons and excuses for you to think about yesterday. Thus, it is great to make all the best of your day.

For all those who have overcome adversity. “All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of one candle; I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. Because I cannot do everything. I will not refuse to do something that I can do. Don’t ever forget how very important you are in this world and that ONE PERSON IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GOD."