

Failure 'IS' An Option (don't choose it)



We have all been there. When we come face to face with a **monster!**

Depending on what you are doing and who you are, they come in many forms.

One has fangs, is tall, and has really really bad breath. While another is a fluffy fur ball with the cutest blue eyes, only to bring out its razor sharp spikes when someone tries to grab it.

No matter what type of monster, there are common reactions the people have to them. Some people feel butterflies inside their stomach, with flapping wings that stir the last meal. Others become an instant water fountain as their foreheads and/or palms decide to produce sweat-on-demand for the amusement of both the monsters and those watching. The list goes on, including shaky knees, stuttering, *gulp*ing...etc.

The crazy thing is that not only do they wait for us in the shadows, always ready to test us, but, we actually ask for most of these challenges.



When we lay our heads on the pillow at night, finally surviving another day of battles, we knowingly ask a monster into our room. For some, it is a wind-up alarm clock, others a cell phone daily calendar event, and for others it may be mini-versions of themselves (children) coming in the morning to test if the bed springs still work.

As morning comes and you are pulled abruptly from your slumber, you meet the first monster of the day. You all know it well. Its skill is getting close to your ears and whispering...

"Oh no, is it morning? You're not ready! Do something about it!....CALL IN SICK! TAKE A VACATION!... Anything to not enter the rat race again."



Once again, you take on the monster and decide who will win. Though some of you grumble and others yawn loud enough to wake the neighbors, most of you will take on the beast, find your weapons of choice (coffee, stretching,

cursing the skies?). You consider yourself a winner, put on your salt-mine clothes, and out the door you go. Battle won!

That wasn't so bad, for the ones who decided to win. But, there are some who gave in and now lay in bed, dreading the repeat battle coming again in 24 hours.

For those who made another mark on their Monster-Killing-Weapon, you pat yourself on the back and realize there are more creatures coming your way. Many of them you know, while others are new. These force you to learn ways to deal with them, or run!

Some of you invite a famous one called 'stage fright'. Well known by all, but, also highly avoided by most. This cunning monster is so large and powerful that it takes over the eyeballs of those watching from the crowd. As you make your speech and scan the faces, it will laser-beam stares directly at you. The brightness of those beams burn into your head and can take over inner voices.

"They don't like you! See, they noticed you just said the wrong word. Some aren't even listening! Yes, that's right, they found you out and know you shouldn't be up there."

It is at that moment that some will question their own worth. They will doubt prior successes and start wondering if those were just mistakes, that they really aren't worthy and cannot battle such a powerful foe.

The champions take a different approach. They recognize that the monster has power. They know the butterflies will come, the shaky knees and sweat! But, instead of fearing the effects, they realize it is just another monster, like the one they met in the morning. There are times when the Morning Monster shouted all the reasons not to go to work. However, they heard the words and made it out of bed anyway. The creature was squashed. Now it was time to take on another. The champion responds...

"I took on others like you when I HAD to do something. I told myself there was no option for failure! You only have the power I give you and I refuse to give it to you now."



A much feared monster falls in a silent *clump* between the feet in the crowd, and the speaker provides the information they were invited to share. The people clap and they can see the confidence. For the will to win was not a battle with the audience, but, rather with a monster invited by the willingness to be in front. Knowing you chose to be there and had the control of inviting such a challenge, gives you the strength to feel proud of who you are and what you can do.

Each encounter with creatures of fear comes down to understanding how strong you already are. From getting yourself out of bed in the morning, to being given a task and finishing it. At each of those moments, you called out the monster, it gave you a choice to do battle or run, and you pushed it back into the shadows.

Many times, on talk shows, online articles and books, people are showcased on how they accomplished amazing things. Like creating an operating system with 30 million lines of code, writing the latest great book, or planting a flag on top of a war-torn hillside. All of them faced the same type of monsters who yelled at them...

..."you cannot create/organize 30 million lines of code, that's crazy!"

..."that book will never sell, just give up!"

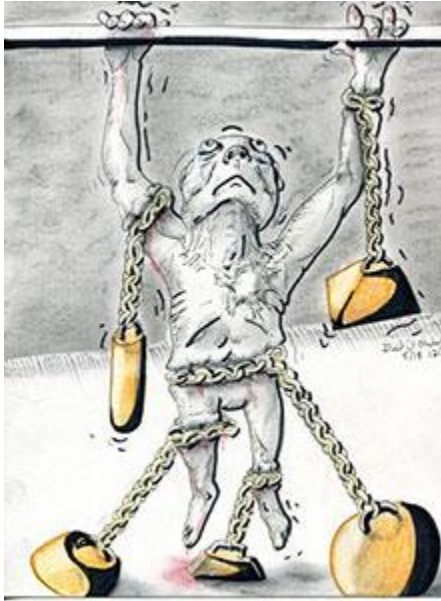
..."the hill is too muddy, your only ONE person!"

These same people are called 'tech leaders', 'famous authors', or 'heroes'. When they faced the same moments of decisions about fear as you do, they responded back with...

..."I will take it one line at a time. Each one done is one less I need to do!"

..."My words are valuable to others. My passion will be shared and felt!"

..."If I don't do it, who will? It will be ME that makes the difference!"



They all came to the wisdom that **time was going to pass no matter the outcome of the battles**. They had to ask themselves...

"When the future comes, do I want to look back on the past and see I took the options for failure, or did I see each monster as an opportunity to make me a better/stronger person?"

Links to my art I chose for this article:

- [Whew, Finally!](#)
- [Need To Slow Down](#)
- [Trying To Pull-Up](#)
- [Running From The Id](#)
- [Choosing The Wrong Tool](#)