



CHAPTER ONE



**Avoid stepping into a great
man's shoes**



Chapter Summary

This chapter teaches the importance of stepping out of the shadow of great predecessors. To succeed, one must establish their own identity rather than try to replicate or exceed the achievements of those who came before. By changing course and creating new paths, individuals can achieve greater recognition and power. Historical examples, such as Louis XV and Alexander the Great, illustrate how those who inherit greatness often squander the legacy if they fail to forge their own way. Embracing the challenge of establishing a unique identity is essential for true power.



Embrace Your Own Path.

Stepping into the shoes of greatness often leads to being overshadowed by the past. Establishing your own identity is crucial for forging your own legacy. By creating a unique narrative, you can rise above expectations and carve your path.

The Burden of Inheritance.

Following a great predecessor can be a double-edged sword. Rather than basking in their legacy, one often finds themselves striving to outdo monumental achievements, ultimately leading to despair.

The Foreshadowed Fate.

Examine the fate of Louis XV, who squandered the legacy left by Louis XIV. His failure to establish a distinct identity led to a reign of decadence and neglect, overshadowing his predecessor's accomplishments.

"The motto after him was 'Après moi, le déluge.'"

Learning from the Past.

Historical figures like Philip II and Solomon illustrate the importance of changing course from direct inheritance. Embracing different traits can lead to unique success.

"By changing course, one can shine in their own way."

The Power of Rebellion.



Alexander the Great's rise to power is a testament to the potential within rebellion. By rejecting the qualities of his father, he established a legacy that surpassed Philip's.

Transcending Greatness.

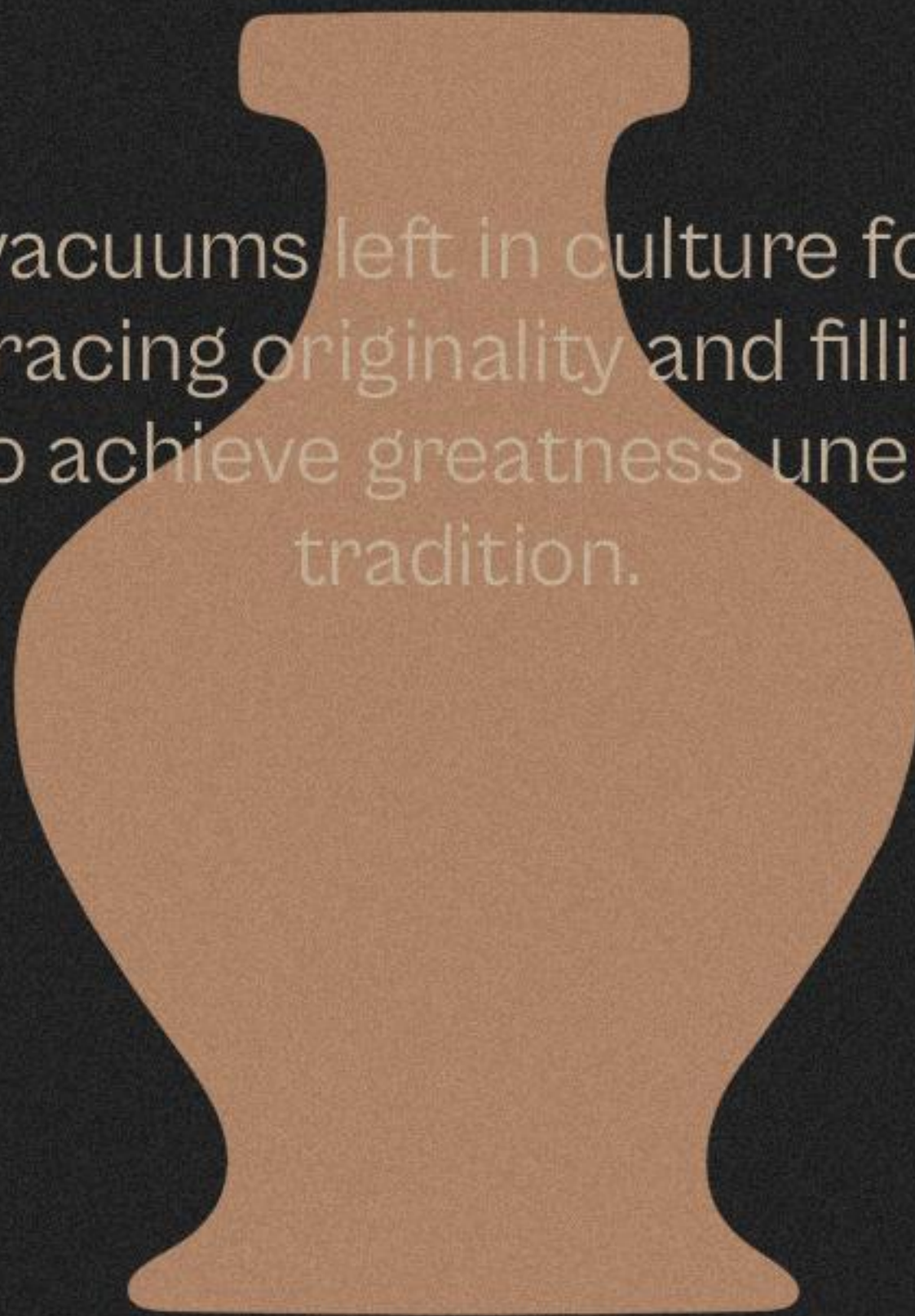


To surpass a legacy, one must not only create something new but must also cast aside the weight of the past. A fresh approach to power opens the door to opportunities.

Finding the Void.



Explore the vacuums left in culture for the chance to shine. Embracing originality and filling in the voids enables one to achieve greatness unencumbered by tradition.





Innovating Through Creativity.

Creativity thrives in breaking from tradition. Figures like Diego Velázquez illustrate the benefits of diverging from established norms to create a distinctive identity.

Avoiding Complacency.

Success can lead to stagnation if one does not remain vigilant. Avoiding complacency ensures a constant drive toward innovation and excellence.



Seizing Authority.



You have the power to control your narrative!
Embrace your individuality, establish your authority,
and navigate the challenges posed by past legacies
skillfully.



Recap

- "What happens first always appears better and more original than what comes after."
- "Do not get lost in their shadow, or stuck in a past not of your own making."
- "Outdo your father and obliterate his name from history."
- "When you are lost in the shadow of the father, you cannot possibly project such a presence."
- "Power depends on the ability to fill a void."



Thank You

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