

## Quintin's Philosophy on Life, a FIF/GRI contributor

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*Greetings* to any individual who has the opportunity to read this piece of writing. I sincerely hope that all who read this will receive something of value that serves to enhance the overall quality of your life. Before I begin, I would like to give a brief introduction of myself. My name is Quintin Harbin and I have just recently graduated from college after attending for 5 years. I have had many experiences throughout these past 5 years that have given me a unique take on life. Many mistakes were made along the way as I am not a perfect individual, but I made it a point to pursue my goals without succumbing to the fear of failure. The message I would like to share with all who read this is that life is a matter of perspective and how knowledge gained is used to impact the lives of others.

To begin, it is important for one to understand that no two individuals are the same. This may sound like an obvious statement, but there is more to it than meets the eye. People have different experiences throughout the course of their lives whether for the better or worse that directly affects their way of thinking regarding the many aspects of the world. Life should be treated as a continuous book with an infinite amount of knowledge and wisdom to learn from. There is value to be found in all things and people. As an adult, I realize that my life grows more complex and demanding as the years go by, however it is not to a point where living is unbearable. People commonly say life is unfair when dealing with unfavorable circumstances especially on a repetitive basis. What one must understand is that outside of the laws and regulations that govern our society, there are no rules for life regarding who is subjected to what experiences, the extent, and how often. One must understand that they can't control every aspect of life as it is very

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unpredictable regardless of what lifestyle they may choose to live. There are common goals I thoroughly believe that all individuals share and they are to grow, mature, prosper, and prepare the next generation for this cycle by imparting wisdom. Throughout my college career as an undergraduate student I had many setbacks which discouraged me, some of which were out of my control and many that were caused due to my own negligence. We must learn to look at everything as a learning opportunity and not just constrain our thinking to the classrooms. When things are not well, we must self-reflect and analyze what decisions led us to our current circumstances. Afterwards, we must make the choice to not dwell in a state of melancholy and seek the resources necessary to better our situations and thus ourselves. Everything begins with the mind we were given upon birth into this world and how we decide to use it. Life may not always be fun and games, but having a positive mindset amidst the chaos of all that would serve to hinder your growth will carry you far in life.

One other important thing I would like to discuss is the concept of failure and why we should not fear it. Failure is inevitability such as the nature of death, it simply can't be avoided. I have failed many times in my life especially during the duration of my entire career as a student and there were many times when being pushed to the edge nearly made me give up trying to accomplish my goals. What all who are reading this must understand is that no individual is and will ever be perfect regardless of their level of intelligence, achievements throughout life, or financial status. Failure is a method for imparting knowledge and wisdom that was

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not previously available, not for self-punishment and condemnation. As was mentioned previously, there is value to be gained from all things in life. Success is also a form of learning. One learns through success what decisions and actions to reciprocate to gain the same results consistently. Failure on the other hand does just the opposite by teaching us what actions and behaviors not to reciprocate. It is important to note that repetitive failures are a sign of knowledge that was missed. Do not be put off by this as many people at times including myself, have to make certain mistakes more than once to properly learn from them. Some food for thought to take away from this is that one never truly fails as long they learn from their mistakes and never give up on their goals.

The last topic I would like to touch for the message I hope to deliver to any person reading this is that of seeking the necessary help to advance in life as well as giving help. Independency is a trait that all must be well educated in before reaching adulthood, however one must acknowledge when their wits alone are not enough to accomplish certain tasks. The common saying is that knowledge is power but said knowledge must first be gained from others. One should never allow pride to keep them from being successful as they are only doing themselves a disservice. To elaborate more, allowing pride to keep one from seeking help when they are fully aware it is required is a selfish act. One should never limit their potential or settle for less in life. There are many resources available to help out with any aspect of life, but we must make the conscious decision to actively seek

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them. Knowledge is not meant for one person to keep all to themselves and thus should be shared with those in need of it especially during desperate times.

In closing, I would like to thank all who took the time to read this message and it is my intention that this impacts someone even if only one person. Remember life is only as difficult as you choose to believe it is/make it. Everything begins with the mind, how you use it to interact with the world, and how you choose for your perception on reality to be. The last two things I would like to share are that be willing to make self-sacrifices to achieve your goals and to enjoy life as everyone from birth is entitled to living a joyous and prosperous life.

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