
“People are not born with wisdom, but they are born with the capacity to think, and they may, through the lapse of time, think their way into wisdom.”

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I find this one of the most profound statements in this entire book. By using our ability to think and analyzing our experiences in life, whether successes or failures, we can gain wisdom. Can it actually be that simple?

Q Do youths ever possess wisdom?

A Only in very elementary matters. Wisdom comes only through the lapse of time. It cannot be inherited and it cannot be imparted from one person to another except through the lapse of time.

Q Does the lapse of time force an individual to acquire wisdom?

A No! Wisdom comes only to non-drifters who form positive thought-habits as a dominating force in their lives. Drifters and those whose dominating thoughts are negative never acquire wisdom except of a very elementary nature.

Q From what you say, I infer that time is the friend of the person who trains his mind to follow positive thought-habits and the enemy of the person who drifts into negative thought-habits. Is that correct?