

Recipients of the Steven Errera scholarship were invited to have lunch with the man himself, Steven Errera. I walked into the room grabbing my preorder “halal” as I greeted students and faculty. Errera begun formal introductions bragging about the fortune he made from flipping oil futures in the 70s. I thought about tech tycoons- Jobs, Gates, Musk- as I waited to introduce myself. At the end of lunch, he asked if anyone had any questions. I asked him: “how much of your success is skill, how much is luck?”

I am sort of fanatic when it comes to productivity. To be honest, with productivity, I speculate more than I execute. At least for now.

For the longest, I wanted to find secret ingredients behind turning expectations into reality. I say “wanted” as if I have found it, but I am far from nirvana. Searching for this secret is in an existential way like looking for immortality. We know from Scooby Doo and grade school 101 that no caliph, caesar or conquistador were able to find the *Fountain of Youth*. While immortality is not impossible, it is quite improbable...If travelling at the speed of light became ubiquitous it would prevent us from aging. By then, we would literally be time traveling having achieved speeds faster than the speed of light. Even then, we would stop to take breaks and by the hundredth or thousandth break one would inevitably expire. Say theoretically, immortality is possible; will there remain any meaning in life?

Time and again we hear to be successful, one has to adopt a “winning mindset.” I say bull. Winners and losers have the same goal: to win. What differs is grit, perseverance, and panache. The process, habit and obsession involved in pursuit are what separates the achieving from the achiever.

I have found a recipe to an evolving dish I call Life Mastery. The recipe is clarity, structure and execution. Clarity in the “what” from long to short term goals, structure in the “how, when, where” and execution in the present. Some call this focus, I call it flow. Life is mastered by the process- rather than the result- of constantly finding flow by stretching the limits of the mind, body and soul. In optimizing this “system mindset” happiness, harmony and meaning are discovered.

Errera didn’t believe in luck. I do. Luck is seized opportunity. At the end of the rainbow, there *is* enough gold to go around for everyone. The key to making expectations reality, to win, to being “lucky” is the answer to this question: is the process of pursuit pleasure or sacrifice?

I think the one feeling more fulfilling than milestone achievements is to achieve as a tribe. They say if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. Anything I can do to uplift someone’s quality of life, whether it be as trivial as showing how to make quick

commits on GitHub or something more meaningful such as my views on Life Mastery- I'm at nirvana knowing I had something to leave.