
“Next to the habit of drifting, the most dangerous human trait is the lack of caution.”

Q Are all people lacking in caution?

A No, only those who have acquired the habit of drifting. The non-drifter always uses caution. He carefully thinks his plans through before he begins them. He makes allowances for the human frailties of his associates and plans ahead to bridge them.

If he sends a messenger on an important mission, he sends someone else to make sure the messenger does not neglect his mission. Then he checks on both of them to be sure his wishes have been fulfilled. He takes nothing for granted where caution provides a way to insure his success.

Q Isn't over-caution as detrimental as lack of caution?

A There is no such thing as over-caution. What you call “over-caution” is an expression of fear. Fear and caution are two entirely different things.

Q Don't people mistake fear for over-caution?

A Yes, that does sometimes happen, but the majority of people create for themselves far more disastrous hazards by total lack of the habit of caution than by over-caution.

Q In what way may caution be used most advantageously?

A In the selection of one's associates and in one's method of relating oneself to associates. The reason for this is obvious.