**Weekly Email 18**

Luke Michael Murray Towers

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Saskatoon Catholic Cyber School

Todd Paslawski

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1. What competing interests, dreams, and ambitions create tension and conflict for us and others?

When someone has hopes, dreams, interests, and ambitions for themselves; while those that raised them (such as a mother or father) have other ambitions for their child, these competing interests often clash and cause conflict. I have a friend whose father basically micromanages him, and has great (not to mention highly specific) ambitions and hopes for him. Needless to say, their relationship is not the best because his father’s interests sometimes clash against his own. I would say that this happens a lot in the world, and the competing ambitions that most often cause conflict are those that parents have for their children, and those that the children have for themselves. However this is not the only source of conflict between competing ambitions. There is also the conflict that arises when you have ambition or hopes for a promotion and someone else wants the same thing, but you both can’t have it.

1. What kinds of dreams are considered worthy?

I would think that dreams that make the dreamer proud, happy or satisfied would be considered by them to be worthy. If they had a dream, and after looking at it, decided that it wouldn’t make them happy, satisfied or proud of their accomplishment, then they would probably deem that dream unworthy.

1. Who decides what dreams are worthwhile?

A dream or hope can only have its ‘worthiness’ determined by the person who it belongs to. Other people may say that it isn’t worth trying for, or that its stupid, but ultimately, the only person who should determine your dream’s worthiness is yourself.

1. How can we pursue our dreams and ambitions when others do not consider those dreams worthwhile?

It is harder to pursue your dreams and ambitions when you don’t have any support, or if you are even being ridiculed for having such a dream. However, it is your dream, so you must continue one trying to fulfill it. Ways that can help you get support and recognition for what you do, is to try to find people with the same dream as you. With a planet containing around 6,500,000,000 people, you can safely assume that you wouldn’t have to look far. With some dreams, it can get hard to keep trying when you don’t have any support, so either try to find more likeminded people, or if you can showcase your dream in some way, try to demonstrate the progress you have already made to get support and appreciation.

1. How do our dreams, goals, and ambitions influence the risks that we take?

If we have a dream or an ambition, we might be compelled at times to take risks in the pursuit of that dream that we wouldn’t otherwise take. The risk that we take could be a physical one, or it could even be a psychological one. For instance, say there was this person that wanted to see the wild beauty of the Amazon, they might travel there and attempt to travel through the jungle. If that person had not had a dream to see the beauty of the Amazon, then they would never have risked their health and maybe even their life by traveling into a wild and untamed jungle. As an example of a psychological risk, there is a person who is interested in another person, but they are afraid to go up and talk to that person. However, because they are interested in the other person, and they have a dream to be in a relationship with the other person, they take a risk and go up to talk to them, maybe even to ask them out.